Leger

Holiday Celebrations

Survey of Canadians and Americans

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DATE 2023-12-12

Methodology

Method

Online survey
among respondents 18 years of age or older.
(Canadian sample: n= 1,530/ American Sample: n= 1,005).

Respondents had the option of completing the survey in English or in French and were randomly recruited using LEO's online panel.

When

Decembre 8 to December 10, 2023

Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size yields a margin of error no greater than ±2.51%, (19 times out of 20) for the Canadian sample and ±3.1%, (19 times out of 20) for the American sample

Weighting

Results were weighted according to **age, gender, mother tongue, region, education and presence of children in the household** in order to ensure a representative sample of the Canadian population and according to **age**, **gender, region, education, ethnicity and number of people in the household** in order to ensure a representative sample of the American population.

Leger

Methodology

Significant differences

Data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion that that of other respondents.

Rounded data

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.
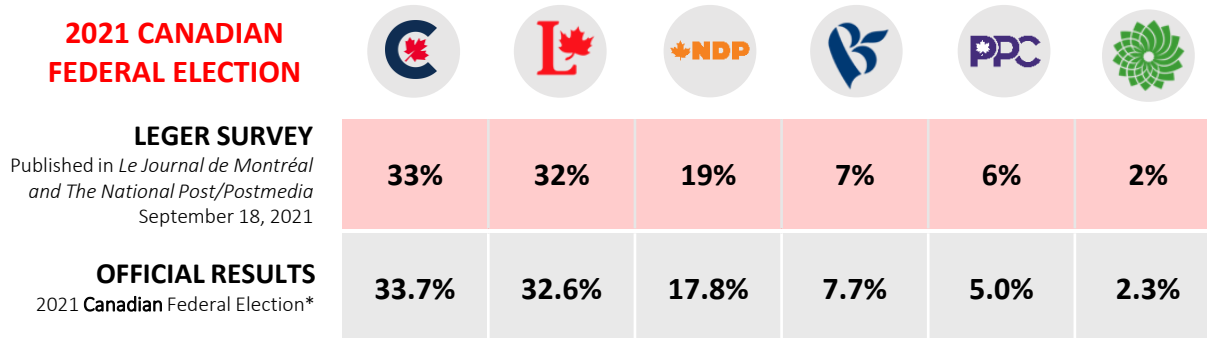
Questions

Have questions about the data presented in this report? Please contact Christian Bourque, Executive Vice-President, Eastern Canada at the following e-mail addresses: cbourque@leger360.com

A more detailed methodology is presented in the Appendix.

Methodology

Leger is the polling firm that has presented the most accurate election survey data, on average, over the last ten years in Canada. During the last federal election in 2021, Leger was once again **the most accurate firm in the country**. This accuracy is attributed to the quality of the LEO panel and rigorous application of methodological rules by Leger's 600 employees, including 200 professionals in Leger's eight offices across Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and in the United States (New York).

Poll aggregator 338Canada.com gave Leger the highest rating among all polling firms in Canada for the accuracy of its studies.
See https://338canada.com/pollster-ratings.htm

2021 CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION	C	L	NDP	B	PPC	green
LEGER SURVEY Published in *Le Journal de Montréal and The National Post/Postmedia* September 18, 2021	**33%**	**32%**	**19%**	**7%**	**6%**	**2%**
OFFICIAL RESULTS 2021 **Canadian** Federal Election*	**33.7%**	**32.6%**	**17.8%**	**7.7%**	**5.0%**	**2.3%**

Key Highlights

From December 8 to 10, 2023, we surveyed Canadians and Americans to know more about their feelings towards the holiday season and their plans during that time.

Some of the key highlights of our survey on holiday celebrations include...

- 68% of Canadians plan on having a special holiday dinner with family and/or friends. Out of those who plan to have a special dinner, 55% will serve turkey.

- The holiday season is the favorite time of the year for 36% of Canadians, while the same proportion of Canadians (37%) think the holidays are fine but are glad when they are over. On the other hand, 11% of Canadians don't like the holiday season and all its commercialization, and 9% get stressed about the holiday season.

