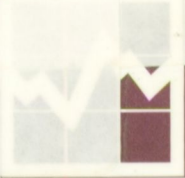


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# Census Recensement



1996 CENSUS CONSULTATION GUIDE

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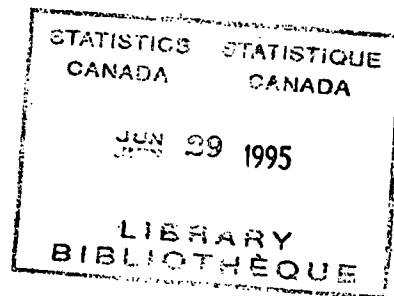
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## 1996 CENSUS CONSULTATION GUIDE



\* Version française disponible sur demande \*

October 1992

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## PREFACE

Thank you for expressing an interest in the content of the 1996 Census of Canada. The following *Guide* has been developed to help you contribute your ideas or suggestions to Statistics Canada regarding the 1996 Census questionnaire.

How can you make your views known? If after reviewing this *Guide*, you wish to make a comment or proposal on the content of the 1996 Census, please submit a letter or written brief to:

**Pamela White**  
**Manager**  
**1996 CENSUS CONTENT DETERMINATION PROJECT**  
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**Tunney's Pasture**  
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Readers of the Statistics Canada newsletter, Focus on the Future, will receive periodic updates on the progress of the consultations. If you would like to receive this information, please send your name, mailing address and choice of language to the same address, requesting your free subscription to Focus.

The 1996 Census Content Determination Project would like to thank the Interdepartmental Working Group on Employment Equity Data for their financial support in the printing of this *Guide*.



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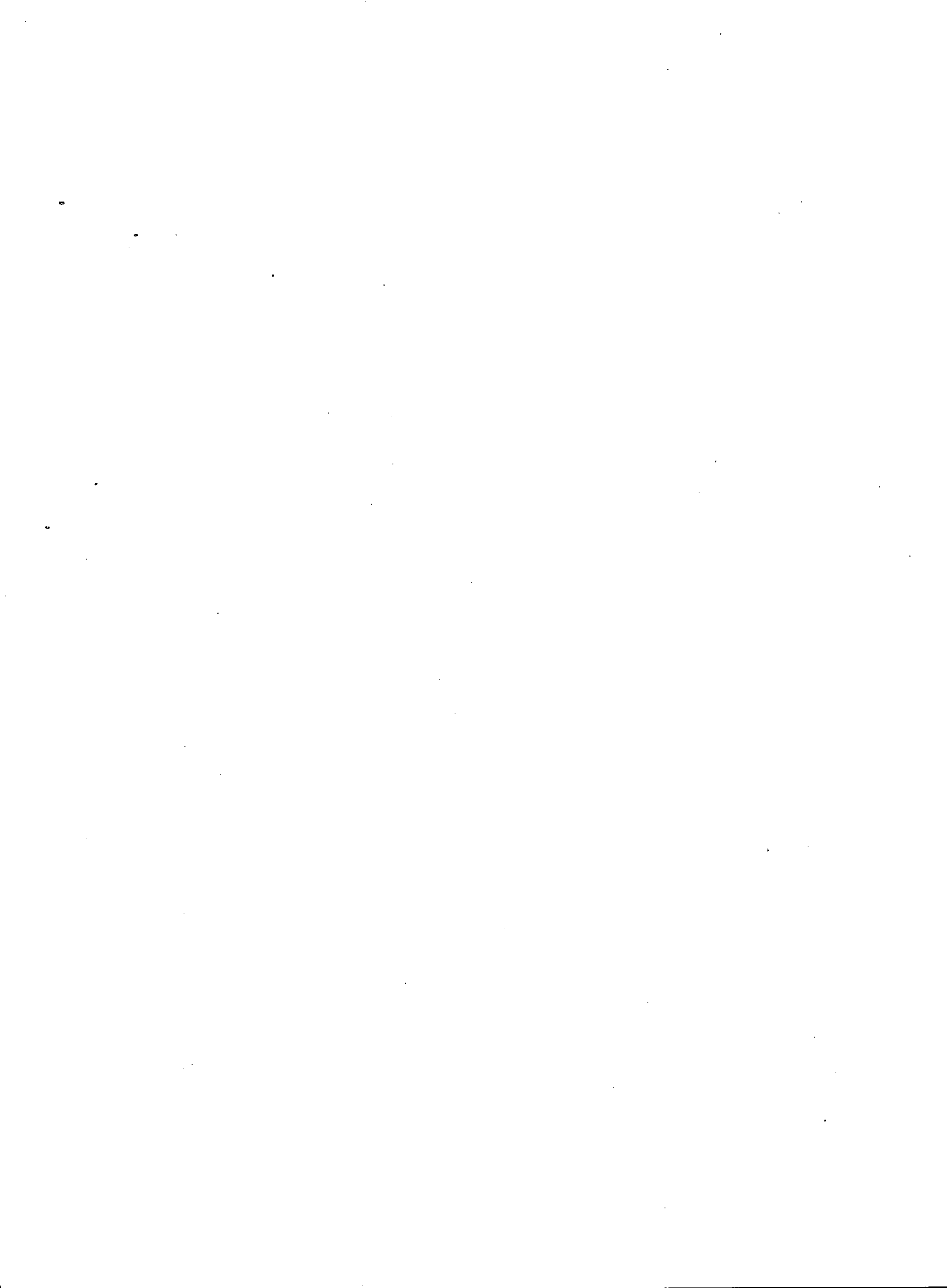
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## INTRODUCTION

Census planning begins well before Census Day. For Canada's census to be useful, it must reflect the information needs of Canadians. In order to do this, prior to each census, Statistics Canada solicits the opinions and comments of data users and interested parties across Canada for their views on the type and extent of information that should be available through the census database.

**The 1996 Census will be the last national enumeration of the population taken before the turn of the century -- and as such it is essential that this census reflect the data needs of Canadians until 2001.** In order to do this, Statistics Canada has compiled the necessary source material in this *Guide* to help you contribute your views to the development of census content.

For each of the broad subject matter areas covered by the census, the *Guide* reviews the questions -- what we ask and the reasons why. As well, the *Guide* looks at variables that have previously been asked but are no longer included in the census, and why they were dropped. In order to stimulate thought and provoke discussion, Statistics Canada has summarized some of the areas of discussion surrounding the collection of certain types of data that have arisen during the collection of the 1986 and 1991 Censuses. These issues -- which appear in the introduction to each section -- should serve to put the implications of collecting information into the perspective of time, cost and public acceptability.

- 1. Why Have a Census?:** In Canada, there is a legal requirement under the Statistics Act to conduct a census of population. The census is required not only to determine the establishment of federal electoral districts, but because a variety of significant federal legislation -- including specific requirements under the current Constitutional proposal -- have direct and indirect impact on the census. The provisions of such diverse acts as: Official Languages Act, War Veterans Act, Old Age Security Act, Canada Pension Plan Act, Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements, Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act as well as many others are dependent on obtaining census results at five-year intervals.
- 2. Limited Content Change for 1996:** Statistics Canada undertook considerable public consultation and question testing prior to the 1991 Census. The results of this work included a revamping of the questionnaire in order to make it easier to complete, as well as a review of the content to make it more relevant. It is expected that the 1996 Census will build on the advances made in 1991, making limited changes.
- 3. The Census-takers' Dilemma -- Historical Continuity and Relevant Content:** There is a need for historical continuity in the measurement of social and economic phenomena and the need to be relevant. In order to track trends over time, we need to maintain historical continuity; at the same time, to be able to provide current data on newly emerging issues, we must revise and adjust thematic and spatial content.

4. **Statistics Canada Needs Your Views:** The 1996 Census will be the last census of this century. We need your views on the following:
- a. Is there a need to modify existing census content?
  - b. Is there a need to introduce new census content?
  - c. Which questions can be dropped for 1996?
  - d. How can the 1996 Census be forward-looking to Census 2001?

Over the history of the census, many valid suggestions have been made for the inclusion of certain questions. However, making a convincing argument for inclusion is not an automatic guarantee that the question will appear on any questionnaire. A question cannot be automatically added without several considerations.

5. **Response Resistance:** The value of census data depends on the collection of detail on individuals that most people would hesitate to share with anyone outside their immediate family. The success of the collection effort depends on the goodwill of respondents to contribute this type of information. As a census questionnaire grows longer and more complex, or as questions appear to be intrusive, personal or offensive, people will hesitate or refuse to participate in the census, resulting in more costly follow-up procedures. As a result, for every new question that is added an existing question must be dropped.
6. **Technical and Cost Limitations:** Many factors contribute to escalating collection costs and Statistics Canada is conscious of the need to restrain expenditures. Questionnaire space is limited, which restricts the number and length of questions that can ultimately be asked. Beyond a given length of paper, printing costs accumulate at an accelerated rate, not to mention the extra cost of shipping, handling and postage. There are also cost implications to introducing a change in the processing of questions. Certain variables require special treatment or manual coding that can add significantly to the cost.

*For example*, the 1991 Census asked a question on place of work. The results of this question are important for planning public transit, road and home construction and municipal forecasting. However, in order to compile the results, a data entry clerk must convert the hand-written address on each questionnaire into a geographical code. In order to reduce costs in 1996, automated coding procedures are being developed by Statistics Canada. But, to add another manually-coded question to the census would require careful consideration of the costs vs. benefits.

7. **Census versus Surveys:** One of the important reasons for collecting information on all Canadians is the production of data for small areas, such as municipalities, villages, Indian reserves or on small populations such as seniors aged 90 years and over or for those who speak Salish or Kurdish. But not all questions are appropriate for a census, because of the additional respondent burden or because geographic areas need not be so precise. For example, post-censal surveys permit the collection of information on specific populations, such as the disabled or aboriginals. It would not be appropriate to ask all Canadians to respond to these surveys.



8. **Approval by Cabinet:** The Federal Cabinet must approve all questions as appropriate for a census under the Statistics Act. Before a question can be approved, Statistics Canada must have shown:

- a need for data was identified;
- a question was developed and tested.

Statistics Canada reviews these steps in a submission prepared for Cabinet. Cabinet evaluates each question addition with respect to its urgency, the relative importance of each addition, the costs, the benefits and the beneficiaries -- that is, how and why the information will be used. Once approved, the questions are recorded and published in the Canada Gazette.



## PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

In order to make the 1996 Census relevant to you, Statistics Canada wants to know what you think about the content of the 1991 Census. This *Guide* will provide you with the information you need to make your views known on the content of the 1996 Census. The authors of this *Guide* have simplified explanations and included all the information needed to encourage as many people as possible to participate in the consultation process.

