



Comparison *of* Social Conditions, 1991 *and* 1996



*Registered Indians,
Registered Indians living
On Reserve and the
Total Population of Canada*

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The differences in socio-economic conditions between Registered Indians, Registered Indians living on-reserve and the total Canadian population are apparent both within First Nation communities and throughout the larger population of Canada. However, as demonstrated by the data, there continues to be improvement towards narrowing the gap between these groups. Based mainly on data from the 1991 and 1996 Census, this pamphlet outlines improvements and provides a snapshot of the socio-economic conditions for these groups. Initiatives such as *Gathering Strength – Canada’s Aboriginal Action Plan*, enhance the potential for ongoing progress, as they are committed to renewing partnerships, strengthening Aboriginal governance, developing new fiscal relationships and supporting strong communities, people and economies.

Registered Indians realized steady gains in educational achievement between 1991 and 1996, both on- and off-reserve. The percentage of Registered Indians with some post-secondary education increased by 5.5 percentage points compared with an increase of 3.8 percentage points for the total Canadian population. (see page 3)

The demographic structure of the Registered Indian population is relatively youthful and growing more rapidly than the Canadian population as a whole. (see page 4)

Tuberculosis rates dropped considerably among the Registered Indian population living on reserve to 35.8 (per 100,000) in 1996, from 58.1 (per 100,000) in 1991. (see page 5)

Among Registered Indians living on reserve who were in the labour force, the unemployment rate stood at 28.7%, down from 31.0% in 1991. (see page 6)

For the Registered Indian population on reserve, the average individual income rose by 31.5% between 1990 and 1995, nearly double the rate observed for the Canadian population as a whole (17.2%). (see page 7)

Improvement in on-reserve living conditions continued to rise during the period between 1991 and 1996. Of note in 1996 was that 91.5% of dwellings had sewage disposal facilities and 96.1% of dwellings had water supply services. (see page 8)

POPULATION

A Registered Indian is a person registered or entitled to be registered as an Indian according to the *Indian Act*. In June 1985, amendments to the *Indian Act*, known as Bill C-31, restored Indian Status and membership rights to individuals and their children who had been enfranchised because of clauses contained in the *Act*. The majority of Registered Indians live on reserve, which refers to land in Canada set apart by the federal government for the common use and benefit of an Indian Band.

- As of December 31, 1996, the Registered Indian population totalled 610,874. This represents 2% of the Canadian population.
- Of the total Registered Indian population, 354,369 (58%) were living on reserve at the end of 1996.
- The average annual growth rate for Registered Indians declined from a 5.7% annual growth rate between 1986 and 1991, to a 3.6% annual growth rate between 1991 and 1996.
- In 1996, half of the Registered Indian population fell under the age of 24 while half of the total population of Canada fell under the age of 35. For Registered Indians living on reserve, the median age was even younger at 21.

	1991			1996		
	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada
Population ^{1a}	511,791	304,759	28,120,065	610,874	354,369	29,959,500
Average Annual Growth Over Five Years (%)	5.7	2.9	1.4	3.6	3.1	1.3
Median Age (Years)	23	—	33	24	21	35
Inter-provincial migration rate (%) — 5 years ago ^{1b}	4.7	1.6	7.6	4.6	1.9	6.8
Intra-provincial migration rate (%) — 5 years ago ^{1c}	17.8	10.3	15.9	16.7	10.5	13.5

NOTES:

1a Registered Indian and Registered Indian on reserve population counts are from the Indian Register and are recorded as of December 31st, for each particular year. Total Canadian population counts are from the Census and include the Registered Indian population.

1b Interprovincial migration refers to movement from one province to another involving a permanent change in residence five years ago.

1c Intraprovincial migration is within a province and refers to movement involving a permanent change in residence five years ago.