- For most Canadians, seeing family (65%) is the favorite part of the holidays, while gift buying is the least favorite part (27%). A quarter of Canadians (23%) can't name their least favorite part because they love every minute of the holiday season.

- 65% of Canadians think that the current list of statutory holidays is adequate, while 57% of Americans think the same. On the other hand, 22% of Canadians think that the list of statutory holidays should be expanded to include other religious days such as those from Jewish, Islamic, and other traditions, while 27% of Americans think the same.
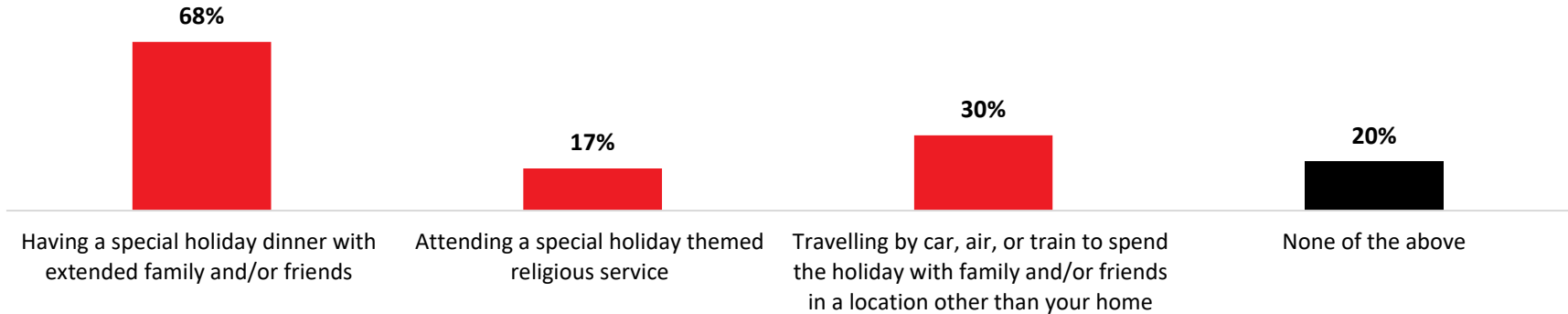
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Detailed Results

Plans for the Holiday

Q1. This holiday season, will you be doing any of the following listed below? *Please select all that apply*
Base: All respondents (n=1,530)

68%

17%

30%

20%

Having a special holiday dinner with extended family and/or friends

Attending a special holiday themed religious service

Travelling by car, air, or train to spend the holiday with family and/or friends in a location other than your home

None of the above

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
Weighted n=	*1,530*	*103*	*354*	*594*	*99*	*171*	*210*	*406*	*493*	*631*	*745*	*785*
Unweighted n=	*1,530*	*100*	*405*	*613*	*125*	*132*	*155*	*340*	*528*	*662*	*787*	*743*
Having a special holiday dinner with extended family and/or friends	**68%**	69%	69%	68%	75%	69%	65%	**73%**	69%	**65%**	**65%**	**72%**
Attending a special holiday themed religious service	**17%**	17%	14%	16%	21%	23%	18%	**21%**	17%	15%	**21%**	**13%**
Travelling by car, air, or train to spend the holiday with family and/or friends in a location other than your home	**30%**	33%	30%	33%	28%	27%	26%	**39%**	33%	**24%**	28%	33%
None of the above	**20%**	19%	19%	20%	13%	22%	26%	**12%**	20%	**25%**	20%	20%

Plans for the Holiday (Canada vs United States)