If you are interested in the history of the census, in census products and services or in more detailed information about census questions and content, we recommend that you consult the appropriate 1991 Census Reference Product:

*The 1991 Census Handbook*: containing a complete historical and operational overview of the census;

*The 1991 Census Dictionary*: containing official definitions for all census terms, and explanations for levels of census geography;

*The Catalogue of 1991 Census Products and Services*: a summary of current products and services available through the census database. For information on the full range of Statistics Canada's products and services, you will be interested in obtaining the *Statistics Canada Catalogue, 1992*.

Should a question arise as the result of any explanation contained in this *Guide*, the contents of these census reference products will be considered the definitive source for information.

These publications can be found in most university, college and public libraries or, if you choose, an order form for census reference products can be found at the end of this *Guide*. As well, you can purchase any of them from your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. The addresses and phone numbers are listed at the end of this *Guide*.



## BEFORE BEGINNING

Some concepts and issues that are of concern to census content development specialists at Statistics Canada may not be familiar to many users of census information. This section will outline issues that will affect the development of the questionnaire.

1. **Confidentiality: The confidentiality of individual responses is given the highest priority at Statistics Canada.** The Statistics Act guarantees that information identifying individuals will not be released to anyone outside of Statistics Canada without their written consent. No confidential information from Statistics Canada can be released for any legal proceedings, not even for cases before the Supreme Court, a Royal Commission, a Parliamentary Committee or a task force. Not even the Canadian Security Intelligence Service can have access to the confidential information collected by Statistics Canada. By law, Statistics Canada may use the answers on census questionnaires only for statistical purposes and then only after they have been merged with similar information from other respondents. With the exception of basic population counts, data showing population demographics are rounded so that individuals can't be even remotely identified by characteristics such as an extraordinarily large household size.

The single greatest number of objections raised by respondents during the collection of the 1991 Census was related to the perception that the individual's right to privacy was violated by the type of questions asked and the manner in which census data were collected. Respondents are increasingly mistrustful of how governments handle personal information. To this end, Statistics Canada is investigating ways in which data can be collected in a less intrusive manner without compromising the statistical integrity of the information.

Despite the legal requirement for all residents of Canada to participate in the Census, the true value of census data depends on the ability to collect detailed information. Moreover, census-takers recognize that the success of their collection effort depends on the goodwill of respondents. High rates of voluntary public participation will only continue to be possible if the census remains responsive to the legitimate concerns of its respondents. And since ultimately, changes of this nature will have some effect on the data collected, data users too, must be flexible in their demands for new or more detailed information.

2. **Short (2A) and Long (2B) Census Forms:** In 1991, 80% of Canadian households received the short (2A) questionnaire. This questionnaire contains the basic demographic questions, one pertaining to mother tongue and two dwelling questions. A further 20% of Canadian households received the long (2B) questionnaire. The 2B form contains the short form content as well as additional language, labour force, housing, income, education and ethno-cultural questions. By asking these questions of only some Canadians, response burden is reduced as is cost.

Should more Canadians or fewer Canadians receive the long form or is 20% the best sample size? Should some of the 2B questions be asked on the short form? Would the added response burden be justified?

3. **Collecting Data Directly versus Deriving Data:** Usually it is obvious what type of information will result from a question asked on the census. A question on gender will provide a breakdown of the population by number of males and females; such a question produces data directly. Often, to keep the number of questions to a minimum and simplify the process of completing a questionnaire, subsidiary information is derived from a question. The simplest example is a question on *date of birth*; it allows a calculation of the age of the respondent without any confusion arising over when a birthday falls during census year. Information on common-law unions used to be derived from the responses to the questions concerning *marital status* and *relationship to Person 1*. Now, as the result of changing social mores and a need for more explicit information on this type of family formation, a separate question was asked in 1991 concerning common-law relationships. In this *Guide*, the authors have differentiated between information that is collected directly through questions or derived from two or more variables. The direct variables are indicated on the charts by an asterisk.
4. **Products and Services:** Part of the purpose of this exercise in consulting users of 1996 census data is to determine how the results can best be produced to meet their needs. In making your recommendations for content inclusions to the 1996 Census, we invite you to consider the geographic and variable detail you require, and the formats that would best suit your information needs. Formats available include, for example, print and electronic data tables, analytical articles and publications, community profiles, CD-ROMs, diskettes, summary data tapes, and street network files.
5. **1996 Post-censal Survey Topics:** Some information is required at a level that is too detailed to be collected through the census; in these cases, the census is used as a screening process to select a sample for a longer, more specialized survey. Since 1986, two post-censal surveys have been conducted on Canadians living with disabilities and one on Aboriginal peoples. There have also been proposals for similar post-censal surveys on Canada's seniors. Restricting the content of census and developing specific topic areas to post-censal surveys will continue to be an option in 1996 and beyond. If you wish to make a comment or proposal specifically on the content of post-censal survey topics, please submit a letter or written brief to:

Adele Furrie, Director  
Post-Censal Surveys Program  
9th Floor Jean Talon Building  
Statistics Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0T6

Telephone (613) 951-4531    FAX (613) 951-2906

6. **Adding New Questions Means Dropping Existing Ones:** Canada's census now asks 54 questions. To add a new question means that we must drop an existing question. This is the tough choice we must make. We welcome your suggestions regarding such decisions.
7. **New Content Must be Tested:** Before questions can be added or modified, they must be tested.

8. **Building on 1991 Census Consultation and Testing:** Prior to Canada's 1991 Census, Statistics Canada undertook extensive user consultation and question content testing. As a result, changes in content and questionnaire design were introduced. These modifications made the questions easier to read and understand and greatly improved the relevancy of the census data. Yet not all of the users' data needs or question changes could be implemented for 1991. The following table provides an overview of the recommended changes. These suggestions were tested but could not be implemented or were only partially implemented for the 1991 Census.





**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 1991 CENSUS CONSULTATIONS  
THAT WERE TESTED BUT NOT ACCEPTED  
OR ONLY PARTIALLY ACCEPTED**

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION	TEST(S)	OUTCOME FOR 1991
<p><b>Aboriginal Status</b></p>	<p>Delete separate question (1986 Q.7)</p> <p>Ask under ethnic origin</p> <p>Include band, tribe or nation</p>	<p>MT-2<sup>1</sup> NCT-1<sup>1</sup> NCT-2<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>Separate question included in 1991 Census</p> <p>Changed from 2A to 2B (sample) question</p> <p>Question on Registered Indian status and on specific Indian band or First Nation</p>
<p><b>Length of Occupancy</b></p>	<p>Retain question for 1991</p>	<p>NCT-1</p>	<p>Not included</p> <p>Information available through modified mobility question</p>
<p><b>Birth place of parents</b></p>	<p>Include and/or replace ethnic origin question</p>	<p>MT-2 NCT-1 NCT-2</p>	<p>Not included</p> <p>Limited support from policy departments and other users</p>
<p><b>Ethnic Origin</b></p> <p>a) Ancestry/self-identification</p>	<p>Separate into 2 questions: ancestry and identity</p>	<p>MT-2 NCT-1 NCT-2</p>	<p>Not shown as separate questions</p> <p>Limited demand for identity on the part of users</p>
<p>b) Black origin</p>	<p>Reassess inclusion of "black" mark-in entry</p>	<p>MT-2 NCT-1</p>	<p>Mark-in entry included for "black" in ethnic origin question since no separate race question was included</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 1991 CENSUS CONSULTATIONS THAT WERE TESTED BUT NOT ACCEPTED OR ONLY PARTIALLY ACCEPTED			
TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION	TEST(S)	OUTCOME FOR 1991
c) Canadian origin	"Canadian" should be included as pre-printed response category	MT-2 NCT-1 NCT-2	Not included  Affected quality of data and historical consistency  Explanatory note added to question
d) Race/Colour	Add new question to identify visible minorities	MT-2 NCT-1 NCT-2	Not included  Sensitive and potentially controversial
Mother tongue	Split into 2 parts (first learned and still understood)	MT-2 NCT-1 NCT-2	Not split into 2 parts  Conceptual problems with multiple responses  Since official definition of mother tongue in Canadian legislation is based on language definition, changing it would be problematic  Included on 2A questionnaire (stands alone)  On long form (2B) placed after other language questions since testing showed that this would yield higher quality data
Nuptiality	Retain Address marital history	MT-1' NCT-1	Not included  Limited user support compared with other demographic questions

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 1991 CENSUS CONSULTATIONS  
THAT WERE TESTED BUT NOT ACCEPTED  
OR ONLY PARTIALLY ACCEPTED**

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION	TEST(S)	OUTCOME FOR 1991
Fertility	Drop age and marital status restrictions	MT-1 NCT-1	Age restriction kept for consistency with other variables  Marital status restriction dropped  Asking information about the "Fertility" of the population under age 15 was viewed as offensive by some respondents  Information available from Canadian Centre for Health Information
Date started current job	Support	MT-1 NCT-1	Not included  Lower priority
Length of work experience	Support	MT-1 NCT-1	Not included  Data quality problems  Limited support
Income from Social Assistance and Provincial Income Supplements	Support	MT-1	Not included as separate sources
Income Tax Payable	Limited support	MT-1	Not included  Questionable data quality
Capital Gains/Losses	Limited support	MT-1	Not included  Questionable data quality

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 1991 CENSUS CONSULTATIONS THAT WERE TESTED BUT NOT ACCEPTED OR ONLY PARTIALLY ACCEPTED			
TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION	TEST(S)	OUTCOME FOR 1991
Wage rates	Include	MT-1 NCT-1	Not included  Limited support
Unpaid work a) Volunteer Work b) Unpaid housework c) Unpaid childcare d) Unpaid work in farm or business	Strong support	MT-1	Not included  Questionable data quality  Not appropriate for Census due to complexity and respondent burden  More than one question required  Information available on volunteer work from the National Survey of Volunteer Activity (Household Surveys Division)  General Social Survey (Cycle 2 - 1986, Cycle 7 - 1992) identify time-use by type of activities

<sup>1</sup> MT-1 refers to Modular Test - 1 (1987).  
 MT-2 refers to Modular Test - 2 (1988).  
 NCT-1 refers to National Census Test - 1 (1988).  
 NCT-2 refers to National Census Test - 2 (1989).





