



4.4.18 Household Expenditures

Fig. 4.4.18 Estimated cost of raising a child to age 18, typical two-child family, Canada, 2011

	Food	Clothing	Health care	Personal care	Recreation, reading, school supplies	Transportation	Child care	Shelter, furnishings and household operation	Total cost
Total cost to age 18	32,815	15,945	4,655	4,750	19,080	39,235	75,500	51,680	243,660

Cornell C. (2011). "The real cost of raising a child." Money Sense Magazine. <http://www.moneysense.ca/2011/08/10/the-real-cost-of-raising-kids/>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Raising children in Canada is an expensive proposition. The average cost of raising a child in Canada to age 18 in a typical two-child family is \$243,660. This amounts to an average cost of \$1,070 per month per child. This cost varies by the number of children in a family. The estimated per-child expenditure in lone-child families (\$304,600) is 25% higher than in families with two children, while families with three or more children spend 22% less per child (\$190,050).¹

¹ Cornell C. (2011). "The real cost of raising a child." Money Sense Magazine. <http://www.moneysense.ca/2011/08/10/the-real-cost-of-raising-kids/>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Implications

Based on ratios developed for the U.S., it is estimated that the bottom third by income of couples with children spend about 28% less (\$175,400) per child than the average household. The upper third by income of families with children spend almost 40% more (\$404,500).¹ In terms of child outcomes, higher income is almost always associated with better outcomes for children.²

¹ Cornell C. (2011). "The real cost of raising a child." Money Sense Magazine. <http://www.moneysense.ca/2011/08/10/the-real-cost-of-raising-kids/>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

² Phipps S, Lethbridge L. (2006). "Income and the Outcomes of Children." Statistics Canada. <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/Statcan/11F0019MIE/11F0019MIE2006281.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