Q1. This holiday season, will you be doing any of the following listed below? *Please select all that apply*
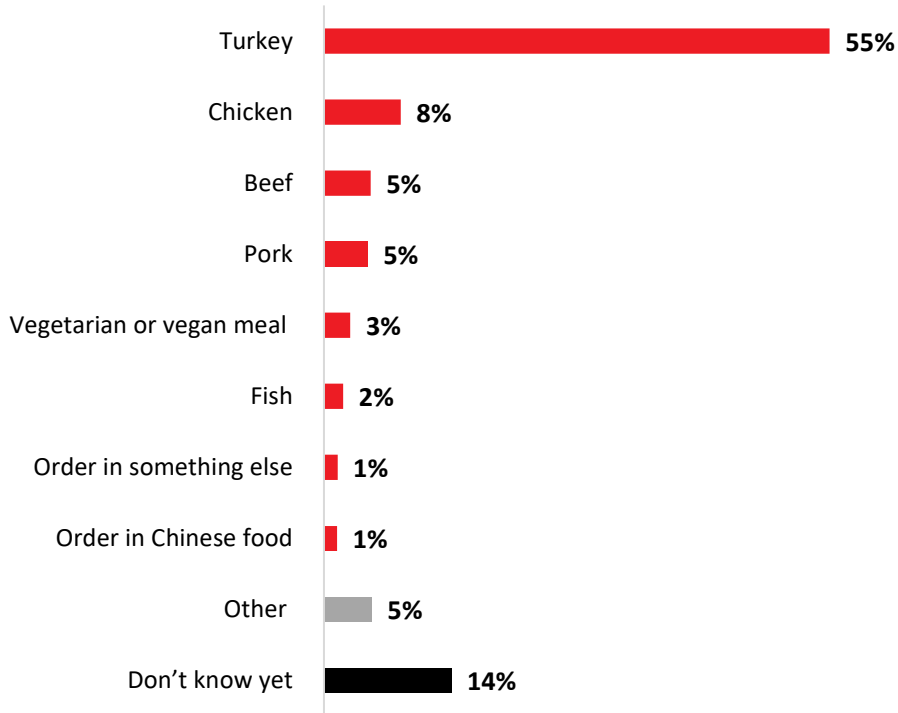Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	Total USA	Gap
Weighted n=	1,530	1,005	
Unweighted n=	1,530	1,005	
Having a special holiday dinner with extended family and/or friends	68%	60%	8
Attending a special holiday themed religious service	17%	24%	7
Travelling by car, air, or train to spend the holiday with family and/or friends in a location other than your home	30%	24%	6
None of the above	20%	29%	9

Details of the Plans
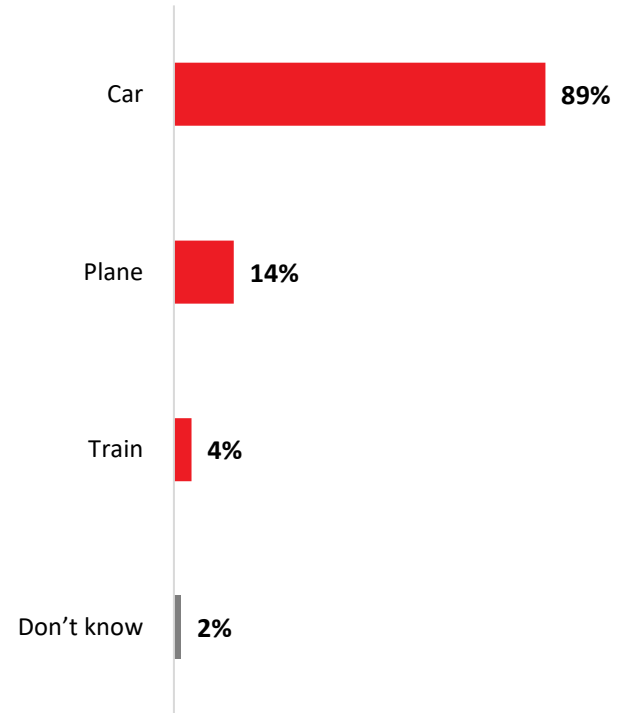
Q2. What do you plan to serve for your special holiday meal?
Base: Respondents who plan on having a special dinner (n=1,077)

Turkey	55%
Chicken	8%
Beef	5%
Pork	5%
Vegetarian or vegan meal	3%
Fish	2%
Order in something else	1%
Order in Chinese food	1%
Other	5%
Don't know yet	14%

Q3. Over the holidays, are you traveling by…
Base: Respondents who plan travelling (n=490)

Car	89%
Plane	14%
Train	4%
Don't know	2%

Details of the Plans (Canada vs United States)