**A. GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Block-face	x	x	x	x	x
Census Agglomeration (CA)	x	x	x	x	x
Census Consolidated Subdivision (CCS)	x	x	x	x	x
Census Division (CD)	x	x	x	x	x
Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	x	x	x	x	x
Census Metropolitan Area/Census Agglomeration Component	x	x	x	x	x
Census Metropolitan Area/Census Agglomeration Parts	x	x	x	x	x
Census Subdivision (CSD)	x	x	x	x	x
Census Subdivision Type	x	x	x	x	x
Census Tract	x	x	x	x	x
Ecumene					
Urban	x	x			
National	x	x	x	x	
Enumeration Area (EA)	x	x	x	x	x
Federal Electoral District (FED)	x	x	x	x	x
Geographic Reference Date	x	x	x	x	x
Land Area (Gross)	x				
Land Area (Net)	x	x	x	x	x

A. GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS (Concluded)

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Postal Code	x	x			
Primary Census Metropolitan Area/Primary Census Agglomeration	x	x			
Province/Territory	x	x	x	x	x
Provincial Census Tract (PCT)	x	x	x	x	x
Representative Point (Centroid)					
Block-face	x	x	x	x	x
Enumeration Area (EA)	x	x	x	x	x
Rural Area	x	x	x	x	x
Subprovincial Region (SPR)	x	x	x	x	x
Township, Range and Meridian	x	x	x	x	x
Unincorporated Place (UP)	x	x	x	x	x
Urban Area (UA)	x	x	x	x	x



Figure 1. Hierarchy of Standard Geographic Areas

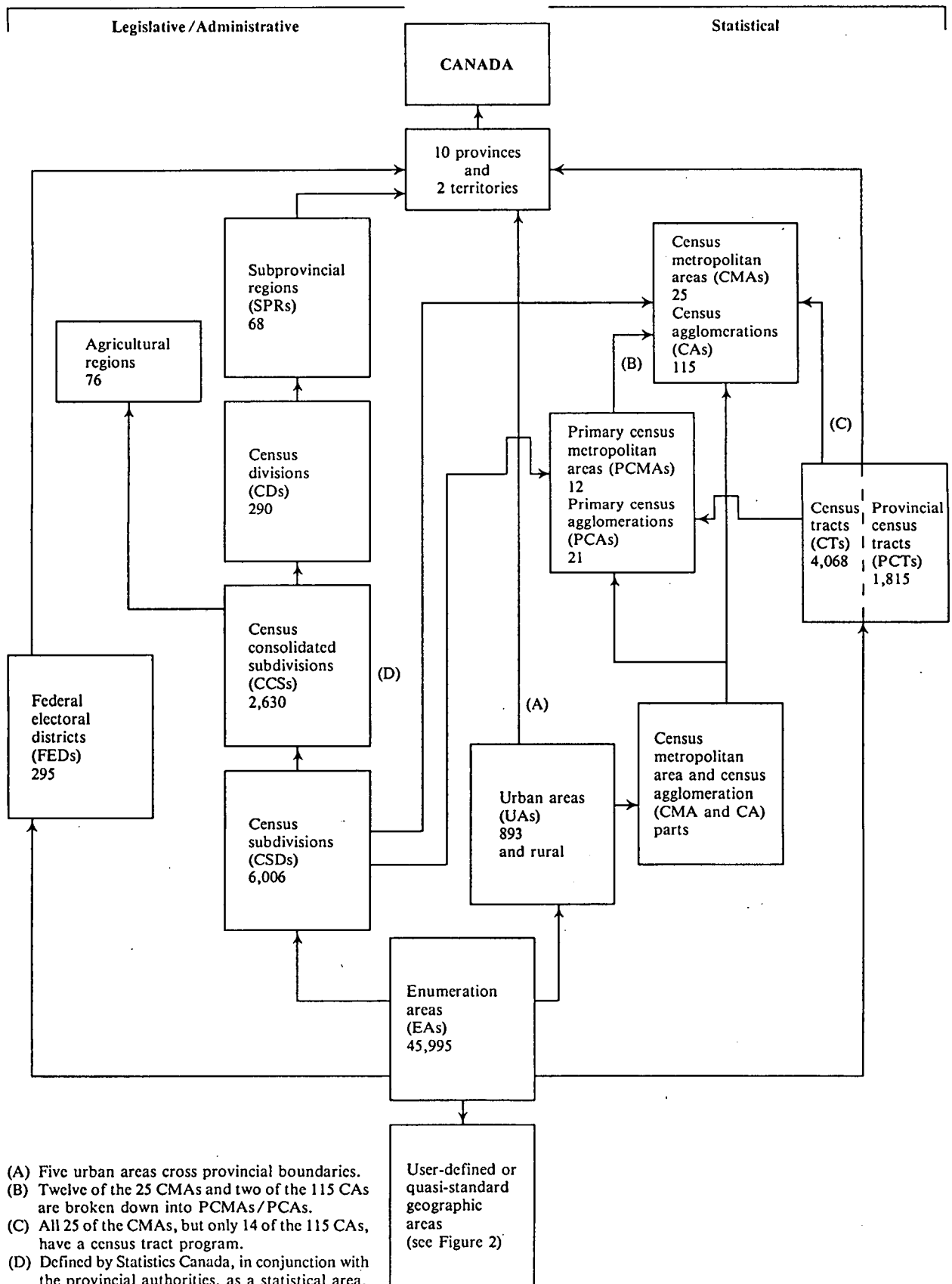
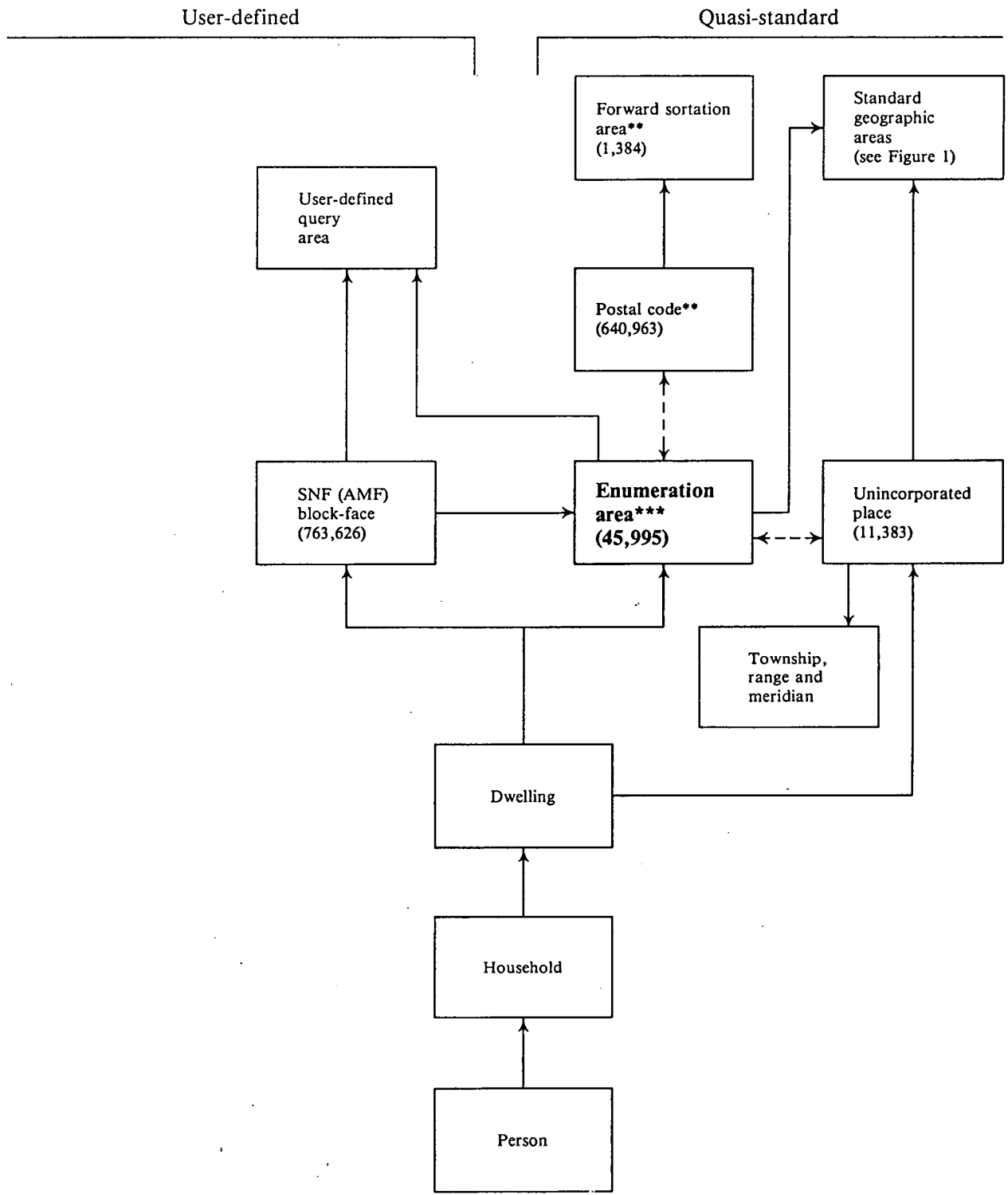


Figure 2. Hierarchy of Quasi-standard and User-defined Geographic Areas,\* 1991 Census



\* All counts are final.  
 \*\* See the definition of postal code for further details.  
 \*\*\* Enumeration areas are a standard geographic area (see Figure 1).  
 <-> These are "many to many" relationships.

## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

The accessibility of information available through the census depends to a large extent upon the geographic units in which it is collected and disseminated. Users need specific types of data for widely differing geographic units. Census data can be disseminated for standard and non-standard areas.

There are two types of standard geographical areas. The legislative/administrative areas include, for example, federal electoral districts and census subdivisions. Statistical areas include, for instance, census tracts and census metropolitan areas.

The census geographic area structure is also flexible as geocoding and the street network files allow for the definition of non-standard geographic areas. Data for postal code areas are often requested.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *Suitability of existing standard geographic areas:* Does the existing set of areas adequately meet users needs or are there gaps in the structure? Are there defined geographic areas that are of little use? What additional areas could be added to the current model? Do changing conditions (e.g., free trade, conurbation) require new geographic areas for the presentation and analysis of census data?
- b. *Improvements to existing standard geographic areas:* Should existing standard geographic areas be improved? What are these areas and which criteria/attributes should be changed?
- c. *Geographic areas which change over time:* Statistics Canada uses various methods for documenting change, flagging boundary changes between census periods and adjusting previous census population counts to respond to new boundaries. Are these sufficient or should alternative approaches be considered (e.g., concordance tables/files)?
- d. *Harmony with international definitions:* Statistics Canada, like other countries, uses United Nations recommendations as a guide when developing geographic concepts. Should Canada's census geographic areas be harmonized, for example, with those used by the United States Bureau of the census or those of other countries? For instance, should Canada's definition of a census metropolitan area be equal to the U.S. standard metropolitan statistical area?
- e. *Postal codes:* In 1991 and 1986, postal code information was made available for the 20% data base (long form). For 1996, should Statistics Canada data capture all postal codes (short and long form)?

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **BLOCK-FACE**

The general concept of a block-face is one of a small recognizable geographical unit to which census data can be associated. The block-face refers to one side of a city street, normally between consecutive intersections with streets or other physical features (such as creeks or railways).

### **CENSUS AGGLOMERATION (CA)**

The general concept of a census agglomeration (CA) is one of a large **urban area**, together with adjacent **urban** and **rural areas** which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that urban area. A CA is delineated around an urban area (called the urbanized core and having a population of at least **10,000** based on the previous census). Once a CA attains an urbanized core population of at least 100,000, based on the previous census, it becomes a **census metropolitan area (CMA)**.