EDUCATION (15+ years)

- Registered Indians realized steady gains in educational achievement between 1991 and 1996, both on- and off-reserve. The percentage of Registered Indians with some post-secondary education increased by 5.5 percentage points compared with an increase of 3.8 percentage points for the total Canadian population.
- More Registered Indians are completing their education; for Registered Indians the percentage with university degrees increased from 2.0% in 1991 to 3.0% in 1996, a change of one percentage point and a 50% increase in rate.
- For Registered Indians living on reserve, a 2.4 percentage point increase was noted for those who completed trades or non-university training between 1991 and 1996.
- In 1996, of the Registered Indian population 15 years and over attending school, 80.5% were attending full-time – 10% more than the Total Canadian population.

Total Highest Level of Schooling ^{2a}	1991			1996		
	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada
	247,330	118,250	21,304,740	312,405	148,150	22,628,925
Less than Grade Nine (%)	27.9	37.2	13.9	21.9	29.6	12.1
Grade 9-13 (%)	40.9	36.7	39.0	41.6	39.4	37.0
With secondary school graduation certificate (%)	7.0	5.1	14.8	7.4	5.6	14.3
Trades and other non-university (%)	22.9	20.8	26.3	25.9	23.5	27.9
With trades certificate or diploma or other non-university certificate (%)	14.6	13.6	19.8	17.1	16.0	21.4
University (%)	8.3	5.2	20.8	10.7	7.5	23.0
With university degree (%)	2.0	1.1	11.4	3.0	1.8	13.3
Post-Secondary Education (%)	31.1	26.0	47.1	36.6	31.0	50.9
Complete – with degree/certificate/diploma (%)	16.8	13.8	31.1	20.1	17.8	34.7
% Attending School	22.1	18.2	17.7	22.5	18.9	17.5
% Attending Full Time	83.1	86.7	67.1	80.5	83.0	70.6
% Attending Part Time	16.9	13.2	32.9	19.5	17.0	29.4

NOTES:

2a Total Highest Level of Schooling refers to the highest grade or year of elementary or secondary school attended, or the highest year of university or other non-university completed of the population 15 years and over.

FAMILY

- According to the 1996 Census, the prevalence of Registered Indian female lone-parent families (23%) was about twice the rate reported for female lone-parent families in the Canadian population (12.1%).
- Compared to the Canadian population as a whole, male lone-parent families were nearly twice as common among Registered Indians living on reserve in 1996.
- The demographic structure of the Registered Indian population is relatively youthful and growing more rapidly than the Canadian population as a whole.
- In 1996, the average number of children for the Registered Indian population on reserve, was 2.1 per family, compared to 1.2 for the entire Canadian population.

	1991			1996		
	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada
Number of Census Families	103,865	40,545	7,355,730	137,500	53,665	7,837,865
Number of Male lone-parent families	3,815	2,270	165,245	4,950	2,870	192,275
Percentage of Male lone-parent families	3.7	5.6	2.2	3.6	5.3	2.5
Number of Female lone-parent families	22,275	6,990	788,395	31,625	10,295	945,230
Percentage of Female lone-parent families	21.4	17.2	10.7	23.0	19.2	12.1
Average number of children per family	1.8	2.2	1.2	1.8	2.1	1.2

HEALTH

The Registered Indian population recorded a slight decrease in the total fertility rate for 1996. At the same time, the infant mortality rate for Registered Indians remained double that of the total Canadian population.

- Life expectancy for Registered Indian men increased to 68.2 years (1996) from 66.9 years (1991). In comparison, the life expectancy rate for the Total Canadian male population rose from 74.6 years (1991) to 75.7 years (1996).
- Generally, life expectancy for women is higher than for men. Accordingly, between 1991 and 1996, life expectancy increased from 74.0 years to 75.9 years for Registered Indian women and from 80.9 years to 81.5 years for Canadian women in general.
- Tuberculosis rates dropped considerably among the Registered Indian population living on reserve to 35.8 (per 100,000) in 1996, from 58.1 (per 100,000) in 1991.