	Total Canada	Total USA	Gap
What do you plan to serve for your special holiday meal?	1,077	612	
Turkey	**55%**	**23%**	32
Chicken	8%	10%	2
Beef	**5%**	**12%**	7
Pork	**5%**	**14%**	9
Vegetarian or vegan meal	3%	3%	-
Fish	2%	2%	-
Order in something else	1%	1%	-
Order in Chinese food	1%	3%	2
Over the holidays, are you traveling by…	490	261	
Car	89%	83%	6
Plane	**14%**	**28%**	14
Train	4%	7%	3

Feeling About the Holiday Season (1/2)

Q4. Which of the following descriptions of how people feel about the holiday season best applies to you?
Base: All respondents (n=1,530)

The holidays are fine, but I am glad when they are over	**37%**
I can't wait for the holidays, it's my favourite time of the year	**36%**
I don't like the holiday season and all its commercialization, but I put up with it	**11%**
I get stressed around the holiday season with all the gift buying and planning and can't wait for it to be over	**9%**
I don't celebrate the holiday season	**7%**
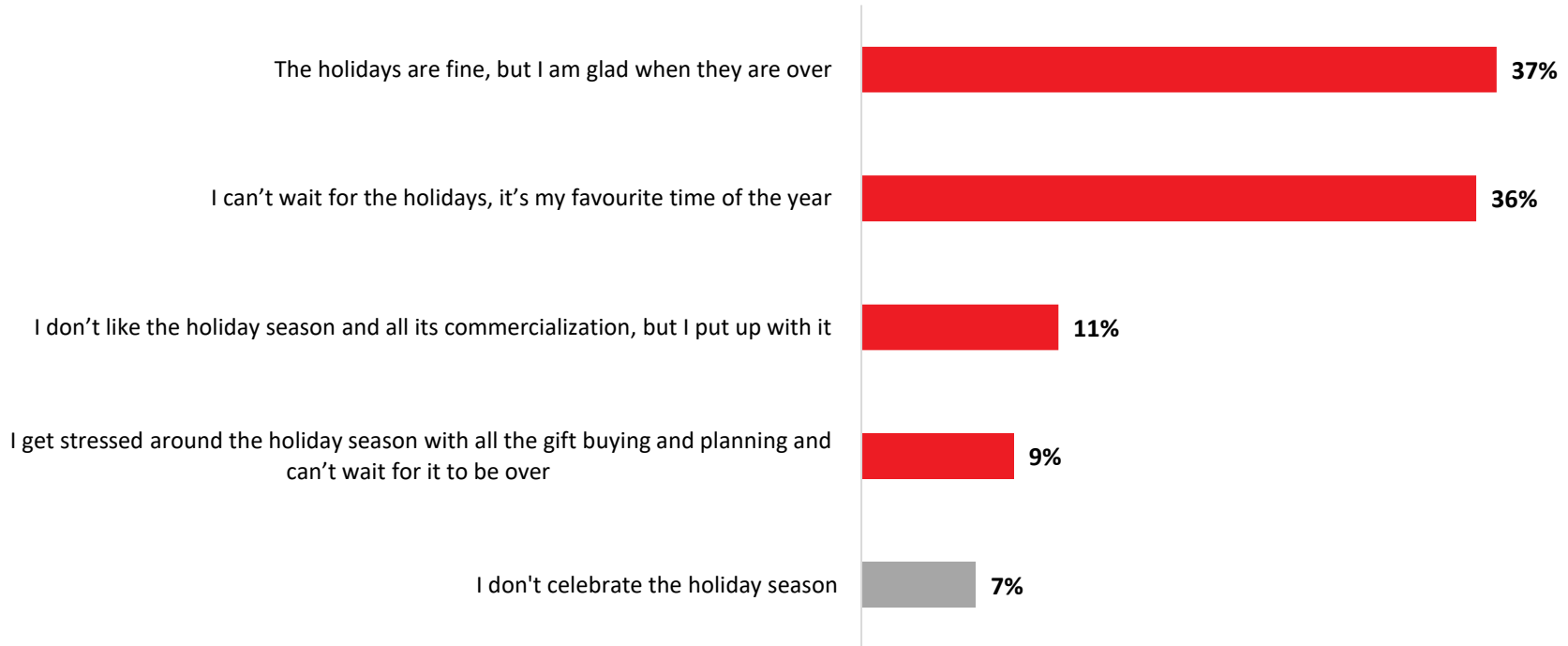
Feeling About the Holiday Season (2/2)

