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HOUSEHOLD DEBT

The subject of household debt continues to make the news. Statistics Canada recently reported that the average Canadian household's debt-to-income ratio has reached 147 per cent. The documents listed in this Current Issue provide a snapshot of the Canadian household debt situation.

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HOUSEHOLD DEBT

The subject of household debt continues to make the news. Statistics Canada recently reported that the average Canadian household's debt-to-income ratio has reached 147 per cent. How did we get here? Experts often blame people's dependence on credit cards and their lack of money management skills. Worse, a slowdown in the housing market could cement the problem as the declining value of real estate erases housing equity. The more Canadians are in debt, the less cash they have for discretionary spending. Indeed, there are fears that rising consumer debt could stall Canada's economic recovery. That said, recent reports also indicate that household credit growth is slowing down. It remains to be seen how all these factors will affect economic recovery in the coming months and years.

The documents listed in this Current Issue provide a snapshot of the Canadian household debt situation.

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