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First Comprehensive Review of the Market Basket Measure of Low Income

Final Report

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First Comprehensive Review of the Market Basket Measure of Low Income

Background

The Market Basket Measure of low income (MBM) was designed by a working group of Federal, Provincial and Territorial officials between 1997 and 1999 at the request of the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for Social Services. Its initial purpose was to complement the existing Statistics Canada measures of low income, the Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) and the Low Income Measure (LIM) in monitoring the impact of the National Child Benefit and associated programs on the incidence, depth and persistence of low income among children. However, it was developed as a low income measure for all age groups.

The “value added” of the MBM was to provide a more intuitive and transparent measure of low income based on a basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living (food, shelter, clothing, footwear, transportation and other common expense such as personal care, household needs, furniture, basic telephone service, school supplies and modest levels of reading material, recreation and entertainment). Its purpose was to measure the cost of this basket for a reference family of one male and one female adult aged 25-49 with two children (a girl aged 9 and a boy aged 13) in 48 geographical areas within the ten Provinces (a 49th region was added retroactive to 2005 as part of the current review). The MBM also provided a measure more sensitive to regional differences in living costs, particularly for shelter and transportation, than the LICOs and the LIM.

The intention at the time of the creation of the MBM was that the content of the basket and its definition of disposable income would be reviewed once several years of data had been collected using the original measure. This was necessary to ensure that it continued to embody a modest, basic standard of living within the current Canadian context. Following this initial comprehensive review, it was expected that the content of the basket and its definition of disposable income would be reviewed periodically.

Following the release of the fourth report based on MBM data in December 2008 covering the years from 2000 to 2006 it was determined that sufficient experience with the original measure had been obtained to undertake the first comprehensive review of the measure during 2009 and early 2010. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) joined with Statistics Canada to carry out the review.

The Purpose of the Review

The purpose of the review is to ensure that the MBM, to the extent feasible, meets the following three criteria:

- 1) that the MBM “basket” continues to embody a modest basic standard of living in the Canadian context of 2010;
- 2) that the cost of purchasing this standard of living in specific geographical regions within the ten Provinces is estimated as precisely as possible; and
- 3) that the measure takes into account as fully as possible the resources available to households to purchase the content of the ‘basket.’”

Possible changes to the content of the MBM basket and to its definition of disposable income were subjected to the following four tests:

- 1) Is the change necessary to meet at least one of the three criteria referred to above?
- 2) Will the change significantly improve the quality and precision of the measure?
- 3) Will it be feasible to implement the change?
- 4) Is the change consistent in concept with the current goals and methodology of the measure and can it be implemented in such a way as to ensure historical continuity between past and future results using the measure?

Types of Changes Considered

Four types of changes were considered to the measure –

- 1) changes in the content of the components of the basket (food, clothing and footwear, shelter, transportation and other necessary goods and services);
- 2) changes in the calculation of the cost of the components of the basket;
- 3) changes in the calculation of the disposable income available to purchase the goods and services in the basket; and
- 4) changes in the boundaries of 49 geographical regions where the cost of the basket is estimated.

Decision rule for inclusion of items in the MBM basket

A decision rule was developed during the review process (described in further detail below) for the addition of items to the MBM basket. Final decision-making authority rests with HRSDC, and the decision rule has two components:

- 1) the numerical standard for including new items in the basket is that 70% of reference families nationally and in seven of the ten Provinces with at least two-thirds of the national population had expenditures on the item in question; and

- 2) items considered for inclusion must also meet the test that they contribute to social and economic inclusion and to a modest but basic standard of living in contemporary Canadian society in a way not accounted for in the current basket.

The Review Process

The Review Process occurred over the following four stages:

- 1) Consultation between HRSDC and Statistics Canada on issues identified in the creation of the measure and in the eight years of data collection and analysis using the measure;
- 2) Consultation between HRSDC and Statistics Canada with officials from all 13 Provincial and Territorial governments. Provincial and Territorial officials with an interest or expertise in low-income measurement from a policy and/or statistical perspective met in Ottawa on January 28th, 2009, to discuss proposed changes to the measure identified in Stage One and to consider issues raised by Provinces and Territories;
- 3) Consultation between HRSDC and Statistics Canada with other federal government departments and agencies¹ on July 9th, 2009 in Gatineau, Québec to discuss issues identified in Stages One and Two and to consider new proposals raised by participants; and,
- 4) Consultation between HRSDC and Statistics Canada with identified experts² in low-income measurement from outside government on August 25th and 26th, 2009, in Gatineau, Québec ensure the methodology used to update the MBM is sound.

Stage One: Initial Consultation between HRSDC and Statistics Canada

The following changes in the content of the basket were identified for consideration by HRSDC and Statistics Canada drawing on comments by users of the current measure since its initial development and reflecting developments affecting the food and transportation components of the basket:

¹ Departments and agencies represented included Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Status of Women Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Privy Council Office, Finance Canada, Health Canada, Public Health Canada, the Rural Secretariat of Agriculture and Food Canada, Public Safety, Treasury Board, the Policy Research Initiative, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Office of Disability Issues, the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, the Income Security and Social Development Branch, the Knowledge and Data Management Directorate and the Strategic Policy and Research Branch of HRSDC and the Income Statistics Branch of Statistics Canada.

² The experts were Charles Beach of the Department of Economics at Queen's University, Miles Corak of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa and formerly of Statistics Canada; Jean-Yves Duclos of the Department of Economics at Laval University and the Editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Economic Inequality*; Katherine Scott of the Canadian Council on Social Development and John Stapleton of the Metcalf Foundation and formerly of the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services.

1) **The Food Component** - The replacement of the 1998 National Nutritious Food Basket by the 2008 version of the basket as developed by the Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion at Health Canada in consultation with Provincial and Territorial nutritionists.³

2) **Median Rental Shelter Costs** - Shelter costs for the MBM are currently calculated as the average of the median rental shelter costs of all two and three-bedroom units (excluding those with zero rents, those in need of major repairs and those where the rental unit is not a collective dwelling) in each geographical area.

Rental shelter costs include the cost of utilities such as water, heat and electricity and the following amenities: a refrigerator, a stove and the use of a washer and dryer.

Three options were proposed : a) maintain the current method; b) use the actual distribution of two and three-bedroom units in each geographic region instead of assuming that half of renting two-adult, two-child families use each type and c) use **half** of the median of combined owned and rented shelter costs in each geographic region.

3) **The Transportation Component** - Three distinct issues were identified for consideration for this component of the basket:

- First, the five-year old Chevrolet Cavalier, the four- passenger used car currently used as a key element of this component of the basket for areas not served by public transit is no longer manufactured by General Motors. A new vehicle would need to be identified.
- Second, it was proposed that the current standard of having only one of the adults in the reference family being licensed to operate the vehicle be replaced by one where both adults would be licensed to drive the vehicle. The implications of this change on insurance costs would also need to be considered.
- Third, the Charlottetown metropolitan area did not have a public transit system at the time of the development of the original MBM. However, it has gradually developed such a system over the past few years. Including Charlottetown as an area served by public transit (when the system fully served the metropolitan area) should be considered.

4) **The “Other” Component** - Computer and Internet Services- In 1999, computer and internet services were used by fewer than half of reference families in Canada and were not included in the “Other” component of the original MBM basket. Users of the measure have suggested that, given the much more widespread use of these

³ No changes were proposed to the Clothing and Footwear component of the basket since this component of the basket had already been subjected to a thorough review in 2004 by officials in the prices division of Statistics Canada and officials from HRSDC. Changes to this component were implemented with the 2005 round of data collection and analysis has indicated that they appropriately reflect a standard of consumption for these goods consistent with the intent of the MBM measure.

- the MBM is a measure of low income based on a basket of goods and services embodying a modest, basic standard of living between subsistence and social inclusion;
- the definition of disposable income used with the MBM should reflect the resources available to purchase the goods and services in the MBM basket;
- the purpose of this first comprehensive periodic review of the MBM is to assess the need to update and refresh it rather than to fundamentally redesign the measure.

With this common understanding, the discussion proceeded to several specific issues.

Tests for Proposed Changes to the MBM - It was recommended that HRSDC and Statistics Canada consider adding goods and services to the “Other” component of the basket based on whether they were used by a substantial majority (2/3 to 70% of reference families) in all regions of Canada. Candidates for inclusion must also meet the test that they contribute to social and economic inclusion and to a modest but basic standard of living in contemporary Canadian society in a way not accounted for in the current basket. The final decision will rest with HRSDC based on consultation.