Q4. Which of the following descriptions of how people feel about the holiday season best applies to you?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
Weighted n=	*1,530*	*103*	*354*	*594*	*99*	*171*	*210*	*406*	*493*	*631*	*745*	*785*
Unweighted n=	*1,530*	*100*	*405*	*613*	*125*	*132*	*155*	*340*	*528*	*662*	*787*	*743*
The holidays are fine, but I am glad when they are over	**37%**	38%	41%	39%	34%	**26%**	36%	**27%**	35%	**45%**	40%	35%
I can't wait for the holidays, it's my favourite time of the year	**36%**	31%	34%	35%	41%	38%	41%	**52%**	36%	**26%**	**33%**	**39%**
I don't like the holiday season and all its commercialization, but I put up with it	**11%**	13%	11%	12%	11%	13%	11%	11%	11%	13%	**14%**	**9%**
I get stressed around the holiday season with all the gift buying and planning and can't wait for it to be over	**9%**	11%	8%	9%	10%	11%	7%	**5%**	**12%**	9%	**6%**	**12%**
I don't celebrate the holiday season	**7%**	7%	6%	6%	5%	11%	6%	5%	6%	8%	8%	6%

Feeling About the Holiday Season (Canada vs United States)

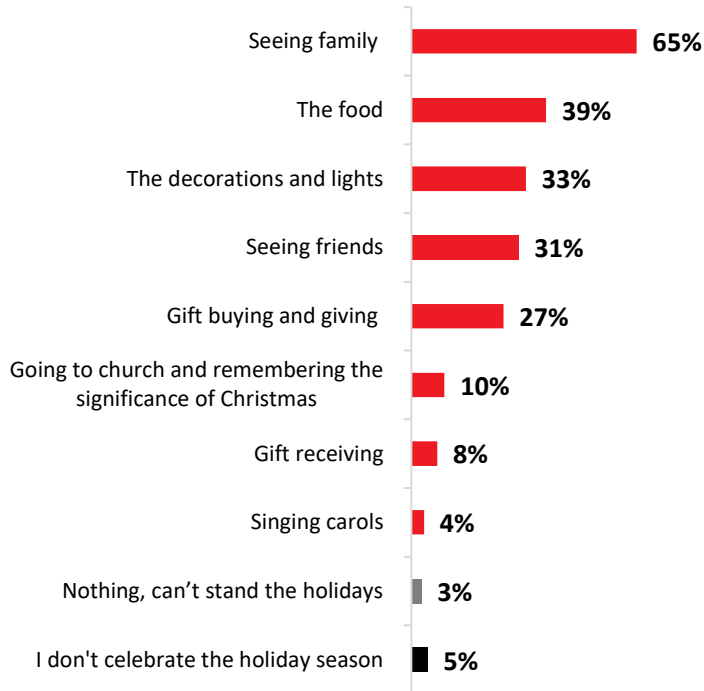**Q4.** Which of the following descriptions of how people feel about the holiday season best applies to you?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	Total USA	Gap
Weighted n=	1,530	1,005	
Unweighted n=	1,530	1,005	
The holidays are fine, but I am glad when they are over	37%	38%	1
I can't wait for the holidays, it's my favourite time of the year	36%	38%	2
I don't like the holiday season and all its commercialization, but I put up with it	11%	10%	1
I get stressed around the holiday season with all the gift buying and planning and can't wait for it to be over	9%	6%	3
I don't celebrate the holiday season	7%	8%	1

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Favorite and Least Favorite things about the Holidays

Q5. What is your **favourite** part of the holiday season?
Base: All respondents (n=1,530)