	1991			1996		
	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada
Life Expectancy — Males (Years)	66.9	—	74.6	68.2	—	75.7
Females (Years)	74.0	—	80.9	75.9	—	81.5
Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000) ^{4a}	28.4	—	14.3	25.0	—	12.2
Crude Mortality Rate (per 1,000) ^{4a}	4.3	—	7.0	5.1	—	7.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000) ^{4b}	11.9	—	6.4	11.6	—	6.1
Total Fertility Rate (TFR) ^{4c}	2.9	—	1.7	2.7	—	1.7
Age Standardized Tuberculosis Incidence Rates (per 100,000) ^{4d, e}	—	58.1	7.2	—	35.8	6.5

NOTES:

- 4a Crude Birth and Death rates have been adjusted for late and under-reported of births and deaths, but do not account for the age and sex structure of the population.
- 4b Infant Mortality rates have been adjusted for late and under-reported births and deaths.
- 4c Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has been adjusted for late reporting of births. TFR is the expected total number of children that a woman will have. The TFR assumes that women will survive at least until the end of the childbearing age groups, and that they will bear children according to the prevailing age-specific rates as they progress through their childbearing years.
- 4d The procedure of adjusting rates to eliminate the affect of age differences in the populations is known as age standardization. Age-standardized rates may differ from actual rates for a population, but make comparisons between two populations with different age structures more meaningful.
- 4e Calculation of Age standardized Tuberculosis rates for Registered Indians on reserve used numerator data from the Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada, and denominator data from DIAND. Age standardization was based on the 1991 Canadian population.

LABOUR FORCE (15+ years)

Like any population sub-group, the Registered Indian population is subject to national economic trends and fluctuations. In addition, the relative isolation of many First Nations communities constrains economic opportunities.

- In 1996, among Registered Indians living on reserve, nearly half (48.5%) of the population aged 15 or more indicated they were not in the labour force. Among those who were in the labour force, the unemployment rate stood at 28.7%, down from 31.0% in 1991.
- Among Registered Indian females living on reserve who participated in the labour force, 22.1% were unemployed in 1996, down from 26.1% in 1991.
- Registered Indian males living on reserve experienced an unemployment rate of 33.7% in 1996, only slightly lower than was reported in 1991 (34.3%).
- The employment-population ratio reflects the degree to which a labour pool is effectively utilized. In 1996, the rate for Registered Indians living on-reserve was 36.7%. By comparison, the employment-population ratio reported for the general Canadian population aged 15 or more that year was 58.9%.

	1991			1996		
	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada
Total Labour Force Activity ^{5a}	247,330	118,250	21,304,740	312,405	148,150	22,628,925
Total Labour Force ^{5b}	129,320	55,385	14,474,945	169,390	76,305	14,812,700
Employed	93,560	38,190	13,005,505	123,345	54,365	13,318,740
Unemployed	35,755	17,190	1,469,440	46,045	21,935	1,493,960
Not in the Labour Force	118,010	62,800	6,829,795	143,015	71,855	7,816,220
Participation Rate (%)	52.3	46.8	67.9	54.2	51.5	65.5
Males	60.7	54.9	76.4	61.5	57.7	72.7
Females	45.0	38.2	59.9	47.9	45.0	58.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	27.6	31.0	10.2	27.2	28.7	10.1
Males	30.8	34.3	10.1	30.7	33.7	10.2
Females	24.1	26.1	10.2	23.3	22.1	10.0
Employment/ Population Ratio (%)	37.8	32.3	61.0	39.5	36.7	58.9

NOTES:

5a Total Labour Force Activity refers to the labour market activity of the total population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, in the week prior to Census day.

5b Total Labour Force refers to persons 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who are employed or unemployed during the week prior to Census day.

INCOME (15+ years)

Income data collected from 1991 and 1996 Census results refers to money received during the previous calendar year (1990 and 1995 respectively).

- Between 1990 and 1995, the average individual income among Registered Indians rose from \$11,941 to \$14,883 (all values are in constant 1992 dollars).
- For the Registered Indian population on reserve, the average individual income rose by 31.5% between 1990 and 1995, nearly double the rate observed for the Canadian population as a whole (17.2%).
- In 1995, 44.9% of Registered Indians on reserve indicated that their major source of income was from government transfer payments, up from 40.1% in 1990. Among all Canadians, it increased over the same period from 15.7% to 23.6%.
- An improvement toward narrowing the earnings gap was realized between 1990 and 1995. Within the Registered Indian population, women's employment earnings as a percentage of men's rose from 82.4% in 1990 to 89.4% in 1995. The rate of improvement in the general Canadian population was more pronounced, rising from 67.4% in 1990 to 85.4% by 1995.