The Content of the Basket

Computer services and access to the Internet - Provided they meet the tests proposed for adding goods and services to the “Other” component of the basket it was agreed that computer services and access to the internet be added to this component. The date of inclusion should be set in the year these services first passed the 70%/two-thirds threshold. Some officials suggested that a standard be set for computer and internet services and that they be included as a separate component of the basket. However, the consensus was that inclusion in the broad “Other” component of the basket would better reflect ongoing shifts in the consumption of various information/entertainment products and services (e.g. from newspapers and books to internet news and entertainment services).

Replacement of the 1998 National Nutritious Food Basket by the 2008 National Nutritious Food Basket - It was generally agreed that the new National Nutritious Food Basket should be the basis of the food component of the MBM basket. However, some jurisdictions felt that the new basket did not adequately reflect food choices of visible minority, immigrant and Aboriginal Canadians and requested further consideration of this concern.

There was also discussion about the year in which this change should be implemented with the consensus that it should be 2008 if feasible. It was noted that this change would also influence the multiplier for the “Other” component of the basket.⁵ HRSDC expressed its preference that future reviews of the measure should take place once data were

⁵ The cost of the “Other” component of the basket is based on a ratio (calculated on a three-year moving average basis). The numerator of this ratio is the average expenditures on the items in this component by the second lowest income decile of the reference family. The denominator is based on average expenditures in this decile on food, clothing and footwear. This ratio is then multiplied by the combined costs of the food and clothing and footwear components of the basket in each of the 49 geographical regions to determine the cost of the “Other” component in that region.

available from each five-year Census with any updates to the National Nutritious Food Basket being made at that time.

Calculation of the Shelter Component of the Basket - There was a lengthy discussion about the appropriate size of the reference rental unit (two or three bedrooms) with a consensus for some form of a weighted average. Two options were proposed for the reference rental unit size: a) to maintain the current weighting for two and three-bedroom unit rental housing, giving equal weight to each type of unit; and b) to use the actual distribution of two and three-bedroom rental units in each region to make this calculation. One province requested a sensitivity analysis to explore the impact of using a percentage of rental shelter costs other than the median, pointing out that the median is a relative and may be a high standard, especially in jurisdictions with high average shelter costs and wide dispersion of those costs. It was suggested that renter's insurance (content insurance for tenants) be included in the shelter component. Renter's insurance did not meet the 70%/two-thirds threshold for inclusion in the MBM basket.

This discussion concluded with a request that HRSDC and Statistics Canada consider three distinct options for future calculation of the Shelter component of the MBM basket. These were a) to maintain the current formula of using the average of median rental shelter costs for the reference family; b) to use the 25th percentile of rental shelter costs in all geographic regions or in selected regions with very high rental shelter costs; and c) to use **half** the median of **combined** owned and rented shelter costs in each geographic region.

Replacing the Chevrolet Cavalier - HRSDC and Statistics Canada were advised to consider a range of four-passenger automobiles, dropping the most and least expensive models and choosing the model closest to the median price of the remaining options. There was some discussion of using trucks rather than automobiles in rural and remote regions, but this did not receive consensus support.

Identifying New Areas Served by Public Transit - It was agreed that these changes should be made when the entire area comprising the region was served by the public transit system.

Transit Passes for Children - It was agreed that the cost of a transit pass or at least a number of transit tickets be added to the transportation component in areas served by public transit systems to take into account the fact that children would need to use the system to access recreational and cultural activities included in the "Other" items component of the basket.

It was noted that school boards in some regions served by public transit did not provide free school bus service to students, requiring them to use the public transit system. However, it was agreed that it would probably not be feasible to identify to what extent this was true in each region and to calculate the resulting cost burden.

Homeowners without Mortgages - It was agreed that on a national basis most low-income households were renters and that therefore the cost of rental housing should be the main basis for assessing the cost of shelter in the basket. However, in some rural and small-town communities where homeownership without mortgages was common among reference families in the lower end of the income distribution, failure to include these families in the sample for calculating median shelter costs could distort the estimation of shelter costs. Statistics Canada was asked to investigate including the shelter costs of homeowners without mortgages when calculating the median shelter cost in each region for reference families to determine the impact of basing shelter costs on this broader sample.

Inclusion of Dental Care - It was suggested that dental services be included in the MBM basket. Expenditures on dental services and dental insurance plans are already included in the estimate of medical expenses used to calculate disposable income, therefore it is not necessary to add dental services to the MBM basket.

The Definition of Disposable Income

Renters in Rent-Geared –to-Income Units (RGI) - Statistics Canada was asked to determine the potential of data from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) to identify tenants in RGI units and the feasibility of developing a method for estimating the difference between their actual rental shelter costs and those attributed to them by the current MBM formula. Should this prove feasible, the difference could be added to the disposable income of RGI households, providing a more accurate estimate of the resources available to them to purchase the goods and services in the MBM basket. It is not yet possible to make this change but RGI shelter costs will be revisited in the next MBM review.

Transfers between Parents and Students in Different Households - It was recognized that many households consisting of full-time students receive significant financial resources from their parents either in the form of direct monetary support or by having their parents pay tuition and shelter costs. Currently these transfers are not counted as income in the hands of the student households, underestimating their ability to purchase the goods and services in the MBM basket. However, questions about these transfers have only been asked on the SLID since 2006. Moreover, these questions are currently answered by individual parents rather than as a family, raising the possibility of double counting of such transfers.

Recognizing that it could take some time to obtain reliable data on these transfers, the consensus was that they should be considered as income for the receiving household, but **not** deducted from the income of the household providing the transfer unless (as is currently the practice) the transfer resulted from a legal obligation such as alimony or child support. It is not yet technically feasible to count transfers to students but this will be revisited in the next MBM review.

These considerations would also apply to the suggestion by one jurisdiction that parent-to-child transfers between persons residing inside and outside Canada also be considered under this heading.

Other Issues

New MBM Regions in Northern Canada - All three Territories as well as Provinces including Newfoundland and Labrador (Labrador), Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia would like to add the 3 northern Territories and the northern parts of their Provinces to the current 49 geographic regions where the cost of the MBM basket is estimated. Costs for things such as food are often very different in northern regions compared to rural areas in the southern parts of these Provinces. It was acknowledged that such a change, if feasible, would lead to more precise estimations of the cost of the basket in such regions. However, Statistics Canada cautioned that collecting cost data in these large geographical areas with small and scattered populations where costs might vary widely would be very difficult and that the data collected might not be statistically reliable for estimating the cost of the basket in such regions. Their view was that resolution of this issue in the current review was unlikely on feasibility grounds. HRSDC is assessing the feasibility of adding MBM geographic regions in northern Canada.

Provincial MBMs and Generating data for more intra-provincial regions - Newfoundland and Labrador is in the process of developing an MBM-type measure specifically for their jurisdiction in consultation with Statistics Canada. Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador would also like to generate data for more geographic regions within their Provinces than the national MBM currently does.

HRSDC noted that the larger samples necessary to generate such intra-provincial regional data could only be found in income tax files which means that analysis would have to be on the basis of census rather than economic families.

However, this will not be an important difference in the future as Statistics Canada begins reporting low income results for individuals in households rather than by economic family types to become more consistent with international practice.

HRSDC had no objection to Provinces or Territories developing MBM-type measures specific to their jurisdictions as complements to rather than “replacements” for the national MBM .The need for a national MBM remained to provide a consistent standard across the country for comparing the cost of the basket and estimating the percentage of regional and Provincial populations who lacked the resources to purchase it.

Follow-up to Stages One and Two of the MBM Review

Statistics Canada investigated the issues and suggestions raised by Provincial and Territorial officials. Based on Statistics Canada’s research, officials from HRSDC and Statistics Canada made the following decisions:

Rule for inclusion of new “Other Items”- The numerical standard for including new items in the basket would be that 70% of reference families nationally and in seven of the ten Provinces with at least two-thirds of the national population had expenditures on the item in question. Under this rule, it was decided to add computer and internet services to the “Other Items” component of the basket in the year where use of these services met

Summary of Final Changes Made As A Result of the MBM Review

Following further work by Statistics Canada arising from issues discussed at Stages Two, Three and Four of the consultation process and a thorough examination of the calculation of the existing basket, HRSDC and Statistics Canada officials made the following changes to the calculation of the MBM:

Food

Implementation of 2008 National Nutritious Food Basket (NNFB08) - The implementation of the 2008 NNFB will be phased in. For the reference year 2008, the cost of the food component will be two-thirds of the cost using the 1998 National Nutritious Food Basket (NNFB 98) and one-third of the cost using the 2008 NNFB. For reference year 2009 the cost of the food component will be one-third of the NNFB98 and two-thirds of the NNFB08. For reference year 2010 the 2008 NNFB will be used exclusively. This strategy was decided upon when it became clear that there was a significant difference in the cost of the two baskets.