Seeing family	65%
The food	39%
The decorations and lights	33%
Seeing friends	31%
Gift buying and giving	27%
Going to church and remembering the significance of Christmas	10%
Gift receiving	8%
Singing carols	4%
Nothing, can't stand the holidays	3%
I don't celebrate the holiday season	5%

Q6. What is your **least favourite** part of the holiday season?
Base: All respondents (n=1,530)

Gift buying and giving	27%
Having to prepare the food	18%
Travelling over the holidays	17%
Having to put up decorations and lights	16%
Going to church and remembering the significance of Christmas	11%
Singing carols	10%
Gift receiving	9%
Seeing family	7%
Seeing friends	3%
Nothing, love every minute	23%
I don't celebrate the holiday season	6%

Favorite things about the Holidays

Q5. What is your **favourite** part of the holiday season?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
Weighted n=	1,530	103	354	594	99	171	210	406	493	631	745	785
Unweighted n=	1,530	100	405	613	125	132	155	340	528	662	787	743
Seeing family	65%	67%	70%	65%	66%	62%	63%	67%	62%	67%	64%	67%
The food	39%	48%	31%	40%	51%	47%	35%	42%	43%	35%	40%	38%
The decorations and lights	33%	35%	39%	29%	23%	37%	38%	30%	37%	33%	25%	41%
Seeing friends	31%	25%	29%	33%	28%	25%	38%	37%	27%	31%	35%	27%
Gift buying and giving	27%	28%	31%	24%	21%	29%	27%	33%	26%	24%	23%	30%
Going to church and remembering the significance of Christmas	10%	17%	6%	10%	18%	12%	6%	8%	9%	11%	11%	9%
Gift receiving	8%	5%	11%	7%	3%	8%	6%	16%	6%	3%	9%	6%
Singing carols	4%	7%	5%	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	5%	3%	4%
Nothing, can't stand the holidays	3%	4%	2%	3%	7%	0%	5%	1%	3%	4%	3%	3%
I don't celebrate the holiday season	5%	5%	6%	4%	3%	6%	3%	2%	5%	6%	5%	4%

Least Favorite things about the Holidays

Q6. What is your least favourite part of the holiday season?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
Weighted n=	1,530	103	354	594	99	171	210	406	493	631	745	785
Unweighted n=	1,530	100	405	613	125	132	155	340	528	662	787	743
Gift buying and giving	27%	32%	20%	30%	32%	26%	29%	26%	32%	24%	28%	27%
Having to prepare the food	18%	26%	20%	17%	15%	15%	15%	18%	17%	18%	14%	21%
Travelling over the holidays	17%	16%	14%	17%	18%	24%	20%	15%	17%	19%	17%	18%
Having to put up decorations and lights	16%	25%	13%	15%	20%	13%	17%	14%	13%	19%	17%	15%
Going to church and remembering the significance of Christmas	11%	10%	16%	8%	9%	13%	9%	12%	10%	10%	12%	9%
Singing carols	10%	20%	16%	8%	14%	7%	4%	14%	10%	9%	13%	8%
Gift receiving	9%	6%	7%	10%	4%	11%	8%	11%	11%	5%	10%	8%
Seeing family	7%	6%	7%	7%	3%	16%	4%	10%	10%	4%	10%	5%
Seeing friends	3%	6%	2%	4%	1%	5%	4%	6%	2%	2%	6%	1%
Nothing, love every minute	23%	17%	24%	22%	28%	20%	28%	24%	21%	24%	21%	25%
I don't celebrate the holiday season	6%	6%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%	4%	4%	9%	8%	5%

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Favorite things about the Holidays (Canada vs United States)

Q5. What is your **favourite** part of the holiday season?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	Total USA	Gap
Weighted n=	*1,530*	*1,005*	
Unweighted n=	*1,530*	*1,005*	
Seeing family	**65%**	**57%**	8
The food	39%	38%	1
The decorations and lights	33%	32%	1
Seeing friends	**31%**	**25%**	6
Gift buying and giving	**27%**	**35%**	8
Going to church and remembering the significance of Christmas	**10%**	**18%**	8
Gift receiving	**8%**	**19%**	11
Singing carols	4%	3%	1
Nothing, can't stand the holidays	3%	2%	1
I don't celebrate the holiday season	5%	7%	2

