

# Estimates of the Levy Institute Measure of Well-being (LIMEW) for Canada

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## Abstract

Economists have traditionally used measures such as money income or gross domestic product (GDP) per capita to measure economic well-being. However, this only captures one aspect of living standards. The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College has developed a comprehensive measure of access to economic resources, known as the Levy Institute Measure of Economic Well-being (LIMEW), which includes the various components of income, transfers from government, taxation, income from wealth, public consumption and household production.

This paper develops estimates of the LIMEW for Canada. It first details the process of estimating the LIMEW, including estimating the level of public consumption, allocating public consumption to the household and non-household sector, and distributing public consumption among households. It then explains the process of statistically matching datasets detailing how LIMEW estimates are derived from synthetic microdata files. The paper then presents and discusses mean and median LIMEW estimates and their components for Canada in 1999 and 2005, as well as LIMEW estimates by quintile, age, and the education level, and region. Finally, a comparison is made between LIMEW estimates for Canada and the United States.