



Food Freedom Day Calculation and Data Sheet

The first step towards calculating food freedom day is acquiring the most recent data available for the analysis. “Canada Food Stats” (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=23FOO01XBB&lang=eng>) contains data on personal disposable income as well as expenditures on food, alcohol, and tobacco (the three categories encompassing the most agricultural sectors). After you download this database (which is very large--146MB for 2008) and install the program, look up “Income and Expenditure – Food, Beverage, and Tobacco” and “Income and Expenditure – Personal Disposable Income” and output those to a spreadsheet.

This provides data for up to 2007. Unfortunately, we are calculating Food Freedom Day for 2009, which necessitates numbers for the preceding year, 2008. As those numbers are not yet available from Statistics Canada, we have to arrive at a reasonable estimate for both personal disposable income and food, alcohol, and tobacco expenditures for 2008. Our internal estimate of Food, Beverage, and Tobacco expenditures for 2008 is approximately \$113 billion, and our estimate of Personal Disposable income for 2008 is \$950 billion.

From there:

$$\% \text{ of Disposable Income Spent on Food} = \frac{\text{Food, Beverages \& Tobacco}}{\text{Personal Disposable Income}}$$

$$\text{Ex. 2008: \% of Disposable Income Spent on Food (millions)} = \frac{\$113,059}{\$950,961}$$

Equals: 11.9%

Calculating the day: $365 * 11.9\% = 43.44$ days

There are 31 days in January, $43.44 - 31 = 12.44$

Rounding down, we get February 12th as Food Freedom Day.

Data used for analysis:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 est
Expenditures on Food, beverages and tobacco adjusted for inflation (millions)	89757	90915	92296	107178	113059
Personal disposable income (millions)	758569	791486	842302	898388	950961
food expenditures as a percent of personal Disposable income	11.8%	11.5%	11.0%	11.9%	11.9%
Date is February:	12	10	8	12	12