Least Favorite things about the Holidays (Canada vs United States)

Q6. What is your **least favourite** part of the holiday season?
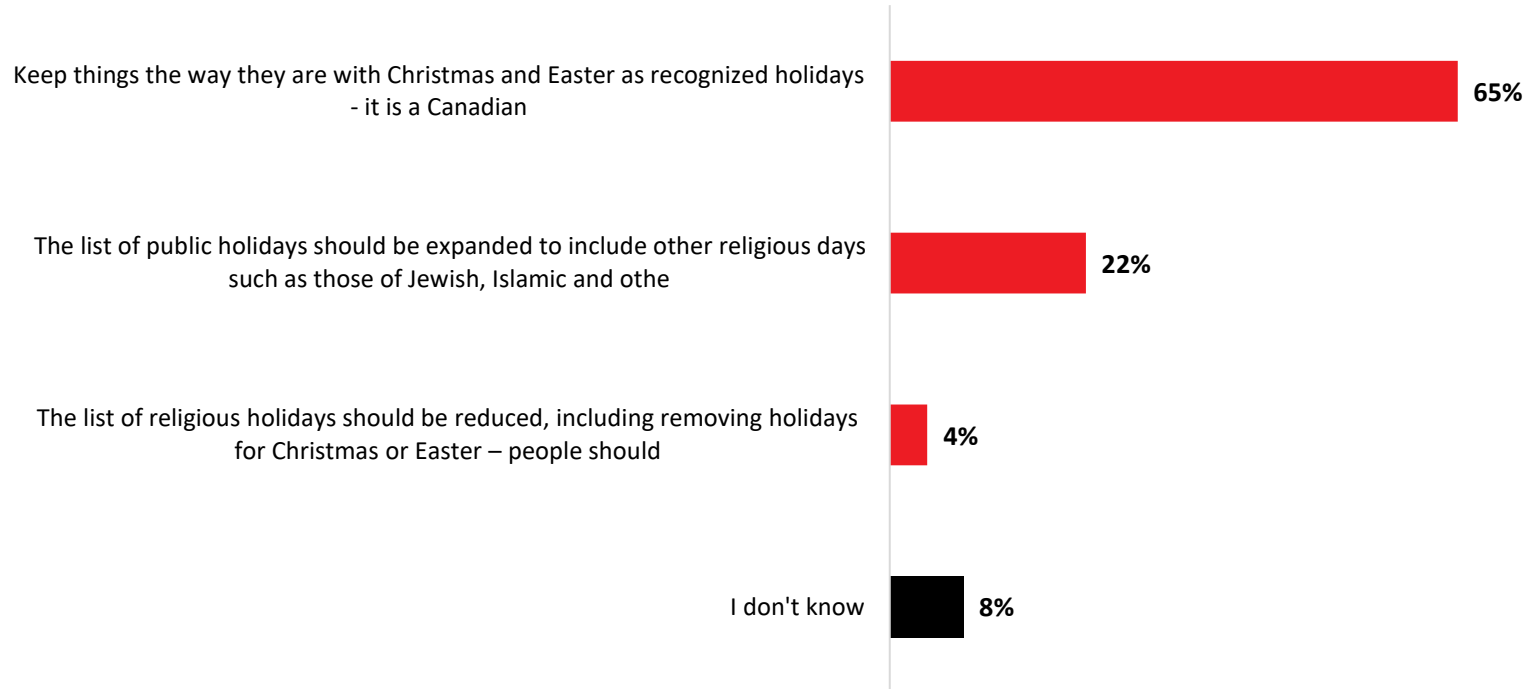Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	Total USA	Gap
Weighted n=	1,530	1,005	
Unweighted n=	1,530	1,005	
Gift buying and giving	27%	21%	6
Having to prepare the food	18%	17%	1
Travelling over the holidays	17%	20%	3
Having to put up decorations and lights	16%	14%	2
Going to church and remembering the significance of Christmas	11%	7%	4
Singing carols	10%	9%	1
Gift receiving	9%	8%	1
Seeing family	7%	9%	2
Seeing friends	3%	5%	2
Nothing, love every minute	23%	28%	5
I don't celebrate the holiday season	6%	8%	2