### **CENSUS CONSOLIDATED SUBDIVISION (CCS)**

The concept of a census consolidated subdivision is a grouping of small **census subdivisions** within a containing census subdivision, created for the convenience and ease of geographic referencing.

### **CENSUS DIVISION (CD)**

Refers to the general term applying to geographic areas established by provincial law, which are intermediate geographic areas between the **census subdivision** and the **province** (e.g., divisions, counties, regional districts, regional municipalities and seven other types of geographic areas made up of groups of census subdivisions). In Newfoundland, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, provincial law does not provide for these administrative geographic areas. Therefore, census divisions have been created by Statistics Canada in co-operation with these provinces.

### **CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA (CMA)**

The general concept of a census metropolitan area (CMA) is one of a very large **urban area**, together with adjacent **urban** and **rural areas** which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that urban area. A CMA is delineated around an urban area (called the urbanized core and having a population of at least **100,000**, based on the previous census). Once an area becomes a CMA, it is retained in the program even if its population subsequently declines.

### **CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA/CENSUS AGGLOMERATION COMPONENT**

Refers to the census subdivisions (CSDs) which form the building-blocks of a **census metropolitan area (CMA)**, **census agglomeration (CA)**, **primary census metropolitan area (PCMA)** or **primary census agglomeration (PCA)**.

### **CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA/CENSUS AGGLOMERATION PARTS**

The concept of CMA/CA parts distinguishes between central and peripheral urban and rural areas within a **census metropolitan area (CMA)** or a **census agglomeration (CA)**. There are three CMA/CA parts: urbanized core, urban fringe and rural fringe.

### **CENSUS SUBDIVISION (CSD)**

Refers to the general term applying to municipalities (as determined by provincial legislation) or their equivalent, e.g., Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories. In Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and British Columbia, the term also describes geographic areas that have been created by Statistics Canada in co-operation with the provinces as equivalents for municipalities.

### **CENSUS SUBDIVISION TYPE**

The type indicates the municipal status of a **census subdivision**. Census subdivisions (CSDs) are classified into various types, according to official designations adopted by provincial or federal authorities.

### **CENSUS TRACT (CT)**

The general concept of a census tract (CT) is that of a permanent, small urban neighbourhood-like or rural community-like area established in large urban-centred regions with the help of local specialists interested in urban and social science research.

### **ECUMENE**

The term ecumene is derived from the Greek and is used by geographers to mean "inhabited land". The ecumene concept is used in thematic mapping to ensure that the spatial representation of census data is limited to inhabited areas. Two levels of ecumenes have been delineated: a national ecumene and an urban ecumene.

### **ENUMERATION AREA (EA)**

An enumeration area (EA) is the geographic area canvassed by one census representative.

### **FEDERAL ELECTORAL DISTRICT (FED)**

A federal electoral district refers to any place or territorial area entitled to return a member to serve in the House of Commons (source: Canada Elections Act, 1990). There are 295 FEDs in Canada according to the 1987 Representation Order.

### **GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE DATE**

The geographic reference date is a date determined by Statistics Canada for the purpose of establishing the geographic framework for which census data will be collected, tabulated and reported. For the 1991 Census, the geographic reference date is January 1st, 1991.

### **LAND AREA (Gross)**

Refers to area measurement in square kilometres, including bodies of water. All land area measurements apply to the limits in effect on January 1, 1991, the geographic reference date for the 1991 Census of Canada.

### **LAND AREA (Net)**

Refers to land area measurement in square kilometres and excludes discernible bodies of water as found on the maps used to calculate land area. All land area measurements apply to the limits in effect on January 1, 1991, the geographic reference date for the 1991 Census of Canada.

## **POSTAL CODE**

The postal code is a six-character alpha-numeric code defined and maintained by Canada Post Corporation for the processing (sortation and delivery) of mail. The postal code represents a spatial referencing system which allows large volumes of geographic data to be manipulated, retrieved and analyzed at the micro-level.

## **PRIMARY CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA/PRIMARY CENSUS AGGLOMERATION**

The primary census metropolitan area (PCMA) or primary census agglomeration (PCA) concept recognizes the fact that adjacent **census metropolitan areas (CMAs)** and **census agglomerations (CAs)** are socially and economically integrated within a larger consolidated CMA or CA. Adjacent CMAs and CAs are consolidated into a single CMA or CA if the total commuting interchange between the two is equal to at least 35% of the employed labour force living in the smaller CMA or CA, based on the previous census. The original CMAs or CAs are known as PCMA or PCA subregions of the CMA or CA.

## **PROVINCE/TERRITORY**

Province and territory refer to the major political divisions of Canada, the Yukon and Northwest Territories being equivalent to **provinces**, i.e. a basic unit for which data are tabulated and cross-classified.

## **PROVINCIAL CENSUS TRACT (PCT)**

The general concept of a provincial census tract (PCT) is that of a permanent, small urban neighbourhood-like or rural community-like area outside those **census metropolitan areas (CMAs)** and **census agglomerations (CAs)** having a **census tract (CT)** program. Taken together, CTs and PCTs cover all of Canada. Provincial census tracts are delineated to encompass populations between 3,000 and 8,000, with a preferred average of 5,000. Boundaries, as much as possible, follow permanent physical features.

## **REPRESENTATIVE POINT (CENTROID)**

A representative point (formerly called a centroid) is a pair of coordinate values (x,y) that represents a geographic entity for the purpose of assigning aggregate data to that point.

For the 1991 Census, representative points were generated for enumeration areas (EA) and block-faces. Enumeration area representative points are located either near clusters of buildings and/or streets, or at the visual centre of the EA. Block-face representative points are located at the mid-point of the block-face, set back a perpendicular distance of 22 metres from the street centre line.

## **RURAL AREA**

The general concept of a rural area is that of a sparsely populated area. Statistics Canada defines rural areas as those areas of Canada lying outside **urban areas**.

## **SUBPROVINCIAL REGION (SPR)**

Refers to a geographical unit smaller than a **province** (with the exception of Prince Edward Island and the Territories) made up of groupings of complete **census divisions**.

### **TOWNSHIP, RANGE AND MERIDIAN**

Township, range and meridian identifies location according to a regular and systematic partitioning of the Prairie provinces into easily discernible rectangular parcels.

### **UNINCORPORATED PLACE (UP)**

The concept of unincorporated place (UP) is that of a cluster of **dwellings** (i.e. a settlement) lacking legal limits or local government.

### **URBAN AREA (UA)**

The general concept of an urban area (UA) is that of an area containing a dense concentration of population. Statistics Canada defines an urban area as an area which has attained a population concentration of at least 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 per square kilometre, at the previous census.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

- (1) Nadwodny, Richard and Puderer, Henry (1990) - "Metropolitan Area Delineation: A Canadian - U.S. Comparison" - **The Operational Geographer**, Vol. 8, No. 3, pp. 43-45.
- (2) Mitchell, Rick (1988) - "A New Geographic Concept from Statistics Canada - Metropolitan Subregions" - **The Operational Geographer**, Vol. 6, No. 3, pp. 36-38.
- (3) Singh, Françoise R. (1982) - **The Municipal Structure in Canada. Problems it Creates for Users of Statistics (Geography Series), Working Paper, No. 1 - GEO 82 - Geography Division, Statistics Canada.**
- (4) **Guide to Statistics Canada's Programs and Products 1991 (1992) 12-575 E.**







**B. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Age	x	x	x	x	x
Date of Birth*	x	x	x	x	x
Sex*	x	x	x	x	x
Marital Status*	x	x	x	x	x
Common-law Status*	x	x (1)	x (1)		
Fertility*	x		x		x

VARIABLE NOT AVAILABLE IN 1991 BUT AVAILABLE IN PREVIOUS YEARS	Census Years			
	1986	1981	1976	1971
Nuptiality (Date of first marriage)		x		x

- (1) No direct question on common-law status was asked prior to 1991. However, common-law relationship can be derived from the final family status and responses to the question on relationship to Person 1.

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

The study of the characteristics of the country's population -- its size, growth, density, distribution and vital statistics -- is essential to our understanding of Canadian society. The demographic variables in combination with other census information permit, for example, the investigation of the continuing impact of the "Big Generation" and enable social policy experts to consider the implications of an aging work force.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *Continuing impact of the big generation:* As they have since their arrival, the baby boom generation casts a long shadow over all population issues by virtue of their sheer numbers. Now that this population group is aging, they will increasingly have an impact on how we view such issues as mandatory retirement, adequacy of pensions and the delivery of health care services. Do existing census demographic questions track these trends adequately?
- b. *Implications of a declining and aging work force:* The generation that follows in the wake of the boomers presents other implications because of their smaller numbers. Will there be sufficient numbers of trained workers to support Canadian industrial needs and the pension demands of the retired within the next two decades? How will schools and universities react to lower enrolments, retailers to fewer consumers and charities to fewer supporters and volunteers? Do existing questions and census information fill this data need?
- c. *Measuring fertility and birth rates:* Fertility has not traditionally been included in quinquennial censuses but it is an important issue affecting specific populations within the country. For francophones, declining birthrates are a matter of considerable concern. Changing fertility rates among single women and common-law couples alters our view of the traditional family -- when a significant number of children are being raised in family situations outside the traditional nuclear family, it demands a response as to how we develop social and financial policies. Women frequently consider questions concerning fertility to be intrusive -- especially in regard to providing information on out-of-wedlock pregnancies or children who died in infancy. Should the fertility question be asked in 1996, or should the practice of asking this question every ten years be maintained?
- d. *Collecting data on both age and date of birth:* Are both necessary, since many older Canadians and new immigrants may not know the exact date of birth of all household members?
- e. *Analysis of common-law unions:* A separate question concerning common-law unions was first introduced in 1991. Should this question be repeated in 1996? Would it be useful to obtain additional information on these unions, such as duration?

1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

<p><b>3. DATE OF BIRTH</b>                  Print day, month and year.  <i>Example:</i>                  If this person was born on the 10th of February 1945, enter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">                 Day    Month    Year  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> </p> <p>If exact date is not known, enter best estimate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">                 Day    Month    Year                  17 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">                 Day    Month    Year                  17 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> </p>
<p><b>4. SEX</b></p>	<p>18 <input type="radio"/> Male                  19 <input type="radio"/> Female</p>	<p>18 <input type="radio"/> Male                  19 <input type="radio"/> Female</p>
<p><b>5. LEGAL MARITAL STATUS</b>                  Mark one circle only.</p>	<p>20 <input type="radio"/> Legally married (and not separated)                  21 <input type="radio"/> Legally married and separated                  22 <input type="radio"/> Divorced                  23 <input type="radio"/> Widowed                  24 <input type="radio"/> Never married (single)</p>	<p>20 <input type="radio"/> Legally married (and not separated)                  21 <input type="radio"/> Legally married and separated                  22 <input type="radio"/> Divorced                  23 <input type="radio"/> Widowed                  24 <input type="radio"/> Never married (single)</p>
<p>6. Is this person currently living with a common-law partner?</p>	<p>25 <input type="radio"/> Yes                  26 <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>25 <input type="radio"/> Yes                  26 <input type="radio"/> No</p>

<p><b>23. For WOMEN only:</b>                  How many children were ever born to this person?                  Count all children including those who may have died since birth or who may now be living elsewhere. Do not include stillbirths.</p>	<p>08 <input type="radio"/> None                  OR                  09 <input type="text"/> ← Number of children</p>	<p>08 <input type="radio"/> None                  OR                  09 <input type="text"/> ← Number of children</p>
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## DEFINITIONS

### **AGE**

Age refers to the age at last birthday (as of the census reference date, June 4, 1991). It is a 2A variable and was reported for the total population.