Five percent increase in the cost of the National Nutritious Food Basket to allow for “miscellaneous foods such as coffee, tea, condiments, seasoning, spices and cooking materials such as baking powder” - Health Canada has consistently recommended this adjustment to the cost of both the 1998 and 2008 National Nutritious Food Basket (NNFB), but through oversight this has not been part of the calculation of the cost of the Food component of the basket. This adjustment was made retroactively to the year 2000. In addition, corrections were made to faulty data collected on the cost of the food basket in Prince George, British Columbia for the years 2004 to 2007.

Substitution of some items in the 2008 (NNFB) - A few items in the 2008 NNFB have not been priced by Statistics Canada. Substitutes and, if necessary, an imputation process was negotiated with Health Canada so that data collection could begin on the 2008 NNFB in January 2010.⁷

Clothing and Footwear

Correction of Processing Error of cost of Clothing and Footwear and Other Items Components of the Basket 2005-2007 - The three-year moving averages for these components were incorrectly in current rather than in constant dollars over this period. This error has been corrected.

⁷ Data collection began in January 2010 for items not previously priced by the Consumer Prices Division. For reference year 2008 some items in the National Nutritious Food Basket 2008 will be substituted for with similar items priced in 2008. The 2008 prices for a small number of items will be imputed using January 2010 prices and the appropriate Consumer Price Index.

Appendix A: Methodology of the MBM (Statistics Canada)

In 2000, HRDC asked Prices Division of Statistics Canada to collect prices that would be required to calculate the MBM. Some questions to determine disposable income were also collected by the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (Statistics Canada 2009 SLID Survey Overview). At the same time, Statistics Canada documented the methodology behind the MBM (Michaud et al 2004).

In 2009, HRSDC began a consultation process to examine the contents of the basket and the calculation of disposable income. This process, described in the preceding sections of this document, consisted of a series of meetings with Federal, Provincial and Territorial representatives, various Federal departments and a group of academics and other experts on low income.

As a result of this consultation process, the MBM was rebased, meaning changes were made to the content of the basket. This review process also allowed Statistics Canada to incorporate some revisions, namely to integrate revised input data into the MBM and to make minor methodological improvements to the processing of the MBM.

While some of these rebasing decisions and revisions were implemented beginning only in 2008, some were made to the entire series of lines back to 2000, the beginning of the MBM. Additionally, some changes affected only certain years.

This appendix details each component of the basket, along with the methodology utilized to calculate their costs. The original basket is briefly described, along with any changes made due to the rebasing and revision exercise. The impact of the changes on the cost of the basket and its components is explained. Additionally, the incidence and depth of low income are compared based on several low income lines - the original MBM, the 2008-rebased MBM and the low income cut-off (LICO).

New region

Based on the 2006 Census, the population of Bathurst, New Brunswick increased to a level where it became part of the 30,000 to 99,999 urban size category. Since New Brunswick did not have a region of this size code in the original MBM, a new category needed to be created in the 2008-based MBM.

Following each Census, the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics undergoes a revision to its geography variables. With the 2008 SLID release, geography will be based on the 2006 Census- based geography design. In SLID, the standard treatment of changes to geography stemming from new Census data is to introduce any new geographical classifications beginning in the year prior to the Census year. In order to produce the required statistics on low income, the MBM thresholds are merged onto the SLID database. For this reason, the new MBM region was introduced beginning in 2005.

Food Component

The Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) working group specified the National Nutritious Food Basket (NNFB) for a family of four to represent a basket of food that would be appropriate for the MBM (Health Canada 1998). In 2000, Prices Division began to collect prices each month in 38 cities in order to provide the annual cost of purchasing the basket in those cities (Table A.1). For some items, prices are collected for more than one product to allow for pricing of a branded item and a generic item. Prices are collected from selected outlets in each city and the geometric mean⁸ for each item is calculated for each city.

The weekly quantities are converted to annual quantities and the prices are applied to calculate the annual cost of each item. These are then summed to calculate the cost of the food basket for each city.

To convert these city-based costs to the MBM-geography classification, population counts from the Census are used to weight the city-based costs to the MBM regions (Table A.2).

Rebasing the food component

To reflect the most current food consumption data and the latest dietary guidance, the NNFB was revised in 2008 (Health Canada 2009). As part of the extensive review of the content of the MBM, it was decided to replace the 1998 NNFB by the 2008 NNFB. The items in the 1998 and 2008 NNFBs, along with the purchase units and suggested weekly quantities for the reference family are provided in Table A.3.

When it became clear that there were significant differences in the cost of the two baskets, it was decided that the switch to the 2008 NNFB would occur over several years. For 2008, the cost of the food component is made up of two-thirds of the cost based on the 1998 NNFB and one-third of the cost based on the 2008 NNFB. For 2009, this mix will become one-third of the cost based on the 1998 NNFB and two-thirds of the cost based on the 2008 NNFB. In 2010, the cost will be based entirely on the specifications of the 2008 NNFB.

⁸ The geometric mean tends to dampen the effect of very high and very low values which could otherwise bias the average.

Impact of rebasing the food component

Since both the items included in the basket and quantities were changed in the rebasing, there was a substantial difference between the cost of the food component based on the 1998 and 2008 NNFB. However, by gradually introducing the new food component specifications, this difference was lessened.

Comparing the food component cost in 2007 based on the 1998 NNFB with the 2008 cost based on the 2008 NNFB, there was an average increase of 22.8% (Table 1). This compares to an average increase of 5.0% holding the NNFB to the 1998 specifications. By phasing in the new specifications, the cost of the food component increased by an average of 11.0% between 2007 and 2008. Since the cost of the food component is used to calculate the other expenses component, the impact of changing from the 1998 NNFB to the blended NNFB on the MBM thresholds is 1.7%, on average.

MBM Geo-Code		cost based on:			% change based on:			
		1998 NNFB	1998 NNFB	2008 NNFB	1998 NNFB in both years	1998 NNFB in 2007 and 2008	cost based on blended ¹ basket	% change - 1998 NNFB in 2007 and blended basket in 2008
Province	Region	2007	2008	2008	2007 to 2008	2007 to 2008	2008	2007 to 2008
Newfoundland and Labrador	rural	8,765	9,142	10,660	4.3%	21.6%	9,648	10.1%
	< 30,000	8,765	9,142	10,660	4.3%	21.6%	9,648	10.1%
	St. John's	8,521	8,931	10,424	4.8%	22.3%	9,429	10.6%
Prince Edward Island	rural	8,150	8,568	10,057	5.1%	23.4%	9,064	11.2%
	< 30,000	8,150	8,568	10,057	5.1%	23.4%	9,064	11.2%
	Charlottetown	8,150	8,568	10,057	5.1%	23.4%	9,064	11.2%
Nova Scotia	rural	8,427	8,872	10,503	5.3%	24.6%	9,416	11.7%
	< 30,000	8,427	8,872	10,503	5.3%	24.6%	9,416	11.7%
	30,000 to 99,999	8,427	8,872	10,503	5.3%	24.6%	9,416	11.7%
	Halifax	8,183	8,563	9,868	4.6%	20.6%	8,998	10.0%
	Cape Breton	8,162	8,593	9,982	5.3%	22.3%	9,056	11.0%
New Brunswick	rural	8,308	8,746	10,020	5.3%	20.6%	9,170	10.4%
	< 30,000	8,308	8,746	10,020	5.3%	20.6%	9,170	10.4%
	30,000 to 99,999	8,308	8,746	10,020	5.3%	20.6%	9,170	10.4%
	Fredericton	8,255	8,706	10,319	5.5%	25.0%	9,243	12.0%
	Saint John	8,202	8,693	10,171	6.0%	24.0%	9,186	12.0%
	Moncton	7,861	8,339	9,760	6.1%	24.2%	8,813	12.1%
Québec	rural	7,611	8,062	9,671	5.9%	27.1%	8,598	13.0%
	< 30,000	7,611	8,062	9,671	5.9%	27.1%	8,598	13.0%
	30,000 to 99,999	7,611	8,062	9,671	5.9%	27.1%	8,598	13.0%
	100,000 to 499,999	7,611	8,062	9,671	5.9%	27.1%	8,598	13.0%
	Québec City	7,669	8,122	9,620	5.9%	25.4%	8,621	12.4%
	Montréal	7,775	8,209	9,784	5.6%	25.8%	8,734	12.3%
Ontario	rural	7,216	7,636	8,767	5.8%	21.5%	8,013	11.1%
	< 30,000	7,216	7,636	8,767	5.8%	21.5%	8,013	11.1%
	30,000 to 99,999	7,216	7,636	8,767	5.8%	21.5%	8,013	11.1%
	100,000 to 499,999	7,309	7,759	9,066	6.2%	24.0%	8,194	12.1%
	Ottawa	7,409	7,816	9,094	5.5%	22.7%	8,242	11.2%
	Hamilton/Burlington	6,903	7,379	8,761	6.9%	26.9%	7,840	13.6%
	Toronto	7,343	7,748	9,068	5.5%	23.5%	8,188	11.5%