	1990			1995		
	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada
Median Household Income (Constant \$1992) ^{6a, b}	\$21,586	\$18,820	\$36,633	\$25,602	\$24,246	\$41,898
Average Individual Income (Constant \$1992) ^{6a}	\$11,941	\$9,824	\$22,393	\$14,883	\$12,918	\$26,254
% of Families at or below the Low Income Cut-offs (LICO's)	39.5	40.4	13.1	40.9	40.3	16.5
Women's Employment Earnings as a % of Men's	82.4	—	67.4	89.4	74.8	85.4
Persons who indicated Government Transfer Payments were their Major Source of Income (%)	34.9	40.1	15.7	41.8	44.9	23.6

NOTES:

6a Constant Dollars refers to the procedure of adjusting dollars for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

6b The Median refers to the middle number in a series of data.

HOUSING

Improvement in on-reserve living conditions continued to rise during the period between 1991 and 1996. Of note in 1996 was that 91.5% of dwellings had sewage disposal facilities and 96.1% of dwellings had water supply services.

- Between 1991 and 1996, the percentage of dwellings having more than one person per room of the Registered Indian population on reserve dropped from 20.9% to 18.6%.
- According to the 1996 Census, a higher percentage of on-reserve housing (84.8%) was built in the last 25 years compared to the total Canadian population (50.4%).

	1991			1996		
	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada	Registered Indians	Registered Indians On Reserve	Total Population of Canada
DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS (CENSUS)						
Dwellings built over a 30 year period 1961-1990 (%) ^{7a}	75.1	91.3	64.6	—	—	—
Dwellings built over a 25 year period 1971-1996 (%) ^{7a, b}	—	—	—	61.1	84.8	50.4
% of dwellings having more than 1 person per room ^{7c}	11.4	20.9	1.3	9.9	18.6	1.7
Average number of persons per room	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4
CANADA HOUSING STATISTICS (CMHC)						
Number of new housing starts ^{7d, e}	—	3,281	156,197	—	2,487	124,713
New housing starts (per 1,000) ^{7f}	—	11.5	5.6	—	7.5	4.2
CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (DIAND)						
% of dwellings with water supply services ^{7d, g}	—	90.6	100	—	96.1	100
% of dwellings with sewage disposal facilities ^{7d, g}	—	79.9	100	—	91.5	100

NOTES:

7a Dwelling information shown here represents the closest possible groupings for comparison, 30 and 25 years due to changes in the organization of the data from 1991 to 1996.

7b This 25 year period includes only the first five months of 1996.

7c Percentages shown here are calculated based on the Total Number of Occupied Private Dwellings as reported in the 1991 and 1996 Census.

7d The figure stated here is for the On Reserve Aboriginal Population. The years represented are 1991-1992 and 1996-1997.

7e The previous edition of this pamphlet reported 130,094 new housing in 1991 for the total Canadian population. This count was the number of starts for those centres of 10,000 population or more and not per 1,000 population as is referenced in this updated edition.

7f Housing starts per 1,000 population are calculated using the base population figures from the Population section of this pamphlet.

7g Canadian comparable figures are so close to 100% that, in 1981, Statistics Canada discontinued collecting information on water and sewer services. It is therefore implied that the Canadian % is 100.

General Data Notes and Sources

1. Please note that the Total Population of Canada shown here includes the Registered Indian Population.
2. Census figures may not add up to 100 due to random rounding.
3. In instances where a '-' appears in the table, data are either not available or not applicable.

Sources:

1991, 1996 Census of Canada, DIAND, Core and Custom Tabulations.

Population Projections of Registered Indians, 1996-2021, DIAND, 1998.

Basic Departmental Data 1998, DIAND.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

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