### **DATE OF BIRTH**

Date of birth refers to the day, month and year of birth, collected for the purpose of determining the person's age as of the census reference date. Persons who were unable to give the exact date of birth were asked to give the best possible estimate. It is a 2A variable and was reported for the total population.

#### Reason Asked:

Information on age is needed to help us plan for such community needs as day care facilities, schools and senior citizens' housing.

### **SEX**

Sex refers to the gender of the respondent. It is a 2A variable and was reported for the total population.

#### Reason Asked:

Information classified by sex is needed to understand the changing roles of men and women in our families, communities and in the workforce.

### **MARITAL STATUS**

Marital status refers to the legal conjugal status of a person. It is a 2A variable and was reported for the total population. Anyone under the age of 15 is automatically considered to be "Never married (single)". In 1991 persons in common-law unions are not included in the "Now married" category as they were in previous census years. Historical comparisons with earlier censuses can be made using a derived variable resident on the census database.

#### Reason Asked:

Information on legal marital status, when combined with other census questions, is used to study changes in family formation and to measure, among other things, the growth and structure of two-income families, lone-parent families and the elderly who live independently.

## **COMMON-LAW STATUS**

### **New variable in 1991**

Common-law status refers to two people who live together as husband and wife but who are not legally married to each other. It is a 2A variable and was reported for the total population.

#### Reason Asked:

We ask this question to better understand the growth and structure of this important change in living arrangements.

## **FERTILITY**

Fertility refers to the number of children ever born alive to women aged 15 years and over. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the female population 15 years of age and over. Prior to the 1991 Census the question was asked only of women who were married or had ever been married. This factor should be considered when doing a historical comparison.

#### Reason Asked:

Information on the number of children born to women is used to estimate the long-term growth of the population. Such information is also needed for understanding the differences in childbearing patterns between various social and economic groups.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

- (1) Annual Estimates and Projections of Population, Households and Families by Demographic Characteristics - Demography Division.
- (2) Family History Survey - Occasional (last survey 1984) - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
- (3) Vital Statistics Administrative Survey - Canadian Centre for Health Information.
- (4) General Social Survey (Cycle 5 - 1990) - Changes in Canadian Family Structures - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
- (5) Labour Force Survey - Monthly - Household Surveys Division.



C. FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Census Family	x	x	x	x	x
Census Family Composition	x	x	x	x	x
Census Family Household Composition	x	x	x		
Census Family Living Arrangements	x	x	x		
Census Family Status	x	x	x	x	x
Census Family Structure	x	x	x	x	x
Census Family Type	x	x	x	x	x
Economic Family	x	x	x	x	x
Economic Family Status	x	x	x	x	x
Economic Family Structure	x	x	x		
Economic Family Type	x	x	x	x	x
Relationship to Household Reference Person*	x	x	x	x	x

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

The question on "Relationship to Person 1" identifies the basic social and economic living arrangements of the population as defined by the terms "census family" or "economic family." The question shows how household members are related to one another by marriage, kinship or other non-family contractual arrangements. While both the census and economic family concepts contain many combinations of family groupings, not all types of consensual unions are included in the census. It is important to consider that recognition of a family structure by the census does give a legal basis to that particular family unit.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *Distinguishing types of parent-child relationships:* The census does not yet differentiate between adopted children, step-children, foster children, children of one partner from a previous marriage or children living in two households under the terms of a joint custody arrangement. Is there a need to compile information on children who do not reside with both parents in order to track social trends over time?
- b. *Information on marriage breakdown and remarriage:* Prior to 1991, a question was tested on reason for marriage breakdown, but it was not included because of limited use support. Is there still a need to understand the reasons for dissolving marital relationships? Is there a need to measure the rate of divorce in subsequent marriages? Is the census the best way to collect such information, or is a family history survey a more useful approach?
- c. *Non-traditional living arrangements:* Currently if two persons of the same sex self-identify as living in a gay/lesbian relationship, the information is retained but not published. However, there has been considerable demand to legitimize the status of same-sex unions by including them as a response option in Relationship to Person 1, and subsequently publish results for these types of relationships. There is some public resistance to identifying same-sex unions on the census and among gay/lesbian couples who have not openly acknowledged their orientation this option is seen as potentially threatening. Are data required on same-sex unions? Should Statistics Canada be collecting this type of information? If so, what responsibilities do we have regarding data dissemination?
- d. *Blended families:* An increasing number of stepchildren are involved in families in which one or both parents have remarried; is adequate information collected on this important group?
- e. *Date of marriage or first cohabitation:* Age of first marriage may not be relevant to an increasing proportion of families; it is more important to determine the age when couples began living together. Should this question be asked?
- f. *Adult children living at home:* Family composition has been changing and it is now not uncommon for families to include adult children. Economic situations of young adults may be influencing this trend to remain at home longer. Is there adequate information on this living arrangement?

1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

<p><b>2. RELATIONSHIP TO PERSON 1</b></p> <p>For each person living here, describe his/her relationship to Person 1.</p> <p>Mark one circle only.</p> <p>If you mark the circle "Other", use the box provided to indicate this person's relationship to Person 1.</p> <p>Examples of "Other" persons related to Person 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cousin</li> <li>• grandfather/grandmother</li> <li>• son's common-law partner</li> <li>• nephew/niece</li> </ul> <p>Examples of "Other" persons not related to Person 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lodger's husband/wife or common-law partner</li> <li>• lodger's son/daughter</li> <li>• room-mate's son/daughter</li> <li>• employee</li> </ul>	<p><b>01.</b></p> <p>01 <input checked="" type="radio"/> PERSON 1</p> <p>14 <input type="checkbox"/> IR</p> <p>15 <input type="checkbox"/> ER    16 <input type="checkbox"/> A</p>	<p><b>02.</b></p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> Husband/wife of Person 1</p> <p>03 <input type="radio"/> Common-law partner of Person 1</p> <p>04 <input type="radio"/> Son/daughter of Person 1</p> <p>05 <input type="radio"/> Son-in-law/daughter-in-law of Person 1</p> <p>06 <input type="radio"/> Grandchild of Person 1</p> <p>07 <input type="radio"/> Father/mother of Person 1</p> <p>08 <input type="radio"/> Father-in-law/mother-in-law of Person 1</p> <p>09 <input type="radio"/> Brother/sister of Person 1</p> <p>10 <input type="radio"/> Brother-in-law/sister-in-law of Person 1</p> <p>11 <input type="radio"/> Lodger/boarder</p> <p>12 <input type="radio"/> Room-mate</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other — Specify</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>13 <input type="checkbox"/>    16 <input type="checkbox"/> A</p>																		
<p><b>3. DATE OF BIRTH</b></p> <p>Print day, month and year.</p> <p>Example: If this person was born on the 10th of February 1945, enter</p> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;">Day</td> <td style="width: 20px;">Month</td> <td style="width: 20px;">Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table> <p>If exact date is not known, enter best estimate.</p>	Day	Month	Year	1	2	3	<table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;">Day</td> <td style="width: 20px;">Month</td> <td style="width: 20px;">Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>	Day	Month	Year	1	2	3	<table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;">Day</td> <td style="width: 20px;">Month</td> <td style="width: 20px;">Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>	Day	Month	Year	1	2	3
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Day	Month	Year																		
1	2	3																		
<p><b>4. SEX</b></p>	<p>18 <input type="radio"/> Male</p> <p>19 <input type="radio"/> Female</p>	<p>18 <input type="radio"/> Male</p> <p>19 <input type="radio"/> Female</p>																		
<p><b>5. LEGAL MARITAL STATUS</b></p> <p>Mark one circle only.</p>	<p>20 <input type="radio"/> Legally married (and not separated)</p> <p>21 <input type="radio"/> Legally married and separated</p> <p>22 <input type="radio"/> Divorced</p> <p>23 <input type="radio"/> Widowed</p> <p>24 <input type="radio"/> Never married (single)</p>	<p>20 <input type="radio"/> Legally married (and not separated)</p> <p>21 <input type="radio"/> Legally married and separated</p> <p>22 <input type="radio"/> Divorced</p> <p>23 <input type="radio"/> Widowed</p> <p>24 <input type="radio"/> Never married (single)</p>																		
<p>6. Is this person currently living with a common-law partner?</p>	<p>25 <input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p>26 <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>25 <input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p>26 <input type="radio"/> No</p>																		

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **CENSUS FAMILY**

A census family refers to a now-married couple (with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (again with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both partners), or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one never-married son or daughter living in the same dwelling. This was reported for the population in private households and Hutterite collectives.

In censuses prior to 1991, the families of now-married couples and those of common-law couples together constituted "husband-wife families" and appeared as such in most census family tables.

### **CENSUS FAMILY COMPOSITION**

Census family composition refers to the classification of census families according to the number and/or age groups of never-married sons and/or daughters at home. This was reported for census families in private households.

In previous censuses, census family composition referred to the number and/or age groups of children at home. In the 1991 Census, the reference is to never-married sons and/or daughters; these persons may be of any age. This terminological change does not affect historical comparability.

In the 1971 Census, figures were published according to the number of children under 25 years of age only.

#### **Reason Asked:**

The relationships between household members tell us how many family, non-family and one-person households there are in Canada. This information is used to plan social programs such as old age security and family allowances. It also identifies future needs for housing and community services ranging from health and education to recreation and transportation.

### **CENSUS FAMILY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION**

Census family household composition refers to the classification of census families according to the presence and number of "additional persons" in the household.

Additional persons refers to any household member who is not a member of the census family being considered. These additional persons may be either members of another census family or non-family persons. This was reported for census families in private households.

This variable provides data on household composition from the census family perspective.

### **CENSUS FAMILY LIVING ARRANGEMENTS**

Census family living arrangements refers to the classification of persons in terms of whether they are members of a family household or a non-family household, and whether they are family or non-family persons.

The variable provides data on household living arrangements at the population level.

## CENSUS FAMILY STATUS

Census family status refers to the classification of the population according to whether or not they are members of a census family.