Table 1 (cont'd)

MBM Geo-Code		cost based on:			% change based on:			
		1998	1998	2008	1998 NNFB in both years	1998 NNFB in 2007 and 2008 NNFB in 2008	cost based on blended ¹ basket	% change - 1998 NNFB in 2007 and blended basket in 2008
Province	Region	2007	2008	2008	2007 to 2008	2007 to 2008	2008	2007 to 2008
Manitoba	rural	7,883	8,158	9,420	3.5%	19.5%	8,578	8.8%
	< 30,000	7,883	8,158	9,420	3.5%	19.5%	8,578	8.8%
	Brandon	7,883	8,158	9,420	3.5%	19.5%	8,578	8.8%
	Winnipeg	7,677	8,035	9,224	4.7%	20.2%	8,432	9.8%
Saskatchewan	rural	7,674	8,075	9,455	5.2%	23.2%	8,535	11.2%
	< 30,000	7,674	8,075	9,455	5.2%	23.2%	8,535	11.2%
	30,000 to 99,999	7,674	8,075	9,455	5.2%	23.2%	8,535	11.2%
	Saskatoon	7,795	8,207	9,364	5.3%	20.1%	8,593	10.2%
	Regina	7,628	7,993	9,292	4.8%	21.8%	8,426	10.5%
Alberta	rural	8,033	8,420	10,121	4.8%	26.0%	8,987	11.9%
	< 30,000	8,033	8,420	10,121	4.8%	26.0%	8,987	11.9%
	30,000 to 99,999	8,033	8,420	10,121	4.8%	26.0%	8,987	11.9%
	Edmonton	7,750	8,109	9,289	4.6%	19.9%	8,502	9.7%
	Calgary	7,971	8,371	9,619	5.0%	20.7%	8,787	10.2%
British Columbia	rural	8,139	8,373	9,804	2.9%	20.4%	8,850	8.7%
	< 30,000	8,139	8,373	9,804	2.9%	20.4%	8,850	8.7%
	30,000 to 99,999	8,139	8,373	9,804	2.9%	20.4%	8,850	8.7%
	100,000 to 499,999	8,428	8,744	10,066	3.8%	19.4%	9,185	9.0%
	Vancouver	8,275	8,693	10,032	5.0%	21.2%	9,139	10.4%
Average change:					5.0%	22.8%		11.0%
Maximum change:					6.9%	27.1%		13.6%
Minimum change:					2.9%	19.4%		8.7%

¹ Blended Basket = (2/3 1998 NNFB, 1/3 2008 NNFB)

As a result of the timing of the release of details in the 2008 NNFB and the lead time required for Consumer Prices Division (CPD) to collect prices, the prices of some items have been imputed for 2008 and will need to be imputed for 2009. These items are sweet potatoes, whole grain pita bread, Italian salad dressing, frozen strawberries, bran flakes with raisins, toasted Os cereal and dry lentils. Prices for these items were first collected in January 2010 and these prices were converted to 2008 dollars using the applicable annual provincial CPIs for 2008 and January 2010 (Table A.4).

Several of the new items specified in the 2008 NNFB had close substitutes already priced by CPD. These substitutes were shelled peanuts (instead of dry roasted peanuts), frozen mixed vegetables (instead of frozen snap beans and frozen peas), tomato juice (instead of vegetable juice cocktail) and fruit cocktail (instead of canned peaches). The prices of the close substitutes were utilized instead of the specified items.

Revision to food component

To account for the cost of miscellaneous foods used in meal preparations, Health Canada recommends that an additional five percent be added to the cost of the food basket (Health Canada 1998 and Health Canada 2009). These miscellaneous items include

spices, seasonings, condiments, baking supplies, soup, coffee and tea. While Health Canada's 1998 NNFB included this top-up, through oversight the original version of the MBM did not include this amount. During the rebasing process, the cost of the food component has been revised to include the five percent increase retroactively to 2000.

Due to data revisions, the value of the food basket for the three smallest community sizes in British Columbia has been revised for 2004 to 2007. Prices for these community sizes are all based on Prince George.

Impact of revisions to food component

The increase in the cost of the food component to account for miscellaneous foods caused an increase of five percent for each MBM-region. When combined with the impact on the other expenses component, the impact of this change on the total cost of the MBM averaged 2.3% in 2007.

The impact of the data revision for Prince George, British Columbia on the food component ranges from 3.1% in 2004 to 4.9% in 2007. When combined with the impact on the other expenses component, the total impact of this revision on the MBM thresholds in the three regions in British Columbia ranges from 1.3% in 2004 to 2.4% in 2007.

The impact of using prices from January 2010 for items which had not previously been priced or of substituting items is unknown. However, using the imputation methods described, in 2008, these items contribute roughly 6.3% of the cost of the food basket. Imprecision introduced by this imputation is minimal.

Overall impact of rebasing and revisions

On the whole, the food component increased by 5% across all the MBM regions, with the exception of the MBM regions within British Columbia that included the Prince George revision.

Clothing Component

Initially in 2000, the clothing and footwear component was composed of items specified by the Winnipeg Social Planning Council. These items made up the Acceptable Level of Living (A.L.L.) basket and were chosen as they were the most recent clothing and footwear basket developed in Canada and they reflected a similar standard to that of the MBM – clothing and footwear for common work, school and social occasions. Additionally, the development of the content had significant input from low-income persons.

However, because of price collection difficulties and because the basket represented a standard of consumption somewhat above the level that the MBM was to reflect, an alternative clothing and footwear component was developed in 2002 (Hatfield 2002). The quantity and quality of the items was defined more specifically and a different replacement schedule was utilized.

Table 4
Median income of renters, by MBM region and Census year

MBM Geo-Code		2001	2006
Province	Region	current \$	
Newfoundland and Labrador	rural	20,560	22,933
	< 30,000	20,286	24,208
	St. John's	24,853	27,462
Prince Edward Island	rural	28,011	28,986
	< 30,000	27,402	31,363
	Charlottetown	28,871	31,288
Nova Scotia	rural	25,312	29,521
	< 30,000	24,930	28,866
	30,000 to 99,999	25,634	29,712
	Halifax	32,817	37,400
	Cape Breton	17,966	23,171
New Brunswick	rural	23,633	24,969
	< 30,000	24,506	27,868
	30,000 to 99,999	..	26,691
	Fredericton	32,757	32,626
	Saint John	25,893	30,473
	Moncton	29,298	31,664
Québec	rural	26,421	29,688
	< 30,000	25,746	29,075
	30,000 to 99,999	27,017	31,361
	100,000 to 499,999	28,439	31,678
	Québec City	32,176	37,358
	Montréal	33,987	37,422
Ontario	rural	33,517	37,997
	< 30,000	30,209	33,412
	30,000 to 99,999	28,812	33,233
	100,000 to 499,999	33,312	36,187
	Ottawa	44,127	43,927
	Hamilton/Burlington	34,335	36,980
	Toronto	44,000	44,085

Manitoba	rural	26,906	32,955
	< 30,000	26,969	30,557
	Brandon	27,110	33,803
	Winnipeg	30,655	35,171
Saskatchewan	rural	28,830	31,317
	< 30,000	26,904	31,029
	30,000 to 99,999	25,299	29,905
	Saskatoon	27,605	31,088
	Regina	28,644	33,885
Alberta	rural	37,427	44,580
	< 30,000	36,164	43,239
	30,000 to 99,999	36,774	43,642
	Edmonton	36,873	42,891
	Calgary	40,750	43,581
British Columbia	rural	31,320	34,126
	< 30,000	29,756	34,908
	30,000 to 99,999	27,400	33,130
	100,000 to 499,999	35,960	40,319
	Vancouver	41,624	45,333
.. not available for a specific reference period			