List of Religious Days (1/2)

Q7. As Canada's population becomes more multi-cultural, some organizations have suggested singling out certain important Christian religious days as 'holidays' can make some people of non-Christian faiths feel less welcome. Which of the statements below best describes how you feel we should observe significant religious days in future?
Base: All respondents (n=1,530)

Keep things the way they are with Christmas and Easter as recognized holidays - it is a Canadian	65%
The list of public holidays should be expanded to include other religious days such as those of Jewish, Islamic and othe	22%
The list of religious holidays should be reduced, including removing holidays for Christmas or Easter – people should	4%
I don't know	8%

List of Religious Days (2/2)

Q7. As Canada's population becomes more multi-cultural, some organizations have suggested singling out certain important Christian religious days as 'holidays' can make some people of non-Christian faiths feel less welcome. Which of the statements below best describes how you feel we should observe significant religious days in future?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
Weighted n=	*1,530*	*103*	*354*	*594*	*99*	*171*	*210*	*406*	*493*	*631*	*745*	*785*
Unweighted n=	*1,530*	*100*	*405*	*613*	*125*	*132*	*155*	*340*	*528*	*662*	*787*	*743*
Keep things the way they are with Christmas and Easter as recognized holidays - it is a Canadian tradition	**65%**	69%	**76%**	**57%**	65%	68%	65%	**49%**	63%	**76%**	64%	66%
The list of public holidays should be expanded to include other religious days such as those of Jewish, Islamic and other traditions	**22%**	17%	**15%**	**28%**	26%	20%	21%	**35%**	23%	**14%**	21%	23%
The list of religious holidays should be reduced, including removing holidays for Christmas or Easter – people should use their personal vacation days to observe religious days important to them	**4%**	**1%**	4%	4%	2%	7%	4%	6%	4%	4%	**7%**	**2%**
Don't know	**8%**	13%	**4%**	**11%**	7%	5%	10%	10%	10%	**6%**	8%	9%

List of Religious Days (Canada vs United States)

Q7. As Canada's/the U.S. population becomes more multi-cultural, some organizations have suggested singling out certain important Christian religious days as 'holidays' can make some people of non-Christian faiths feel less welcome. Which of the statements below best describes how you feel we should observe significant religious days in future?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	Total USA	Gap
Weighted n=	1,530	1,005	
Unweighted n=	1,530	1,005	
Keep things the way they are with Christmas and Easter as recognized holidays - it is a Canadian/American tradition	65%	57%	8
The list of public holidays should be expanded to include other religious days such as those of Jewish, Islamic and other traditions	22%	27%	5
The list of religious holidays should be reduced, including removing holidays for Christmas or Easter – people should use their personal vacation days to observe religious days important to them	4%	4%	-
Don't know	8%	12%	4

REPORT

Detailed Methodology

Weighted and Unweighted Sample (1/3)

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Province	**1,530**	**1,530**
British Columbia	155	210
Alberta	132	171
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	125	99
Ontario	613	594
Quebec	405	354
Atlantic	100	103

The table below presents the American geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
US Region	**1,005**	**1,005**
NorthEast	212	177
MidWest	235	211
South	299	385
West	259	232

Weighted and Unweighted Sample (2/3)

The following tables present the demographic distribution of respondents according to gender, age and language (mother tongue) for Canada.

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender	**1,530**	**1,530**
Male	787	745
Female	743	785
Age	**1,530**	**1,530**
18 to 34	340	406
35 to 54	528	493
55+	662	631
Language (Mother tongue)	**1,530**	**1,530**
English	975	1,034
French	344	302
Other	210	193

Weighted and Unweighted Sample (3/3)

The following tables present the demographic distribution of respondents according to gender and age for the United States.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender	**1,005**	**1,005**
Male	474	487
Female	531	517
Age	**1,005**	**1,005**
Between 18 and 29	66	127
Between 30 and 39	181	248
Between 40 and 49	166	151
Between 50 and 64	330	256
65 or older	262	224

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