Family persons refer to household members who belong to a census family. They, in turn, are further classified as follows:

Husband and wife refer to persons of opposite sex who are legally married to each other and living in the same dwelling.

Common-law partners are two persons of opposite sex who are not legally married to each other but live together as husband and wife in the same dwelling.

Lone parent refers to a mother or a father, with no spouse or common-law partner present, living in a dwelling with one or more never-married sons and/or daughters.

Never-married sons and/or daughters refers to blood, step or adopted sons and daughters who have never married (regardless of age) and are living in the same dwelling as their parent(s). Sons and daughters who are currently or were previously married, or who are living common-law, are not considered to be members of their parent(s)' census family even if they are living in the same dwelling. In addition, those never-married sons and daughters who do not live in the same dwelling as their parent(s) are not considered members of their parent(s)' census family.

Non-family persons refer to household members who do not belong to a census family. They may be related to Person 1 (the household reference person) (e.g., Person 1's divorced brother, brother-in-law, cousin, grandparent) or unrelated (e.g., lodger, room-mate, employee). A person living alone is always a non-family person.

This was reported for the population in private households.

Common-law partners may be of any marital status other than "legally married and not separated".

In previous censuses, the term child (children) was used in reference to never-married sons and/or daughters, regardless of age. As of the 1976 Census, unrelated wards, foster and guardianship children, whether or not pay is received, are classified and tabulated as lodgers rather than as children in families (as had been the previous census practice), in order to adhere more closely to the literal definition and meaning of children (i.e. sons and daughters) in census families.

## CENSUS FAMILY STRUCTURE

Census family structure refers to the classification of census families into families of now-married couples (with or without never-married sons or daughters of either or both spouses), families of common-law couples (with or without never-married sons or daughters of either or both partners) and lone-parent families by sex of parent. This was reported for census families in private households.

In previous censuses, the term "husband-wife families" covered both the families of now-married couples and those of common-law couples.

## CENSUS FAMILY TYPE

Census family type refers to the classification of census families according to whether or not any family member is responsible for household payments, i.e. rent, or mortgage, or taxes, or electricity.

Primary maintaining family refers to the census family of which the primary household maintainer (i.e. the first person identified as being responsible for household payments) is a member.

Other maintaining family refers to any census family which contains a household maintainer other than the primary household maintainer.

Non-maintaining family refers to a census family which does not contain any person who is responsible for household payments.

This was reported for census families in private households.

## **ECONOMIC FAMILY**

An economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption. This was reported for the population in private households and Hutterite collectives.

## **ECONOMIC FAMILY STATUS**

Economic family status refers to the classification of population according to whether or not they are members of an economic family.

Economic family persons refer to two or more household members who are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption and thereby constitute an economic family.

Unattached individuals refer to household members who are not members of an economic family. A person living alone is always an unattached individual.

This variable is reported for the population in private households.

## **ECONOMIC FAMILY STRUCTURE**

Economic family structure refers to the classification of economic families into those of now-married couples, common-law couples and other economic families.

Economic families of now-married couples are those in which one of two spouses, either the husband or the wife, is the economic family reference person.

Economic families of common-law couples are those in which one of two common-law partners is the economic family reference person.

Other economic families are of two kinds: those in which either a male or female lone parent is the economic family reference person, or those in which a non-census family person is the economic family reference person.

This was reported for economic families in private households. While there is only one household reference person per household, there may be more than one economic family in a household and each one will contain an economic family reference person.

In the 1986 and 1981 Censuses, economic families of now-married couples and economic families of common-law couples together constituted husband-wife economic families.

## **ECONOMIC FAMILY TYPE**

Economic family type refers to the classification of economic families according to whether or not any family member is responsible for household payments, i.e. rent, or mortgage, or taxes, or electricity, etc.

Primary economic family refers to the economic family of which the person responsible for household payments is a member.

Secondary economic family refers to any economic family which does not contain the person responsible for household payments.

This was reported for economic families in private households.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLD REFERENCE PERSON (PERSON 1)**

Relationship to household reference person (Person 1) refers to the relationship of household members to the household reference person (Person 1). A person may be related to Person 1 through blood, marriage, common-law or adoption (e.g., husband or wife, common-law partner, son or daughter, father or mother) or unrelated (e.g., lodger, room-mate, employee). It is a 2A variable and was reported for the total population.

In the 1981 Census, the term used to identify the household reference person was changed from "Head of household" to "Person 1".

#### Reason Asked:

The relationships between household members tell us how many family, non-family and one-person households there are in Canada. This information is used to plan social programs such as old age security and family allowances. It also identifies future needs for housing and community services ranging from health and education to recreation and transportation.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS**

- (1) Estimates and Projections of Population, Households and Families by Family Characteristics - Demography Division.
- (2) General Social Survey (Cycle 5 - 1990) - Changes in Canadian Family Structures - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
- (3) Family History Survey - Occasional - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
- (4) Family Expenditure Survey - Biennial - Household Surveys Division.
- (5) Vital Statistics Administrative Survey: data on marriage, remarriage and divorce - Canadian Centre for Health Information.



D. MOBILITY CHARACTERISTICS

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Mobility 1 Year					
Place of Residence 1 Year Ago	x				
Province or Territory of Residence 1 Year Ago*	x				
Country of Residence 1 Year Ago*	x				
Mobility 5 Year					
Place of Residence 5 Years Ago	x	x	x	x	x
Census Subdivision of Residence 5 Years Ago*	x	x	x	x	x
Census Subdivision Type of Residence 5 Years Ago	x				
Population Size of CSD of Residence 5 Years Ago	x	x	x	x	x
Population Size of Current CSD of Residence	x	x	x	x	x
Census Division of Residence 5 Years Ago*	x	x	x	x	x
CMA or CA of Residence 5 Years Ago	x	x	x	x	x
Province/Territory of Residence 5 Years Ago*	x	x	x	x	x
Country of Residence 5 Years Ago*	x				
Rural/Urban Classification of Place of Residence 5 Years Ago	x	x	x	x	x

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

The mobility of the population is also a demographic issue that the census tracks in one (starting in 1991) and five year periods. Tracking mobility has revealed an east to west flow of population during the 1970s and the subsequent west to east return during the recessionary years of the early 1980s. This information can be essential for areas either losing or gaining large numbers of people.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *Shifting location of the Canadian population creates changing demands for services:* Tracking the mobility of recent immigrants can forecast the need for non-official language services just as a measurement of the mobility of francophones can reveal an increase in demand for French language services outside Quebec. In what geographic detail should mobility data be available?
- b. *1 year mobility:* This question was asked for the first time in 1991. Should it be repeated in 1996? For which level of geography should the data be available. In 1991, 1 year information was coded to the provincial level. Should the data be available at sub-provincial levels, such as the CMA or CSD?

1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON MOBILITY CHARACTERISTICS

<p><b>MOBILITY</b></p> <p><b>20.</b> Where did this person live 1 year ago, that is, on June 4, 1990? <i>Mark one circle only.</i></p>	<p>12 <input type="radio"/> Lived at the same address as now</p> <p>13 <input type="radio"/> Lived in the same province/territory, but at a different address</p> <p>14 <input type="radio"/> Lived in a different province/territory in Canada <i>Print name of province/territory.</i></p> <p>15 <input type="text"/></p> <p>16 <input type="radio"/> Lived outside Canada <i>Print name of country.</i></p> <p>17 <input type="text"/></p>	<p>12 <input type="radio"/> Lived at the same address as now</p> <p>13 <input type="radio"/> Lived in the same province/territory, but at a different address</p> <p>14 <input type="radio"/> Lived in a different province/territory in Canada <i>Print name of province/territory.</i></p> <p>15 <input type="text"/></p> <p>16 <input type="radio"/> Lived outside Canada <i>Print name of country.</i></p> <p>17 <input type="text"/></p>
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<p><b>21.</b> Did this person live at this present address 5 years ago, that is, on June 4, 1986?</p> <p><b>22.</b> Where did this person live 5 years ago, that is, on June 4, 1986? <i>Some large cities are made up of smaller cities or towns called municipalities. Where applicable, distinguish between the municipality and the large city, such as Anjou and Montréal, Scarborough and Toronto, Burnaby and Vancouver, Saanich and Victoria.</i> <i>Mark one circle only.</i></p>	<p><b>25.</b></p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> Yes, lived at the same address as now <b>Go to Question 23</b></p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> No, lived at a different address</p> <p>03 <input type="radio"/> Lived in the same city, town, village, township, municipality or Indian reserve</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>04 <input type="radio"/> Lived in a different city, town, village, township, municipality or Indian reserve in Canada <i>Print below.</i></p> <p>City, town, village, township, municipality or Indian reserve</p> <p>05 <input type="text"/></p> <p>County (if known)</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>Province/territory</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>06 <input type="radio"/> Lived outside Canada <i>Print name of country.</i></p> <p>07 <input type="text"/></p>	<p><b>26.</b></p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> Yes, lived at the same address as now <b>Go to Question 23</b></p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> No, lived at a different address</p> <p>03 <input type="radio"/> Lived in the same city, town, village, township, municipality or Indian reserve</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>04 <input type="radio"/> Lived in a different city, town, village, township, municipality or Indian reserve in Canada <i>Print below.</i></p> <p>City, town, village, township, municipality or Indian reserve</p> <p>05 <input type="text"/></p> <p>County (if known)</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>Province/territory</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>06 <input type="radio"/> Lived outside Canada <i>Print name of country.</i></p> <p>07 <input type="text"/></p>
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## **DEFINITIONS**

### **MOBILITY 1:**

The following 3 variables refer to place of residence 1 year ago. They are all 2B variables and were reported for the population 1 year of age and over residing in Canada, excluding institutional residents and Canadians (military and government personnel) in households outside Canada.

#### **PLACE OF RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO (Collected for the first time in 1991)**

Refers to the relationship between a person's usual place of residence on Census Day and his or her usual place of residence one year earlier. A person is classified as a non-mover if no difference exists; otherwise, a person is classified as a mover and this categorization is called Mobility Status (1 Year Ago). Within the category movers, a further distinction is made between intraprovincial movers, interprovincial migrants and external migrants.

#### **PROVINCE/TERRITORY OF RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO**

Refers to the person's usual province or territory of residence on June 4, 1990, one year prior to Census Day.

#### **COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO**

Refers to the person's usual country of residence on June 4, 1990, one year prior to Census Day.

### **MOBILITY 5:**

The following 10 variables refer to place of residence 5 years ago. They are all 2B variables and were reported for the population 5 years of age and over residing in Canada, excluding institutional residents and Canadians (military and government personnel) in households outside Canada.

#### **PLACE OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO**

Refers to the relationship between a person's usual place of residence on Census Day and his or her usual place of residence five years earlier. A person is classified as a non-mover if no difference exists; otherwise, a person is classified as a mover and this categorization is called Mobility Status (5 Years Ago). Within the category movers, a further distinction is made between non-migrants and migrants; this difference is called migration status.