Appendix B: Methodology of the MBM – MBM Components (Statistics Canada)

Table A.1			
Cities in which food and clothing prices are collected, by MBM region			
MBM Geo-Code		Food	Clothing
Province	Region		
Newfoundland and Labrador	rural	Corner Brook Grand Falls	St. John's
	< 30,000	Corner Brook Grand Falls	St. John's
	St. John's	St. John's	St. John's
Prince Edward Island	rural	Charlottetown/ Summerside	Charlottetown/ Summerside
	< 30,000	Charlottetown/ Summerside	Charlottetown/ Summerside
	Charlottetown	Charlottetown/ Summerside	Charlottetown/ Summerside
Nova Scotia	rural	Truro	Halifax
	< 30,000	Truro	Halifax
	30,000 to 99,999	Truro	Halifax
	Halifax	Halifax	Halifax
	Cape Breton	Sydney	Halifax
New Brunswick	rural	Bathurst	Saint John
	< 30,000	Bathurst	Saint John
	30,000 to 99,999	Bathurst	Saint John
	Fredericton	Fredericton	Saint John
	Saint John	Saint John	Saint John
	Moncton	Moncton	Saint John
Québec	rural	Chicoutimi/Jonquière	Montréal
		Sherbrooke	
		Trois-Rivières	
	< 30,000	Chicoutimi/Jonquière	Montréal
		Sherbrooke	
		Trois-Rivières	
	30,000 to 99,999	Chicoutimi/Jonquière	Montréal
		Sherbrooke	
		Trois-Rivières	
	100,000 to 499,999	Chicoutimi/Jonquière	Montréal
		Sherbrooke	
Trois-Rivières			
Québec City	Québec City	Montréal	
Montréal	Montréal	Montréal	
Ontario	rural	Sarnia	Ottawa
	< 30,000	Sarnia	Ottawa
	30,000 to 99,999	Sarnia	Ottawa
	100,000 to 499,999	London	Ottawa
		Windsor	
		Sudbury	
		Thunder Bay	
	Ottawa	Ottawa	Ottawa
	Hamilton/Burlington	Hamilton/Burlington	Ottawa
Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	

Table A.1 (cont'd)

MBM Geo-Code		Food	Clothing
Province	Region		
Manitoba	rural	Brandon	Winnipeg
	< 30,000	Brandon	Winnipeg
	Brandon	Brandon	Winnipeg
	Winnipeg	Winnipeg	Winnipeg
Saskatchewan	rural	Moose Jaw	Regina
		Prince Albert	
	< 30,000	Moose Jaw	Regina
		Prince Albert	
	30,000 to 99,999	Moose Jaw	Regina
		Prince Albert	
	Saskatoon	Saskatoon	Regina
Regina	Regina	Regina	
Alberta	rural	Lethbridge	Edmonton
	< 30,000	Lethbridge	Edmonton
	30,000 to 99,999	Lethbridge	Edmonton
	Edmonton	Edmonton	Edmonton
	Calgary	Calgary	Edmonton
British Columbia	rural	Prince George	Vancouver
	< 30,000	Prince George	Vancouver
	30,000 to 99,999	Prince George	Vancouver
	100,000 to 499,999	Kelowna	Vancouver
		Abbotsford-Mission	
		Victoria	
	Vancouver	Vancouver	Vancouver

Table A.2
Population counts used in the MBM

CMA	Geographic Name	1996	2001	2006
1	St. John's (N.L.)	174,051	172,918	181,113
10	Grand Falls-Windsor (N.L.)	20,378	18,981	13,558
15	Corner Brook (N.L.)	27,945	25,747	26,623
105	Charlottetown (P.E.I.)	57,224	58,358	58,625
205	Halifax (N.S.)	332,518	359,183	372,858
215	Truro (N.S.)	44,102	44,276	45,077
225	Cape Breton (N.S.)	117,849	109,330	105,928
305	Moncton (N.B.)	113,491	117,727	126,424
310	Saint John (N.B.)	125,705	122,678	122,389
320	Fredericton (N.B.)	78,950	81,346	85,688
328	Bathurst (N.B.)	25,415	23,935	31,424
406	Baie-Comeau (Que.)	31,795	28,940	29,808
408	Saguenay (Que.)	160,454	154,938	151,643
421	Québec (Que.)	671,889	682,757	715,515
430	Thetford Mines (Que.)	27,760	26,323	26,107
433	Sherbrooke (Que.)	147,384	153,811	186,952
440	Victoriaville (Que.)	40,438	41,233	48,893
442	Trois-Rivières (Que.)	139,956	137,507	141,529
444	Shawinigan (Que.)	59,851	57,304	56,434
447	Drummondville (Que.)	65,119	68,451	78,108
450	Granby (Que.)	58,872	60,264	68,352
452	Saint-Hyacinthe (Que.)	50,027	49,536	55,823
454	Sorel-Tracy (Que.)	..	40,956	48,295
459	Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (Que.)	76,461	79,600	87,492
462	Montréal (Que.)	3,326,510	3,426,350	3,635,571
465	Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (Que.)	39,563	39,028	39,672
485	Rouyn-Noranda (Que.)	39,096	36,308	39,924
501	Cornwall (Ont.)	62,183	57,581	58,485
505	Ottawa - Gatineau (Que.)	100,702	102,898	242,124
505	Ottawa - Gatineau (Ont.)	323,340	774,072	812,129
521	Kingston (Ont.)	143,416	146,838	152,358
522	Belleville (Ont.)	93,442	87,395	91,518
529	Peterborough (Ont.)	100,193	102,423	116,570
532	Oshawa (Ont.)	268,773	296,298	330,594
535	Toronto (Ont.)	4,263,757	4,682,897	5,113,149
537	Hamilton (Ont.)	624,360	662,401	692,911
539	St. Catharines - Niagara (Ont.)	372,406	377,009	390,317
541	Kitchener (Ont.)	382,940	414,284	451,235
543	Brantford (Ont.)	100,238	86,417	124,607
550	Guelph (Ont.)	105,420	117,344	127,009
555	London (Ont.)	398,616	432,451	457,720
556	Chatham-Kent (Ont.)	..	107,709	108,589
559	Windsor (Ont.)	278,685	307,877	323,342
562	Sarnia (Ont.)	86,480	88,331	88,793
568	Barrie (Ont.)	118,695	148,480	177,061
575	North Bay (Ont.)	64,785	63,681	63,424
580	Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury (Ont.)	160,488	155,601	158,258
586	Timmins (Ont.)	47,499	43,686	42,997
590	Sault Ste. Marie (Ont.)	83,619	78,908	80,098
595	Thunder Bay (Ont.)	125,562	121,986	122,907

Table A.2 (cont'd)

CMA	Geographic Name	1996	2001	2006
602	Winnipeg (Man.)	667,209	671,274	694,668
610	Brandon (Man.)	40,581	41,037	48,256
705	Regina (Sask.)	193,652	192,800	194,971
715	Moose Jaw (Sask.)	34,829	33,519	33,360
725	Saskatoon (Sask.)	219,056	225,927	233,923
745	Prince Albert (Sask.)	41,706	41,460	40,766
805	Medicine Hat (Alta.)	56,570	61,735	68,822
810	Lethbridge (Alta.)	63,053	67,374	95,196
825	Calgary (Alta.)	821,628	951,395	1,079,310
830	Red Deer (Alta.)	60,075	67,707	82,772
835	Edmonton (Alta.)	862,597	937,845	1,034,945
860	Wood Buffalo (Alta.)	36,124	42,602	52,643
913	Penticton (B.C.)	41,276	41,574	43,313
915	Kelowna (B.C.)	136,541	147,739	162,276
925	Kamloops (B.C.)	84,914	86,491	92,882
930	Chilliwack (B.C.)	66,254	69,776	80,892
932	Abbotsford (B.C.)	136,480	147,370	159,020
933	Vancouver (B.C.)	1,831,665	1,986,965	2,116,581
935	Victoria (B.C.)	304,287	311,902	330,088
938	Nanaimo (B.C.)	85,585	85,664	92,361
950	Williams Lake (B.C.)	38,552	25,122	18,760
970	Prince George (B.C.)	75,150	85,035	83,225

Source: Census of Canada 1996, 2001 and 2006

Note: .. These figures are not available for the specific reference period, because of boundary changes that occurred in the 2001 Census.

