

Appendices

Overview of Geography Products and Services

Appendix A provides an overview of all the geographic information available within the full line of 1996 Census products and services.

1997 Geography Catalogue – The 1997 Geography Catalogue provides information about the geographic products and services produced by Statistics Canada. It contains short descriptions of the products and services, including information on price, medium and catalogue numbers.

1996 Census Dictionary – This product provides definitions of all the concepts, variables and geographic elements of the 1996 Census. The information provided for each variable includes the associated question number(s), the response categories or classifications, and remarks about points of interest, such as the variable's history. The dictionary also contains a guide to census geography and applications, a general index and easy-to-read charts (for more details, see Section 1.1).

1996 Census Dictionary – Final Edition – Updates were made particularly to the appendices of the Census Dictionary and a few new definitions were added in this edition.

GeoSuite (formerly GeoRef) – GeoSuite is regarded as both a reference product and a standard data product. It is a powerful data retrieval and tabular output tool with software and data on a CD-ROM. Users can explore the links between standard geographic levels and determine geographic codes, names, and population and dwelling counts. GeoSuite also provides EA correspondence data (for 1996 Census EAs and 1991 Census EAs) and an EA reference map listing that facilitates identification of appropriate EA reference maps (for more details, see Section 1.2).

Reference Maps – These products show the geography of the census and help users find the boundaries of census areas so that they can relate census data to physical locations. Over 7,500 reference maps are produced, covering various geographic levels, including enumeration areas (the unit used for census collection), federal electoral districts (ridings according to the 1997 Representation Order), census tracts (neighbourhoods), census agglomerations and census metropolitan areas (large urban centres), census subdivisions (municipalities) and census divisions (counties and “municipalités régionales de comté”). Reference maps are sold individually or in sets (for more details, see Section 1.2).

Population and Dwelling Counts – A National Overview

This publication consists of 20 tables providing population and dwelling counts from the 1996 Census of Canada. The geographic areas covered are provinces and territories, federal electoral districts (1987 Representation Order), census divisions, census subdivisions, designated places, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations, primary census metropolitan areas and primary census agglomerations, and urban and rural areas. The geographic boundaries of these areas are those which were in force on January 1, 1996 (geographic reference date for the 1996 Census). The publication also includes population and dwelling counts for forward sortation areas (first three characters of the postal code) as reported by census respondents on Census Day (May 14, 1996). Forward sortation areas and designated places are included for the first time.

One of the tables in this product, Urban and Rural Population, for Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions (Municipalities), 1996 Census – 100% Data, will also be available on diskette (93F0032XDB96018).

Postal Code Counts – 1996 Census – This is a new product for 1996. It contains population and dwelling counts for all six-character postal codes reported by respondents. The population and dwelling counts are presented by individual postal code and forward sortation area (FSA – first three characters of the six-character postal code). The data come with Windows™-based software that enables users to perform simple data manipulations such as searching the data set for specific postal codes, importing groups of postal codes for which counts are required, and exporting groups of postal codes. Documentation and reference material are provided in electronic form on the CD-ROM (for more details, see Section 3.1).

Digital Geography Products - Attribute Information

Block-face Data File (BFDF) – This file contains 1996 population and dwelling counts for the block-faces of urban centres covered by the street network files. A block-face is generally one side of a city street between two consecutive intersections; it is also the smallest geographic unit available from Statistics Canada. The BFDF also links the block-face to all other levels of standard geography (enumeration areas and above) through geographic codes. The file contains street names with address ranges as well as coordinates for a point representing the approximate centre of each block-face. A reference guide is included.

Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF) – This file provides the relationship between Canada Post Corporation's six-character postal codes and the standard 1996 Census geographic areas (enumeration areas, municipalities, census tracts and so on). It also provides the x, y coordinates for a

point representing the approximate location of the postal code to support mapping. A reference guide is included.

Postal Code Population Weight File - The Postal Code Population Weight File has been created as a supplementary product to the Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF). It provides users with a population “weight” for postal codes with multiple links on the PCCF. The weight associated with each record on the Postal Code Population Weight File represents the proportion of the population reporting the postal code within a specific enumeration area.

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) (1996 Representation Order) – This ASCII file provides a link between six-character postal codes and federal electoral districts. A federal electoral district is any place or territory entitled to elect a Member of Parliament (MP) to sit in the House of Commons.

For more information on these products, see Section 2.1.

Digital Geography Products - Spatial Information

Digital boundary files (DBFs) and digital cartographic files (DCFs) – Digital boundary files show the official boundaries used for census collection. As a result, the boundaries often appear as straight lines extending into bodies of water. In digital cartographic files, the boundaries have been altered to follow the coastlines and shorelines of Canada’s land mass, including major islands.

Street network files (SNFs) – These are digital files representing the street networks for most large urban centres in Canada. They also contain other visible physical and cultural features (such as hydrography, railroads and pipelines) and attribute information (e.g., street names, hydrographic names and address ranges for streets with assigned addresses). Streets and addresses are updated to

reflect the information collected on Census Day, May 14, 1996. In combination with appropriate software owned by the user, street network files are useful in preparing routes, planning delivery services and mapping. A reference guide is included.

Street Network and Feature Extension Files (SNFEFs) - The street network and feature extension files (SNFEFs) are digital files that extend the coverage of the street network files (SNFs) to the defined limits of the census metropolitan area/census agglomeration (CMA/CA). The SNFEFs contain all the features of the SNFs plus a road and feature network from the National Topographic Data Base (NTDB) extending from the SNF coverage to the CMA/CA limit.

Skeletal street network files (SSNFs) – These are “thinned out” street network files consisting of cartographic reference features, such as major streets (with street names but no address ranges) and some railway features used to define census tract boundaries.

For more information on these products, see Section 2.2.

Geography Services

Geocoding Service – With this service, users can define their own geographic areas (user-defined areas or aggregations of standard census geography areas) for tabulations of census data (for more details, see Chapter 5).

Geography Custom Services – If standard geography products do not meet a user’s needs, Geography Custom Services can prepare non-standard geography products by special request (for more details, see Chapter 5).

Geography Custom Mapping – Thematic and other custom maps can be produced by special request (for more details, see Chapter 5).