#### **CENSUS SUBDIVISION OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO**

Refers to the person's usual municipality or census subdivision (CSD) of residence on June 4, 1986, five years prior to Census Day.

#### **CENSUS SUBDIVISION TYPE OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO**

Refers to the census subdivision (CSD) type classification of the CSD (Indian reserve, village, town, township, city or municipality) where the person usually resided on June 4, 1986, five years prior to Census Day. This was a new variable in 1991.

**POPULATION SIZE OF CENSUS SUBDIVISION OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO**

Refers to the current population of the municipality or census subdivision (CSD) where the person usually resided on June 4, 1986, five years prior to Census Day.

**POPULATION SIZE OF CURRENT CENSUS SUBDIVISION OF RESIDENCE**

Refers to the 1991 population of the municipality or census subdivision (CSD) where the person usually resided on Census Day.

**CENSUS DIVISION OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO**

Refers to the person's usual census division (CD) of residence on June 4, 1986, five years prior to Census Day.

**CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA OR CENSUS AGGLOMERATION OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO**

Refers to the census metropolitan area (CMA), census agglomeration (CA), or non-CMA/CA where the person usually resided on June 4, 1986, five years prior to Census Day.

**PROVINCE/TERRITORY OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO**

Refers to the person's usual province or territory of residence on June 4, 1986, five years prior to Census Day.

**COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO**

Refers to the person's usual country of residence on June 4, 1986, five years prior to Census Day. This was a new variable in 1991.

**RURAL/URBAN CLASSIFICATION OF PLACE OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO**

Refers to the rural or urban classification of the municipality or census subdivision (CSD) where the person usually resided on June 4, 1986, five years prior to Census Day.

**Reason Asked:**

Information on mobility is needed to get a picture of where Canadians are moving to and from, and who is moving in terms of age, sex, education, occupation etc. This information is important to all levels of government, to municipal planners, as well as to various private sector businesses. It is used in determining future needs for such things as housing, education and social needs.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON MOBILITY CHARACTERISTICS**

- (1) Quarterly and Annual Estimates of Population - Demography Division.
- (2) Current Population Profile - 1987, 1990 - Household Surveys Division.
- (3) Annual Census Division Migration Estimates - Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

**E. ETHNO-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ABORIGINAL STATUS**

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Religion*	x		x		x
Ethnic Origin*	x	x	x		x
Visible Minorities	x	x	x		
Aboriginals <sup>(1)</sup>					
Total Aboriginal Population	x				
Specific Indian Band or First Nation*	x				
Registered Indian*	x				
Immigration and Citizenship					
Place of Birth*	x	x	x		x
Citizenship*	x	x	x		x
Landed Immigrant Status*	x				
Non-permanent Resident Population	x				
Non-immigrant Population	x	x	x		
Immigrant Population*	x	x	x		
Year of Immigration*	x	x	x		
Period of Immigration	x	x	x		x
Age at Immigration	x	x	x		

<sup>(1)</sup> For previous census years Aboriginal Population was collected from the ethnic origin question.

VARIABLE NOT AVAILABLE IN 1991 BUT AVAILABLE IN PREVIOUS YEARS	Census Years			
	1986	1981	1976	1971
Birthplace of father				x

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

The idea of ethnicity is complicated; when the census asks about ethnic origin, it is not measuring national pride or patriotism. It's measuring the constantly changing cultural influences that contribute to our collective heritage. One of the major objectives of the ethnic origin question is to provide data needed for employment equity and multiculturalism programs. Partly as a result of divergent support for these programs across Canada, the collection of data on ethnic origin met with some controversy in previous censuses.

But data can be used for many purposes. The same statistics that can show a need for more retirement homes can be used to justify closing a neighbourhood school. Similarly with data on ethnic groups, some uses may be controversial, some unpopular, but ethnic data have wide-ranging benefits. The media are among the biggest users of census data. Teachers use ethnic data to demonstrate trends in Canadian society and to develop culturally sensitive curriculum to help immigrants adjust to their new community. Health professionals also use ethnic data. In our largest, most culturally diverse cities, basic health care information can be more effectively communicated within ethnic communities when medical personnel are aware of the cultural needs of their clientele. In British Columbia, the Cancer Control Agency has used ethnic demographic data in cancer research. Businesses of all kinds use ethnic data to keep competitive. When opening a store for example, it would be vital to know about the cultural tastes of potential customers before deciding to sell pasta or bratwurst.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *The collection of data on visible minorities:* The 1991 ethnic question was identical to the one used in 1986, when "Black" was added as a response category to improve estimates of the visible minority population. This was done in response to the report of the Special Committee on Visible Minorities in Canadian Society and anticipation of the passing of the Employment Equity Act (1986). The addition of the category "Black" was necessary because previous censuses had shown that many blacks -- particularly immigrants from Caribbean countries -- identified themselves as French or British in origin.

Many options to the ethnic origin question -- including ethnic identity and race/colour -- were tested in preparation for the 1991 Census. As well, Statistics Canada consulted with representatives from every sector of Canadian society including visible minority groups either directly or through the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, and members of the black community. At that time, there was agreement that it would be preferable to use the question on ethnic origin to identify visible minorities rather than have a question on race. Others felt that data on aboriginal cultural roots should be collected. No alternative question emerged which provided an improved level of data.

Nevertheless, among spokespersons for the black community, there are two different points of view. Some feel singled out by being asked to identify themselves on the basis of race. On the other hand, all agree with the need for reliable data on their community in order to support employment equity programs. Statistics Canada recognizes that this is a very sensitive issue, but is committed to finding the best way of collecting this vital information on an important segment of the Canadian population.



- b. *Inclusion of Canadian as a response option:* "Canadian" has not been listed as a response category on the ethnic origin question in the past-- although Statistics Canada has tested it -- because the objective of the question concerning ethnicity is not to find out how many people consider themselves to be "Canadian". Moreover, a separate question exists to determine citizenship status.

Nevertheless, some respondents have equated answering "Canadian" as a measure or gesture of patriotism and have demanded its inclusion as a response option. Do we need to measure Canadian identity? Will the inclusion of "Canadian" as a response option affect collection of census data in Quebec? Do we need to consider adding a response option for "Québécois"? If so, what would be the reaction outside Quebec to this inclusion?

- c. *Providing mark-in entry options vs. write-space:* Although providing mark-in entry options of the most commonly occurring ethnic groups in Canada is a cost effective and efficient method for compiling these data, ethnic groups whose numbers are not large enough to warrant a mark-in entry argue that this system skews the resulting data. The option of abandoning mark-boxes altogether in favour of a write-in space has implications for data comparability and cost.
- d. *Relevance -- or divisiveness -- of ethnic data:* Ethnic origin data were first asked in a Canadian census in 1756 and have been included in every census since Confederation -- except in 1891 when ethnic origin was replaced by a question on French Canadian origin. Some respondents feel that to ask a question about ethnic ancestry is not relevant; others view it as divisive. Is ethnic identity a more appropriate concept even though there is no legislative requirement to collect such information? If the 1996 Census did not include a question concerning ethnic ancestry, could the data needs of multiculturalism programs, employment equity programs and other users be fulfilled? Our testing has revealed that the measurement of ethnicity -- including ethnic ancestry, identity and race -- is very complex. Does this topic warrant a post-censal survey?
- e. *Collection of data on the aboriginal population:* When a separate question concerning aboriginal identity was first introduced in 1986, there were problems with the quality of data collected. There was some evidence in 1986 that the general population did not understand the use of terminology concerning native people -- words like Inuit and Aboriginal were unfamiliar to a large number of respondents but alternate words such as Eskimo or Indian are not politically correct or are insensitive. In 1991, for the first time, respondents were asked if they were Registered Indians, as defined by the Indian Act of Canada, and to report, if applicable, their specific Indian Band or First Nation. Should there be another question pertaining specifically to the Non-status Indian population and/or to those individuals who consider themselves as Métis? Both the ethnic origin and Status Indian questions were used to select a sample population to participate in a Post-censal Aboriginal Peoples' Survey. Should this survey be repeated and updated in 1996? Are there new data requirements necessitated for aboriginal self-government?
- f. *Improving coverage of the non-permanent population:* In 1991, non-permanent residents of Canada were included on the census for the first time (in peace time). Non-permanent residents are persons holding student or employment authorizations, Minister's permits or are refugee claimants. Tracking the size of this population is vital since their presence in a community can have an effect on the demand for services such as schooling, housing and health. In 1991, the immigrant status question appeared on the 2B questionnaire. The

estimated size of this population was not known until the release of the immigrant population data. Should non-permanent residents be identified on the 2A (short) form, rather than on the 2B (20% sample) form? Should the census use a direct question to identify non-permanent residents rather than deriving the count from the immigrant status question even though respondents may not wish to report the visa type they may hold?

- g. *The changing face of immigration:* Immigration to Canada increased during the late 1980s and is expected to remain at these levels throughout the 1990s. Furthermore, the birth places of immigrants have changed significantly since the 1960s. Are the data needs of agencies and groups providing services to immigrants met through the questions now asked on the census -- Place of Birth, Year of Immigration and Citizenship? Do we need more information on immigrants and their adaptation to Canada? Do we need to know about second generation immigrants (the Canadian-born children of immigrants) by asking a question on birthplace of parents -- as was last asked in 1971? The Landed Immigrant Status question was asked for the first time in 1991 -- should we continue to collect these data? Is the concept of "Landed Immigrant Status" well understood or applicable to all immigrants -- older and recent immigrants?

In regard to the citizenship question, does the present question meet the needs of those planning citizenship classes and programs? Does the question provide enough information about the propensity of immigrants to acquire Canadian citizenship? For those who hold citizenship of other countries, is there a need to identify these countries in the census citizenship question?

## RELIGION

### Background

The data that are collected on religion are used to trace ever-changing trends in Canadian value orientation. When religion data are combined with data on age, planners can assess the need for separate religious schools within some provinces. As well, federal and provincial human rights organizations use this information to protect Canadians from discrimination based on their religious beliefs. The religion profile of Canada has changed rapidly over the past two decades. The "no religion" group has increased dramatically, while Eastern non-Christian religions such as Hindi, Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist are becoming common in Canadian society.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *Religion question not asked on 1986 questionnaire.* A question on religion was asked on the 1991 Census questionnaire, but not on the 1986 questionnaire. Should the pattern of asking this question only every ten years be continued?
- b. *The only check box provided is for "No religion".* It was decided that the religion question would be a respondent write-in question and that a list of possible responses and check boxes would not be provided. This was done to allow people the freedom to write-in their particular religious denomination. "No religion" was provided as an option in order to encourage people with no identifiable religious affiliation to respond to the question instead of leaving it blank.

This saves both time and money processing the census data. Should this be continued in future censuses?

