

HOW TO CALCULATE FARM FREEDOM DAY (Using 2006 statistics)

Stats vary from OECD to others. Its hard to find consistent calculations from other countries. To do so will take some other methodology that I won't go into here because its to variable and too hard!

Ok, so the Canadian version using Canadian Statistics:

Go to StatsCan, to the free products and find the newest version of Food Statistics, Catalogue number 21-020-XIE.

21-020-XIE does not carry personal disposable income anymore. I had to find it by downloading the "Canada Food Stats" database, which was 119MB. After installing it, I found the "Canada's Food Sector at a Glance", which had the Food, beverages, and Tobacco heading. For personal disposable income, I went to the "Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review" (Catalogue no.: 13-010-XWE). This was the easiest way to grab the most recent stats that I could find. (Glen update Dec 2007)

In there is a section on Personal Disposable Income

Below that is Consumption – I use the Food, Beverages and Tobacco, as it covers a lot farm products. The two below it, Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages, and Alcoholic beverages are subsections of the first one. Tobacco is missing.

From there:

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

$$\text{Ex. 2006: \% of Disposable Income Spent on Food} = \frac{\$80,251}{\$842,302}$$

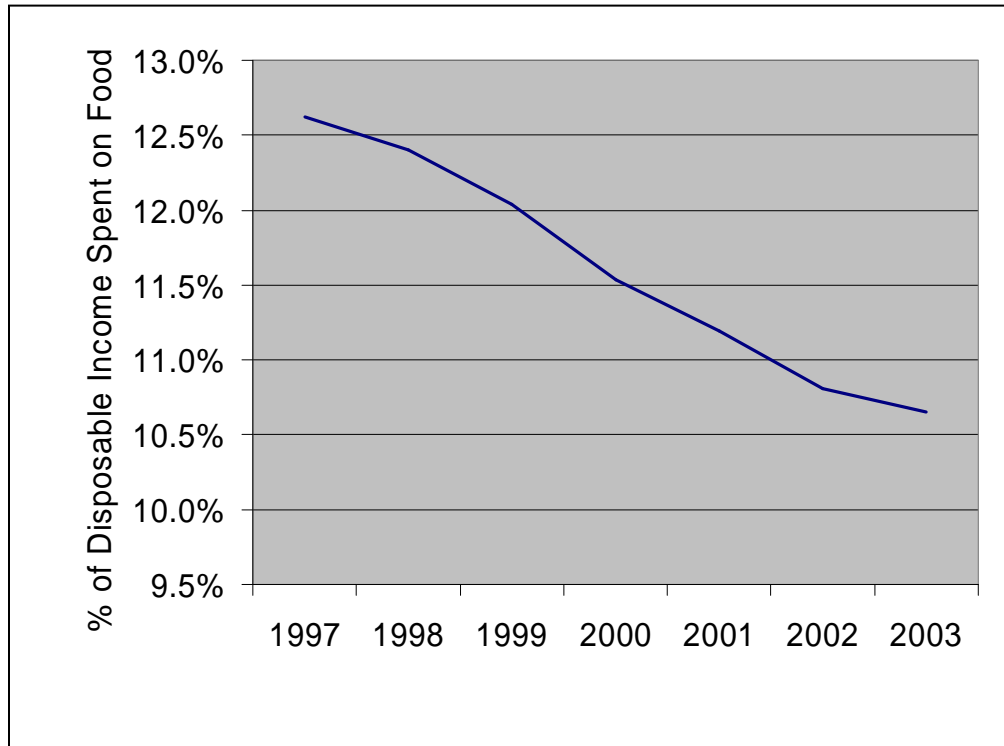
Equals: 9.52%

Calculating the day: $365 * 9.52\% = 34.77$ days

There are 31 days in January, $34.77 - 31 = 3.77$

Rounding down, we get February 3rd as Farm Freedom Day.

In 2003, Canadians spent 10.6% of their Disposable Personal Income on food. (FFD – Feb. 8th) This percentage has been falling dramatically ...



Between 1997-2003, the price Canadian consumers paid for food increased by 13.8%. In contrast, the average farm gate price increased by only 2.1%.

Statistics taken from Statistics Canada – Food Statistics No.21-020-XIE and Farm Product Price Index No.21-007-XIB

Relative Comparisons to Canada (from OECD (2002 data)

US spends 0.9% less of their disposable income on food than Canada (FFD: Feb. 4th)

Australia spends 1.3% more (FFD: Feb. 12th)

Japan spends 3.5% more (FFD: Feb. 20th)

Iceland spends 5.2% more (FFD: Feb. 27th)

Mexico spends 12.1% more (FFD: Mar. 4th)