
Introduction

The Dictionary provides definitions for all the concepts, terms, variables and geography elements of the 1996 Census.

The Dictionary is divided into five sections. Terms and variables are listed alphabetically within each section. The first four sections are referred to as “universes”. They are:

Population Universe. Provides information on the characteristics of Canada’s population.

Family Universe. Pertains to the characteristics of family units. Both census and economic families are included.

Household Universe. Covers the characteristics of a person or a group of persons who occupy a private dwelling.

Dwelling Universe. Describes the characteristics of dwelling units in Canada.

The fifth section provides information on the geographic terms associated with census geography.

The information is presented in the following format:

Variable/Term Definitions:	A comprehensive definition follows the name of each term or variable.
Census(es):	Indicates the censuses in which the term or variable was included and whether the data were collected from the entire population or from a sample and, if so, an indication of the sample size. Geography terms are measured for the entire census sample.
Reported for:	Gives information on the population or subpopulation for which the data are provided. This heading is not applicable to the geography terms.
Question No(s).:	Indicates the census question number(s) to which a variable is associated. This heading is not applicable to the geography terms.
Responses:	Shows the response categories or classifications of the variable. This heading is not applicable to the geography terms.
Remarks:	Provides any additional information (for example, on the comparability with previous censuses) which may help users to better understand the data.
Rules, Special Notes, Data Quality and Applications:	Under these headings – reserved for geography terms – users will find any additional detailed information required to effectively interpret and use the data.

List of New and Deleted Terms and Variables

The 1996 Census Dictionary includes new terms and variables. They are:

Population Universe:

Aboriginal: Aboriginal Self-reporting

Geography: Workplace Location

Household Activities: Hours Spent Doing Unpaid Housework

Household Activities: Hours Spent Looking After Children, Without Pay

Household Activities: Hours Spent Providing Unpaid Care or Assistance to Seniors

Journey to Work: Commuting Distance

Journey to Work: Mode of Transportation

Journey to Work: Place of Work Status

Journey to Work: Workplace Location

Labour Market Activities: Occupation (Based on 1991 Standard Occupational Classification)

Labour Market Activities: Presence of Children (Derived)

Marital Status (Historical)

* Mobility : Census Agglomeration of Current Residence

* Mobility : Census Division of Current Residence

* Mobility : Census Metropolitan Area of Current Residence

* Mobility : Census Subdivision of Current Residence

* Mobility : Province or Territory of Current Residence.

Mobility 1: Census Division of Residence 1 Year Ago

Mobility 1: Census Metropolitan Area or Census Agglomeration of Residence 1 Year Ago

Mobility 1: Census Subdivision of Residence 1 Year Ago

Mobility 1: Census Subdivision Type of Residence 1 Year Ago

* Mobility 1: Components of Migration (In- and Out-)

Mobility 1: Population Size of Census Subdivision of Residence 1 Year Ago

Mobility 1: Population Size of Current Census Subdivision of Residence

Mobility 1: Rural/Urban Classification of Place of Residence 1 Year Ago

* Mobility 5: Components of Migration (In- and Out-)

* Persons Living as a Couple

* Population Group

* These have been added for this edition of the Dictionary.

As well a set of 7 appendices have been updated since March 1997:

Appendix B: A Guide to Census Geography and Applications

Appendix C: Comparison of Ethnic Origins Collected in 1996, 1991 and 1986

Appendix G: Mother tongue and Home Language: Classification from 1996, 1991 and 1986

Appendix J: Comparison of Places of Birth Available in 1986, 1991 and 1986

Appendix K: 1996 Classification of Countries of Citizenship

Appendix L: Major Field of Study - Final Classification Structure

Appendix O: Data Quality, Sampling and Weighting, Confidentiality and Random Rounding

Geography:

- Adjusted Counts
- Census Agricultural Region (CAR)
- Consolidated Census Agglomeration
- Consolidated Census Metropolitan Area
- Coordinate System
- Designated Place (DPL)
- Digital Boundary Files (DBFs)
- Digital Cartographic Files (DCFs)
- Economic Region (ER)
- Geographic Code
- Representative Point
- Street Network Files (SNFs)
- Urban Core, Urban Fringe and Rural Fringe
- Usual Place of Residence

The following entries, which were in the 1991 Census Dictionary, have been excluded from the 1996 Census. They are:

Population Universe:

- Employment Equity (included in new variable Population Group)
- Fertility
- Income: Family Allowances
- Labour: Class of Worker (Direct)
- Labour: Industry (Based on 1970 Standard Industrial Classification)
- Labour: Occupation (Based on 1971 Occupational Classification Manual)
- Labour: Occupation (Based on 1980 Standard Occupational Classification)
- Religion
- Visible Minorities (now included in new variable Population Group)

Geography:

- Agricultural Region (name change only – replaced by Census Agricultural Region [CAR])
- Area Master File (AMF) (replaced by Street Network Files [SNFs])
- CARTLIB (Cartographic Library) (replaced by Digital Boundary Files [DBFs] and Digital Cartographic Files [DCFs])
- Census Subdivision Type (see Census Subdivision)
- Centroid (replaced by Representative Point)
- CMA/CA Component
- CMA/CA Parts (replaced by Urban Core, Urban Fringe and Rural Fringe)
- Geographic Area
- Geographical Names
- Place of Work (replaced by Journey to Work variables and Geography: Workplace Location variable)
- Provincial Census Tract
- Query Area
- Subprovincial Region (name change only – replaced by Economic Region [ER])
- Thematic Map
- Township, Range and Meridian

List of Abbreviations

AMF	–	Area Master File
APS	–	Aboriginal Peoples Survey
CA	–	census agglomeration
CAR	–	census agricultural region
CARTLIB	–	Cartographic Library
CCS	–	census consolidated subdivision
CD	–	census division
CMA	–	census metropolitan area
CPCGN	–	Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographic Names
CPP	–	Canada Pension Plan
CR	–	census representative
CSD	–	census subdivision
CT	–	census tract
DBF	–	digital boundary file
DCF	–	digital cartographic file
DPL	–	designated place
EA	–	enumeration area
ER	–	economic region
FED	–	federal electoral district
FSA	–	forward sortation area
GIS	–	geographic information system
GIS	–	guaranteed income supplement
HALS	–	Health and Activity Limitation Survey
INAC	–	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
LDU	–	local delivery unit
LFS	–	Labour Force Survey
LICO	–	low income cut-off
MFS	–	major field of study
MRC	–	municipalité régionale de comté
NAIS	–	National Atlas Information Service
n.i.e.	–	not included elsewhere
NOC	–	National Occupational Classification
OAS	–	old age security
PCA	–	primary census agglomeration
PCMA	–	primary census metropolitan area
PCT	–	provincial census tract
QPP	–	Quebec Pension Plan
RCMP	–	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RRIF	–	Registered Retirement Income Fund
RRSP	–	Registered Retirement Savings Plan
SGC	–	Standard Geographical Classification
SIC	–	Standard Industrial Classification
SOC	–	Standard Occupational Classification
SNF	–	street network file
SPR	–	subprovincial region

TAGS	–	The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy
UA	–	urban area
UP	–	unincorporated place
UTM	–	Universal Transverse Mercator

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