Table A.3
Weekly quantities for food component, MBM reference family,
National Nutritious Food Basket 1998 and 2008

	Suggested Purchase Unit	Approximate Weekly As Purchased Quantities	
		NNFB 1998	NNFB 2008
Milk Products			
2% milk	4 L	10.45 L	14 L
Yoghurt, fruit, 2% BF	500 g	230 g	920 g
Cheddar cheese, medium	227 g	245 g	416 g
Processed cheese slices	500 g	275 g	235 g
Mozzarella cheese, 16.5% BF	227 g	365 g	479 g
Vanilla ice cream, 10% BF	2 L	930 mL	..
Eggs			
Grade A large	12 eggs	12 eggs	14 eggs
Meats, Poultry, Fish			
Round steak	1 kg	500 g	400 g
Boneless stewing beef	1 kg	210 g	..
Beef hip, roast	1 kg	..	428 g
Ground beef, medium	1 kg	655 g	564 g
Pork chops, loin	1 kg	400 g	525 g
Chicken legs, no back	1 kg	1.34 kg	1.8 kg
Wieners, beef & pork	450 g	165 g	..
Sliced ham, 11% fat	175 g	335 g	200 g
Frozen fish fillets	400 g	200 g	364 g
Pink salmon, canned	213 g	115 g	292 g
Tuna, canned, in water	170 g	65 g	164 g
Meat Alternatives			
Baked beans, tomato sauce, canned	398 mL	330 mL	87 mL
White beans, dry	454 g	80 g	..
Lentils, dry	1 kg	..	35 g
Peanut butter	500 g	365 g	174 g
Peanuts	450 g	..	255 g
Grain Products			
Bread, enriched, white	675 g	1.4 kg	955 g
Bread, whole wheat	675 g	1.4 kg	523 g
Hot dog/hamburger rolls	8 pack	18 rolls	318 g
Flour, all purpose	2.5 kg	655 g	573 g
Flour, whole wheat	2.5 kg	165 g	526 g
Spaghetti/macaroni, enriched	900 g	755 g	203 g
Rice, long-grained, white, parboiled	900 g	550 g	242 g
Macaroni/cheese dinner, dry	225 g	155 g	..
Oatmeal, regular/quick-cooking	1 kg	55 g	32 g
Corn flakes	675 g	345 g	..
Shreddies™	800 g	345 g	..
Bran flakes with raisins	750 g	..	627 g
Toasted Os cereal	750 g	..	627 g
Soda crackers	450 g	205 g	191 g
Social teas	400 g	455 g	191 g
Pita, whole wheat	675 g	..	438 g

Table A.3 (cont'd)

	Suggested Purchase Unit	Approximate Weekly As Purchased Quantities	
		NNFB 1998	NNFB 2008
Citrus Fruits and Tomatoes			
Oranges	1 kg	710 g	1.0 kg
Apple juice, canned, vitamin C added	1.36 L	1 L	731 mL
Orange juice, frozen concentrate	355 mL	330 mL	191 mL
Tomatoes	1 kg	560 g	821 g
Whole tomatoes, canned	796 mL	240 mL	831 mL
Tomato juice	1.36 L	165 mL	..
Vegetable Cocktail	1.36 L	..	366 mL
Other Fruit			
Apples	1 kg	1.8 kg	1.3 kg
Bananas	1 kg	2.3 kg	1.6 kg
Grapes	1 kg	480 g	364 g
Pears	1 kg	755 g	230 g
Raisins, seedless	750 g	100 g	183 g
Fruit cocktail, canned in juice	398 mL	335 mL	..
Peaches, canned	540 mL	..	300 mL
Cantaloupe	1 kg	..	1.3 g
Strawberries, frozen	1 kg	..	1.8 g
Potatoes			
Potatoes, fresh	4.54 kg	5.5 kg	1.7 kg
French-fried potatoes, frozen	1 kg	615 g	..
Other Vegetables			
Broccoli	1 kg	585 g	1.1 kg
Cabbage	1 kg	255 g	282 g
Carrots, fresh	1.1 kg bag	885 g	644 g
Celery	1 kg	345 g	506 g
Cucumber	1 kg	455 g	565 g
Lettuce, iceberg	1 kg	450 g	1 kg
Lettuce, romaine	1 kg	595 g	512 g
Onions	1 kg	740 g	688 g
Green peppers	1 kg	305 g	292 g
Turnips (rutabaga)	1 kg	360 g	66 g
Mixed vegetables, frozen	1 kg	330 g	328 g
Kernel corn, canned	341 mL	565 mL	225 mL
Green peas, canned	540 mL	215 mL	..
Green beans, frozen	1 kg	..	304 g
Green peas, frozen	1 kg	..	152 g
Sweet potatoes	1 kg	..	272 g
Mushrooms	1 kg	..	218 g
Fats and Oils			
Margarine, tub, non-hydrogenated	454 g	365 g	379 g
Butter	454 g	190 g	..
Canola oil	1 L	230 mL	379 mL
Salad dressing (mayo type, <35% oil)	500 mL	195 mL	253 mL
Italian-style salad dressing	500 mL	..	253 mL
Sugar and Other Sweets			
Sugar, white	2 kg	845 g	..
Strawberry jam	500 mL	155 mL	..
Note: .. These figures are not available for the specific reference period because they were not part of the specified NNFB.			

Table A.4
Food items priced in January 2010 and the corresponding
Provincial Level CPI commodity groups

Food Item	Consumer Price Index (CPI), 2005 basket
Sweet Potato	Fresh Vegetables
Whole Wheat Pita Bread	Bakery Products
Regular Italian Dressing	Other food products and non alcoholic beverages
Frozen Unsweetened Strawberries	Preserved fruit and fruit preparations
Bran Flakes Cereal with Raisins	Cereal products (excluding infant food)
Toasted Oat O Cereal	Cereal products (excluding infant food)
Dried Lentils	Preserved vegetables and vegetable preparations

Table A.9
MBM thresholds: 2008 base, by MBM region, 2000 to 2007

MBM Geo-Code		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Province	Region	\$							
Newfoundland and Labrador	rural	23,884	24,365	24,760	24,938	25,730	26,569	27,621	28,356
	< 30,000	25,177	25,664	26,071	26,258	27,026	27,854	28,882	29,614
	St. John's	23,514	24,169	24,640	25,086	25,601	26,354	27,782	28,245
Prince Edward Island	rural	22,641	23,387	23,832	24,090	24,969	26,026	27,229	27,582
	< 30,000	24,422	25,181	25,671	25,970	26,828	27,879	29,108	29,477
	Charlottetown	25,312	26,081	26,545	26,827	27,657	28,690	29,923	30,301
Nova Scotia	rural	23,086	23,780	24,030	24,326	24,885	26,033	27,054	27,980
	< 30,000	24,785	25,490	25,818	26,192	26,793	28,009	29,073	29,991
	30,000 to 99,999	22,440	23,060	23,417	23,761	24,213	25,186	26,464	27,187
	Halifax	24,002	24,745	25,188	25,585	26,179	26,963	28,092	28,756
	Cape Breton	22,152	22,887	23,317	23,597	24,091	24,836	25,975	26,673
New Brunswick	rural	23,350	24,004	24,532	25,063	25,518	26,371	27,539	27,691
	< 30,000	24,652	25,322	25,847	26,376	26,798	27,723	28,873	29,037
	30,000 to 99,999	..	..	..	..	..	27,260	28,399	28,560
	Fredericton	22,962	23,629	24,314	24,869	25,420	26,494	27,932	28,515
	Saint John	22,435	23,317	23,829	24,076	24,618	25,491	27,010	27,109
	Moncton	22,816	23,689	23,957	24,193	24,642	25,472	27,012	27,388
Québec	rural	21,391	22,398	22,350	22,307	22,868	23,858	24,746	25,205
	< 30,000	22,413	23,420	23,372	23,319	23,869	24,850	25,733	26,186
	30,000 to 99,999	20,500	21,488	21,703	21,692	22,105	22,901	24,025	24,403
	100,000 to 499,999	21,052	22,102	22,224	22,262	22,794	23,642	24,749	25,154
	Québec City	21,385	22,491	22,805	23,009	23,473	24,212	25,362	25,798
	Montréal	21,641	22,699	22,943	23,267	23,980	24,808	26,041	26,537
Ontario	rural	22,109	22,920	23,082	23,349	24,326	25,492	26,314	26,326
	< 30,000	23,216	24,042	24,244	24,534	25,500	26,668	27,486	27,499
	30,000 to 99,999	21,244	22,145	22,538	22,772	23,708	25,007	26,029	25,636
	100,000 to 499,999	22,449	23,360	23,764	24,087	24,741	25,535	26,560	26,591
	Ottawa	24,829	25,786	26,116	26,224	26,742	27,592	28,449	28,432
	Hamilton/Burlington	21,654	22,362	23,087	23,442	24,106	24,841	26,068	26,000
	Toronto	24,802	25,792	26,420	26,782	27,326	28,047	29,163	29,509
Manitoba	rural	21,253	22,164	22,419	22,987	23,478	24,411	25,043	25,855
	< 30,000	22,473	23,407	23,727	24,353	24,877	25,863	26,544	27,375
	Brandon	20,602	21,534	22,168	22,940	23,393	24,115	25,029	25,870
	Winnipeg	21,379	22,291	22,765	23,167	23,741	24,415	25,514	26,126
Saskatchewan	rural	21,882	22,601	22,505	23,146	23,921	24,516	25,520	26,558
	< 30,000	22,795	23,524	23,467	24,137	24,917	25,533	26,554	27,550
	30,000 to 99,999	20,953	21,607	21,728	22,453	23,224	23,606	24,754	25,551
	Saskatoon	22,188	23,279	23,549	24,018	24,552	24,867	26,071	26,750
	Regina	21,613	22,243	22,752	23,194	23,789	24,226	25,406	26,270
Alberta	rural	22,647	23,625	23,693	24,300	24,534	24,705	25,960	27,332
	< 30,000	24,058	25,081	25,247	25,934	26,200	26,422	27,666	29,078
	30,000 to 99,999	22,809	23,777	24,080	24,716	24,865	24,862	26,192	27,455
	Edmonton	22,781	23,627	24,022	24,569	24,974	25,606	26,967	27,759
	Calgary	23,468	24,517	25,140	25,839	26,042	26,774	28,068	29,281
British Columbia	rural	25,070	24,520	24,121	23,900	25,101	25,692	26,329	26,886
	< 30,000	25,998	25,461	25,114	24,943	26,177	26,808	27,482	28,056
	30,000 to 99,999	23,960	23,335	23,191	23,139	24,297	24,732	25,640	26,011
	100,000 to 499,999	22,805	23,690	23,994	24,662	25,163	25,663	26,963	27,596
	Vancouver	24,167	24,955	25,332	25,738	26,209	26,823	28,002	28,418
.. not available for a specific reference period									

