

Introduction

On May 14, 1996, Canada's population helped paint a new statistical portrait of the country and its inhabitants. Using Canadians' answers to census questions, Statistics Canada has put together a wide assortment of products and services and made them available to the many users of census data, including analysts, researchers and government decision makers.

The 1996 Census Catalogue

First Edition

In the fall of 1996, Statistics Canada published the 1996 Census Preview of Products and Services, which provided a general description of the range of forthcoming products and services. The 1996 Census Catalogue – First Edition presents the full line of products and services in detail.

Final Edition

The final edition of the 1996 Census Catalogue contains definitive information about 1996 Census products and services. Labels identifying NEW products or CANCELLED products are used in this edition to highlight the differences between the First Edition and the Final Edition.

How to Use the Catalogue

The catalogue has two main parts: 1996 Census of Population products and services and 1996 Census of Agriculture products and services.

The Census of Population products and services are divided into five categories: (1) reference products, (2) digital geography products, (3) standard data products, (4) analytical products and (5) custom services. Standard data products are further divided into six different series of products. An overview of the full range of 1996 Census of Population products and services is provided at the beginning of the Census of Population chapter.

There are three categories of Census of Agriculture products: (1) data products, (2) an analytical publication and (3) Census of Agriculture services. An overview is provided at the beginning of that chapter.

The catalogue covers each of the above categories of products and services in turn. There is an overview for each category, with general information about the various products, their prices and dissemination media.

Following the overview is a detailed list of the products or services by catalogue number, with a description of the product, publication date and media. The only exception is the section on standard data products. In this case, there is an overview for each of the six series in the category, and the list of products in five of the series is given in tabular form together with related information. The dissemination media of the standard data products are indicated in the legend below:

D: diskette
CD: CD-ROM
P: print

In contrast to previous censuses, each 1996 Census product or service is considered an individual product, even though it is part of a category or a series. Hence, each product or service has a unique catalogue number (product number).

The catalogue's appendices also provide further information on data quality, as well as complete information on geography products and services.

Major Data Releases

The initial release of the 1996 Census results took place in April 1997, seven months after the end of field operations. During those months, over 12.4 million questionnaires went through processing, data entry, automated coding and compilation before the resulting data could be analysed and made available to users. Each step had to be completed and certified before the data were released. This process ensures that census data meet the high standards users have come to expect.

The release of census variables was announced in Statistics Canada's official release vehicle, *The Daily*. On release day, highlights and an analysis of the key trends in the data were presented in *The Daily*. The same information was also made available to users on Statistics Canada's Web site (<http://www.statcan.ca>), along with a few excerpts from tables in *The Nation* series.

A wide assortment of data was also available through Statistics Canada's regional reference centres on release day. These data were released in two forms. The Nation series (see Section 3.2) provides a full range of statistics, with data for Canada, provinces and territories and, in some tabulations, census metropolitan areas. Then, there are the Area Profiles (see Section 3.3), one for each variable in the release. These profiles are available at the census division and subdivision levels. The Area Profiles with other geographic levels were available a month after release day. Other products came out over the following weeks and months. For the exact date on which a particular product was released, refer to the corresponding catalogue entry (see Table of Contents).

Major release dates

April 15, 1997	Population and dwelling counts
May 14, 1997	Agriculture (farm variables)
July 29, 1997	Age and sex
October 14, 1997	Marital status/common-law status Families: type and structure Structural type of dwelling and household size
November 4, 1997	Immigration and citizenship
December 2, 1997	Mother tongue Home language Knowledge of languages
December 15, 1997	Agriculture (farm operator variables)
January 13, 1998	Aboriginal data
February 17, 1998	Ethnic origin Visible Minorities
March 17, 1998	Labour force activity Occupation and industry Unpaid work Place of work Mode of transportation to work
April 14, 1998	Education Mobility and migration
May 12, 1998	Sources of income Earnings and total income Family income
June 9, 1998	Private households Social and economic characteristics of families Housing costs
April 26, 1999	Agriculture-population linkage database

1996 Census electronic products

To use census products issued in electronic form, users must have a computer system that meets the **minimum configuration** requirements stated below.

Census products on diskette

Census data on diskette are accompanied by display programs used at Statistics Canada: *Beyond 20/20™* for Windows™ and *C91* for DOS. To use these programs, customers need the following minimum configuration:

- *Beyond 20/20™*

IBM 386 or compatible
Microsoft© Windows™ 3.1
Microsoft© DOS 3.1
4 MB of RAM
1.44 MB, 3.5 in., DS HD floppy drive
mouse

- *C91*

IBM AT, XT or compatible
Microsoft© DOS 2.1
640 bytes of RAM
1.44 MB, 3.5 in., DS HD floppy drive

Standard census products on CD-ROM

Standard census products on CD-ROM are accompanied by a display program used at Statistics Canada: *Beyond 20/20™* for Windows™. To use these products, customers need the following minimum configuration:

IBM 486, 33 MHz, or compatible
8 MB of RAM
VGA monitor
2 X CD-ROM drive
mouse
Microsoft© Windows™ 3.x or Windows™ NT 4.0 or Windows™ 95 or 98

Other census products on CD-ROM

To use GeoSuite (formerly GeoRef), the postal code data CD-ROM and the Census of Agriculture CD-ROM, customers need the following minimum configuration:

IBM 486, 33 MHz, or compatible
12 MB of RAM
VGA monitor
CD-ROM drive
mouse
Microsoft© Windows™ 3.x or Windows™ NT or Windows™ 95 or 98

For more information

On the Statistics Canada's Web site, users may also consult IPS (under the Products and services button). They can also contact the Statistics Canada regional reference centre in their area (also found on our Web site).

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMF	-	Area Master File
BDFD	-	Block-face Data File
BST	-	basic summary tabulation
CA	-	census agglomeration
CD	-	census division
CD	-	compact disc
CMA	-	census metropolitan area
CSD	-	census subdivision
CT	-	census tract
D	-	diskette
DBF	-	Digital Boundary File
DCF	-	Digital Cartographic File
DCW	-	Digital Chart of the World
DLI	-	data liberation initiative
EA	-	enumeration area
FED	-	federal electoral district
FSA	-	forward sortation area
FTP	-	file transfer protocol
GIS	-	geographic information system
IPS	-	Information on Products and Services
ISBN	-	International Standard Book Number
MP	-	member of Parliament
n.e.c.	-	not elsewhere classified
NTDB	-	National Topographic Data Base
P	-	print
PC	-	personal computer
PCCF	-	Postal Code Conversion File
PCFRF	-	Postal Code by Federal Ridings File
PUMF	-	Public Use Microdata File
QC	-	quality control
SNF	-	Street Network File
SSNF	-	Skeletal Street Network File