Table A.10
MBM thresholds: 2000 base, by MBM region, 2000 to 2007

MBM Geo-Code		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Province	Region	\$							
Newfoundland and Labrador	rural	25,930	26,209	26,560	26,632	27,357	28,104	28,571	29,308
	< 30,000	26,656	26,731	27,083	27,155	27,876	28,619	29,081	29,820
	St. John's	24,469	24,837	25,317	25,780	26,336	27,051	27,933	28,544
Prince Edward Island	rural	24,352	25,339	25,717	25,970	26,689	27,599	28,222	28,603
	< 30,000	25,436	26,011	26,424	26,713	27,464	28,405	29,074	29,465
	Charlottetown	26,214	27,031	27,450	27,747	28,498	29,439	30,124	30,527
Nova Scotia	rural	25,714	26,325	26,656	27,087	27,522	28,713	29,211	29,967
	< 30,000	25,961	26,793	27,090	27,484	27,880	29,030	29,487	30,245
	30,000 to 99,999	23,863	24,518	24,856	25,203	25,645	26,526	27,277	28,012
	Halifax	25,139	26,016	26,494	26,952	27,608	28,375	29,073	29,761
	Cape Breton	23,138	23,607	24,062	24,396	24,937	25,662	26,360	27,037
New Brunswick	rural	25,019	25,769	26,358	26,940	27,321	28,176	28,684	28,893
	< 30,000	25,352	26,279	26,862	27,436	27,808	28,654	29,152	29,364
	Fredericton	24,660	25,448	26,109	26,646	27,201	28,178	29,015	29,681
	Saint John	22,953	23,876	24,366	24,641	25,203	26,027	26,908	27,202
	Moncton	23,660	24,797	25,065	25,325	25,790	26,574	27,474	27,946
Québec	rural	22,823	23,733	23,693	23,564	24,094	25,034	25,411	25,861
	< 30,000	22,921	23,937	23,878	23,729	24,239	25,157	25,513	25,964
	30,000 to 99,999	20,843	21,674	21,881	21,889	22,354	23,116	23,781	24,283
	100,000 to 499,999	21,458	22,324	22,360	22,300	22,745	23,434	23,975	24,492
	Québec City	21,818	22,717	23,046	23,277	23,804	24,528	25,253	25,810
	Montréal	22,103	23,038	23,299	23,623	24,357	25,153	25,944	26,560
Ontario	rural	25,226	25,556	25,908	26,205	27,107	28,235	28,594	28,440
	< 30,000	25,201	25,652	25,984	26,261	27,140	28,246	28,582	28,428
	30,000 to 99,999	23,169	23,634	24,022	24,234	25,067	26,135	26,681	26,478
	100,000 to 499,999	24,648	25,226	25,625	25,942	26,540	27,215	27,780	27,856
	Ottawa	26,612	27,524	27,943	28,133	28,705	29,522	29,966	30,032
	Hamilton/Burlington	23,854	24,494	25,221	25,565	26,180	26,810	27,601	27,538
	Toronto	27,131	28,526	29,187	29,537	30,074	30,714	31,399	31,729
Manitoba	rural	22,660	23,657	24,034	24,687	25,166	26,131	26,431	27,192
	< 30,000	23,862	24,899	25,273	25,915	26,381	27,332	27,619	28,400
	Brandon	21,473	22,288	22,922	23,719	24,186	24,881	25,414	26,156
	Winnipeg	22,478	23,450	24,005	24,490	25,122	25,802	26,555	27,256
Saskatchewan	rural	23,042	23,730	23,741	24,405	25,084	25,639	26,216	27,018
	< 30,000	24,025	24,708	24,732	25,402	26,082	26,640	27,224	28,047
	30,000 to 99,999	21,463	22,097	22,239	22,958	23,686	24,026	24,794	25,596
	Saskatoon	22,699	24,162	24,445	24,919	25,453	25,722	26,534	27,292
	Regina	22,247	23,291	23,798	24,232	24,816	25,199	26,001	26,835
Alberta	rural	24,700	25,892	26,139	26,807	27,080	27,303	27,892	29,200
	< 30,000	25,910	27,062	27,377	28,102	28,417	28,682	29,332	30,729
	30,000 to 99,999	23,868	25,466	25,953	26,730	26,996	27,098	27,972	29,355
	Edmonton	23,762	24,945	25,483	26,125	26,603	27,281	28,150	29,215
	Calgary	24,371	26,592	27,274	27,958	28,178	28,849	29,579	30,951
British Columbia	rural	28,255	27,772	27,489	27,372	28,179	28,627	28,652	29,219
	< 30,000	28,631	27,844	27,581	27,485	28,312	28,780	28,826	29,395
	30,000 to 99,999	26,771	25,494	25,458	25,505	26,346	26,715	27,049	27,575
	100,000 to 499,999	26,514	26,982	27,407	28,188	28,783	29,316	30,173	30,956
	Vancouver	27,670	28,446	28,901	29,379	29,909	30,477	31,175	31,768

Table A.11
MBM food component: 2008 base, by MBM region, 2000 to 2007

MBM Geo-Code		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Province	Region	\$							
Newfoundland and Labrador	rural	7,397	7,430	7,826	7,843	8,034	8,161	8,465	8,765
	< 30,000	7,397	7,430	7,826	7,843	8,034	8,161	8,465	8,765
	St. John's	7,135	7,266	7,588	7,693	7,806	7,967	8,279	8,521
Prince Edward Island	rural	6,652	6,831	7,099	7,137	7,296	7,542	7,914	8,150
	< 30,000	6,652	6,831	7,099	7,137	7,296	7,542	7,914	8,150
	Charlottetown	6,652	6,831	7,099	7,137	7,296	7,542	7,914	8,150
Nova Scotia	rural	6,913	7,076	7,336	7,426	7,536	7,868	8,151	8,427
	< 30,000	6,913	7,076	7,336	7,426	7,536	7,868	8,151	8,427
	30,000 to 99,999	6,913	7,076	7,336	7,426	7,536	7,868	8,151	8,427
	Halifax	6,800	7,032	7,303	7,387	7,559	7,751	7,923	8,183
	Cape Breton	6,597	6,835	7,170	7,258	7,435	7,677	7,967	8,162
New Brunswick	rural	6,901	7,047	7,402	7,607	7,684	7,875	8,256	8,308
	< 30,000	6,901	7,047	7,402	7,607	7,684	7,875	8,256	8,308
	30,000 to 99,999	..	..	..	..	..	7,875	8,256	8,308
	Fredericton	6,816	6,921	7,273	7,374	7,449	7,712	8,015	8,255
	Saint John	6,824	6,957	7,241	7,294	7,428	7,711	7,944	8,202
	Moncton	6,691	6,956	7,110	7,136	7,192	7,437	7,685	7,861
Québec	rural	6,367	6,762	6,825	6,800	6,873	7,127	7,384	7,611
	< 30,000	6,367	6,762	6,825	6,800	6,873	7,127	7,384	7,611
	30,000 to 99,999	6,367	6,762	6,825	6,800	6,873	7,127	7,384	7,611
	100,000 to 499,999	6,367	6,762	6,825	6,800	6,873	7,127	7,384	7,611
	Québec City	6,315	6,756	6,865	6,929	6,975	7,170	7,414	7,669
	Montréal	6,318	6,746	6,815	6,899	7,008	7,211	7,500	7,775
Ontario	rural	5,823	6,109	6,306	6,366	6,641	7,029	7,322	7,216
	< 30,000	5,823	6,109	6,306	6,366	6,641	7,029	7,322	7,216
	30,000 to 99,999	5,823	6,109	6,306	6,366	6,641	7,029	7,322	7,216
	100,000 to 499,999	6,127	6,443	6,570	6,663	6,780	7,009	7,253	7,309
	Ottawa	6,594	6,937	7,055	7,008	7,062	7,319	7,371	7,409
	Hamilton/Burlington	5,598	5,827	6,148	6,213	6,326	6,526	6,929	6,903
	Toronto	6,067	6,408	6,674	6,694	6,793	7,009	7,284	7,343
Manitoba	rural	6,232	6,596	6,888	7,257	7,298	7,487	7,610	7,883
	< 30,000	6,232	6,596	6,888	7,257	7,298	7,487	7,610	7,883
	Brandon	6,232	6,596	6,888	7,257	7,298	7,487	7,610	7,883
	Winnipeg	6,271	6,612	6,855	6,961	7,107	7,217	7,441	7,677
Saskatchewan	rural	6,439	6,645	6,632	6,959	7,101	7,060	7,341	7,674
	< 30,000	6,439	6,645	6,632	6,959	7,101	7,060	7,341	7,674
	30,000 to 99,999	6,439	6,645	6,632	6,959	7,101	7,060	7,341	7,674
	Saskatoon	6,674	7,098	7,145	7,299	7,366	7,240	7,504	7,795
	Regina	6,418	6,589	6,780	6,912	7,040	7,037	7,334	7,628
Alberta	rural	6,824	7,166	7,295	7,593	7,516	7,288	7,621	8,033
	< 30,000	6,824	7,166	7,295	7,593	7,516	7,288	7,621	8,033
	30,000 to 99,999	6,824	7,166	7,295	7,593	7,516	7,288	7,621	8,033
	Edmonton	6,572	6,846	6,961	7,109	7,134	7,228	7,522	7,750
	Calgary	6,492	6,836	7,077	7,249	7,231	7,356	7,667	7,971
British Columbia	rural	8,004	7,461	7,383	7,278	7,787	7,837	7,922	8,139
	< 30,000	8,004	7,461	7,383	7,278	7,787	7,837	7,922	8,139
	30,000 to 99,999	8,004	7,461	7,383	7,278	7,787	7,837	7,922	8,139
	100,000 to 499,999	7,149	7,502	7,595	7,901	7,908	7,913	8,142	8,428
	Vancouver	7,031	7,257	7,476	7,669	7,758	7,799	8,049	8,275
.. not available for a specific reference period									

Table A.12
MBM food component: 2000 base, by MBM region, 2000 to 2007

MBM Geo-Code		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Province	Region	\$							
Newfoundland and Labrador	rural	7,045	7,076	7,453	7,470	7,651	7,773	8,063	8,347
	< 30,000	7,045	7,076	7,453	7,470	7,651	7,773	8,063	8,347
	St. John's	6,796	6,920	7,227	7,326	7,434	7,589	7,883	8,115
Prince Edward Island	rural	6,335	6,506	6,761	6,797	6,948	7,183	7,538	7,762
	< 30,000	6,335	6,506	6,761	6,797	6,948	7,183	7,538	7,762
	Charlottetown	6,335	6,506	6,761	6,797	6,948	7,183	7,538	7,762
Nova Scotia	rural	6,584	6,739	6,987	7,072	7,177	7,492	7,761	8,026
	< 30,000	6,584	6,739	6,987	7,072	7,177	7,492	7,761	8,026
	30,000 to 99,999	6,584	6,739	6,987	7,072	7,177	7,492	7,761	8,026
	Halifax	6,476	6,697	6,955	7,035	7,199	7,381	7,546	7,793
	Cape Breton	6,283	6,509	6,829	6,912	7,081	7,312	7,586	7,773
New Brunswick	rural	6,573	6,711	7,050	7,245	7,318	7,500	7,864	7,913
	< 30,000	6,573	6,711	7,050	7,245	7,318	7,500	7,864	7,913
	Fredericton	6,491	6,591	6,927	7,023	7,094	7,345	7,632	7,862
	Saint John	6,499	6,626	6,896	6,947	7,074	7,343	7,565	7,811
	Moncton	6,372	6,625	6,771	6,796	6,849	7,085	7,321	7,487
Québec	rural	6,064	6,440	6,500	6,476	6,546	6,789	7,031	7,248
	< 30,000	6,064	6,440	6,500	6,476	6,546	6,789	7,031	7,248
	30,000 to 99,999	6,064	6,440	6,500	6,476	6,546	6,789	7,031	7,248
	100,000 to 499,999	6,064	6,440	6,500	6,476	6,546	6,789	7,031	7,248
	Québec City	6,014	6,434	6,538	6,599	6,643	6,826	7,061	7,304
	Montréal	6,017	6,425	6,491	6,571	6,674	6,868	7,142	7,405
Ontario	rural	5,546	5,818	6,006	6,063	6,325	6,696	6,974	6,872
	< 30,000	5,546	5,818	6,006	6,063	6,325	6,696	6,974	6,872
	30,000 to 99,999	5,546	5,818	6,006	6,063	6,325	6,696	6,974	6,872
	100,000 to 499,999	5,833	6,136	6,257	6,346	6,457	6,674	6,908	6,961
	Ottawa	6,280	6,606	6,719	6,674	6,726	6,971	7,021	7,056
	Hamilton/Burlington	5,331	5,550	5,856	5,917	6,025	6,215	6,600	6,574
	Toronto	5,778	6,102	6,356	6,376	6,470	6,675	6,939	6,993
Manitoba	rural	5,935	6,282	6,560	6,912	6,951	7,130	7,249	7,508
	< 30,000	5,935	6,282	6,560	6,912	6,951	7,130	7,249	7,508
	Brandon	5,935	6,282	6,560	6,912	6,951	7,130	7,249	7,508
	Winnipeg	5,972	6,297	6,528	6,629	6,768	6,873	7,085	7,312
Saskatchewan	rural	6,133	6,329	6,316	6,628	6,763	6,724	6,990	7,308
	< 30,000	6,133	6,329	6,316	6,628	6,763	6,724	6,990	7,308
	30,000 to 99,999	6,133	6,329	6,316	6,628	6,763	6,724	6,990	7,308
	Saskatoon	6,356	6,760	6,805	6,951	7,015	6,897	7,148	7,424
	Regina	6,112	6,275	6,457	6,582	6,704	6,699	6,984	7,265
Alberta	rural	6,499	6,824	6,948	7,231	7,158	6,941	7,258	7,651
	< 30,000	6,499	6,824	6,948	7,231	7,158	6,941	7,258	7,651
	30,000 to 99,999	6,499	6,824	6,948	7,231	7,158	6,941	7,258	7,651
	Edmonton	6,259	6,520	6,630	6,770	6,794	6,884	7,165	7,381
	Calgary	6,183	6,511	6,740	6,904	6,886	7,008	7,302	7,592
British Columbia	rural	7,623	7,106	7,032	6,932	7,205	7,205	7,205	7,406
	< 30,000	7,623	7,106	7,032	6,932	7,205	7,205	7,205	7,406
	30,000 to 99,999	7,623	7,106	7,032	6,932	7,205	7,205	7,205	7,406
	100,000 to 499,999	6,801	7,145	7,233	7,525	7,532	7,536	7,754	8,026
	Vancouver	6,697	6,912	7,120	7,304	7,389	7,430	7,665	7,881