- c. *Determination of religions listed as examples of possible responses.* It was decided when the census question on religion was being formulated that every possible religion could not be listed as an example. It was decided that only the largest religious denominations, as detailed in previous censuses, would be listed. However, if you are going to list religions as examples of possible responses, would it not be just as easy to list these religions with check boxes beside them?
- d. *The relevancy of a religion question in today's society.* Given the trend in today's society away from organized religion, is a question on religion appropriate? A question on the pattern of a family's religious practices over a generation might be more relevant today. For example, do more or fewer Canadians attend church today as compared with their parent's generation?
- e. *The appearance of smaller, new religions:* At the same time that the mainline Christian religions are declining in popularity, a number of smaller, newer religions are appearing in Canada. For example, in 1991, members of the Christian Vineyard Fellowship were counted in significant numbers. The 1996 Census may record several new religions.

1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON ETHNO-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ABORIGINAL STATUS

<p><b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b></p> <p>11. Where was this person born?                  ■ <i>Mark or specify one only, according to present boundaries.</i></p>	<p><b>In Canada</b></p> <p>15 <input type="radio"/> Nfld.      21 <input type="radio"/> Man.                  16 <input type="radio"/> P.E.I.    22 <input type="radio"/> Sask.                  17 <input type="radio"/> N.S.        23 <input type="radio"/> Alta.                  18 <input type="radio"/> N.B.        24 <input type="radio"/> B.C.                  19 <input type="radio"/> Que.        25 <input type="radio"/> Yukon                  20 <input type="radio"/> Ont.        26 <input type="radio"/> N.W.T.</p> <p><b>Outside Canada</b></p> <p>27 <input type="radio"/> United Kingdom                  28 <input type="radio"/> Italy                  29 <input type="radio"/> U.S.A.                  30 <input type="radio"/> West Germany                  31 <input type="radio"/> East Germany                  32 <input type="radio"/> Poland                  Other — <i>Specify</i></p> <p>33 <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p>	<p><b>In Canada</b></p> <p>15 <input type="radio"/> Nfld.      21 <input type="radio"/> Man.                  16 <input type="radio"/> P.E.I.    22 <input type="radio"/> Sask.                  17 <input type="radio"/> N.S.        23 <input type="radio"/> Alta.                  18 <input type="radio"/> N.B.        24 <input type="radio"/> B.C.                  19 <input type="radio"/> Que.        25 <input type="radio"/> Yukon                  20 <input type="radio"/> Ont.        26 <input type="radio"/> N.W.T.</p> <p><b>Outside Canada</b></p> <p>27 <input type="radio"/> United Kingdom                  28 <input type="radio"/> Italy                  29 <input type="radio"/> U.S.A.                  30 <input type="radio"/> West Germany                  31 <input type="radio"/> East Germany                  32 <input type="radio"/> Poland                  Other — <i>Specify</i></p> <p>33 <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p>
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<p><b>CITIZENSHIP</b></p> <p>12. Of what country is this person a citizen?                  ■ <i>Mark more than one circle, if applicable.</i></p>	<p><b>13.</b></p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> Canada, by birth                  02 <input type="radio"/> Canada, by naturalization                  03 <input type="radio"/> Same as country of birth (other than Canada)                  04 <input type="radio"/> Other country</p>	<p><b>14.</b></p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> Canada, by birth                  02 <input type="radio"/> Canada, by naturalization                  03 <input type="radio"/> Same as country of birth (other than Canada)                  04 <input type="radio"/> Other country</p>
<p><b>IMMIGRATION</b></p> <p>13. Is this person now, or has this person ever been, a landed immigrant?                  ■ <i>Immigrant?</i></p>	<p>05 <input type="radio"/> No — Go to Question 15                  06 <input type="radio"/> Yes — Continue with Question 14</p>	<p>05 <input type="radio"/> No — Go to Question 15                  06 <input type="radio"/> Yes — Continue with Question 14</p>
<p>14. In what year did this person first become a landed immigrant in Canada?                  ■ <i>If exact year is not known, enter best estimate.</i></p>	<p><b>Year</b></p> <p>07 <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> 1 <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/></p>	<p><b>Year</b></p> <p>07 <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> 1 <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/></p>

1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON ETHNO-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ABORIGINAL STATUS

**ETHNIC ORIGIN**

15. To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong?  
 ■ Mark or specify as many as applicable.

*Note:*  
 While most people of Canada view themselves as Canadian, information about their ancestral origins has been collected since the 1901 Census to reflect the changing composition of the Canadian population and is needed to ensure that everyone, regardless of his/her ethnic or cultural background, has equal opportunity to share fully in the economic, social, cultural and political life of Canada. Therefore, this question refers to the origins of this person's ancestors.

See Guide.

Examples of other ethnic or cultural groups are: Portuguese, Greek, Indian from India, Pakistani, Filipino, Vietnamese, Japanese, Lebanese, Haitian, etc. ▶

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16. Is this person a registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada?  
 See Guide.

08  French  
 09  English  
 10  German  
 11  Scottish  
 12  Italian  
 13  Irish  
 14  Ukrainian  
 15  Chinese  
 16  Dutch (Netherlands)  
 17  Jewish  
 18  Polish  
 19  Black  
 20  North American Indian  
 21  Métis  
 22  Inuit/Eskimo  
 Other ethnic or cultural group(s) — Specify

23   
 24

---

25  No  
 26  Yes, registered Indian  
 Specify Indian Band or First Nation (for example, Musqueam)

27

08  French  
 09  English  
 10  German  
 11  Scottish  
 12  Italian  
 13  Irish  
 14  Ukrainian  
 15  Chinese  
 16  Dutch (Netherlands)  
 17  Jewish  
 18  Polish  
 19  Black  
 20  North American Indian  
 21  Métis  
 22  Inuit/Eskimo  
 Other ethnic or cultural group(s) — Specify

23   
 24

---

25  No  
 26  Yes, registered Indian  
 Specify Indian Band or First Nation (for example, Musqueam)

27

**RELIGION**

17. What is this person's religion?  
 Indicate a specific denomination or religion even if this person is not currently a practising member of that group.  
 For example, Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic, United Church, Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Pentecostal, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Mennonite, Jehovah's Witnesses, Salvation Army, Islam, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh

19. Specify one denomination or religion only

01   
 02  No religion

20. Specify one denomination or religion only

01   
 02  No religion

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **RELIGION**

Religion refers to specific religious denominations, groups or bodies as well as sects, cults, or other religiously defined communities or systems of belief. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

#### **Reason Asked:**

Information on religion is used to trace fundamental changes in Canadian society. When combined with age data, information on religion is used to assess the need and potential for separate religious schools in some provinces. Federal and provincial human rights legislation depends on this information to protect Canadians from discrimination based on their religious beliefs.

### **ETHNIC ORIGIN**

Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the respondent's ancestors belong. Ethnic or cultural origin refer to the ethnic "roots" or ancestral background of the population, and should not be confused with citizenship or nationality. Canadians have many ethnic or cultural origins - such as Inuit, North American Indian, Métis, Irish, Scottish, French, Ukrainian, Chinese, Japanese and East Indian (from India). It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

#### **Reason Asked:**

Information on ethnicity can be used extensively by government policy makers and program administrators, researchers and ethnic or cultural associations to study the size, location, characteristics and other aspects of their respective groups.

### **VISIBLE MINORITIES**

According to the Employment Equity Act (1986), visible minorities are persons (other than aboriginal persons), who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.

The definition for visible minorities was developed according to the specifications of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Employment Equity. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

The ethnic origin question was used to define visible minorities in conjunction with other information such as place of birth, mother tongue, language and religion.

It is important that users understand the differences between the visible minority definition and data based solely on ethnic origin.

Reason Asked:

Data on visible minorities are derived to provide data in support of legislation and programs to eliminate discrimination and inequities in employment.

**ABORIGINAL:**

**ABORIGINAL POPULATION**

Aboriginal population refers to those persons who reported at least one aboriginal ethnic origin, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit and/or reported being registered under the Indian Act of Canada. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

In 1986 and previous censuses, aboriginal persons were determined using the ethnic origin question, based primarily on the ancestry dimension. In addition to the ancestry dimension, the 1991 Census allows, for example, a person who is Irish by ethnic origin but registered Indian on account of marriage, to be included in the aboriginal population in spite of an Irish single response to the ethnic origin question.

**MEMBER OF AN INDIAN BAND OR FIRST NATION**

**New variable in 1991**

This variable refers to those persons who reported an Indian Band or a First Nation of Canada. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

**REGISTERED INDIAN**

**New variable in 1991**

This variable refers to those persons who reported they were registered under the Indian Act of Canada. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

Reason Asked:

To identify persons who are registered under the Indian Act of Canada and persons with Indian Band or First Nation affiliations, in order to determine their social and economic characteristics, as well as their geographic distribution.

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP:**

**PLACE OF BIRTH**

Place of birth refers to specific provinces or territories if born in Canada, or to specific countries if born outside Canada. Respondents were asked to report their place of birth according to boundaries in existence on Census Day, June 4, 1991. This is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

As a result of boundary and political changes, the list of places of birth has changed over census years.

Reason Asked:

Information on place of birth, when combined with information from other census questions, can be used to review employment and immigration policies and programs, and to plan education, health and other services.

## **CITIZENSHIP**

Citizenship refers to the legal citizenship status of the respondent. Persons who are citizens of more than one country were instructed to indicate this fact. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

Reason Asked:

Information on citizenship helps in planning for elections since, when combined with age data, this information can reveal the number of potential voters. It is also used by those who plan citizenship classes and programs.

## **IMMIGRATION VARIABLES**

All of the immigration variables are on the 2B questionnaire which covers 20% of the population.

### **LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS**

**New variable in 1991**

Landed Immigrant Status refers to persons who are not Canadian citizens by birth, but who have been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by Canadian immigration authorities. This variable was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

This was a new question in 1991. In combination with citizenship, it allows the identification of three populations:

- the non-immigrant population (Canadian citizens by birth)
- the immigrant population (landed immigrants)
- the non-permanent resident population

### **NON-PERMANENT RESIDENT POPULATION**

**New variable in 1991**

Non-permanent resident population refers to persons who hold a student authorization, employment authorization, Minister's permit or who are refugee claimants.

In the 1991 Census, permanent and non-permanent residents were enumerated. This was a major change from previous censuses where only permanent residents of Canada were enumerated. Permanent residents include Canadian citizens and landed immigrants. This variable was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.



### **NON-IMMIGRANT POPULATION**

Non-immigrant population refers to persons who are Canadian citizens by birth. This variable was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

### **IMMIGRANT POPULATION**

Immigrant population refers to persons who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who is not a Canadian citizen by birth, but who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by Canadian immigration authorities. This variable was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

### **YEAR OF IMMIGRATION**

Year of Immigration refers to the year landed immigrant status was first obtained in Canada. This variable was reported for the population who are, or have been, landed immigrants, excluding institutional residents.

### **PERIOD OF IMMIGRATION**

Period of Immigration refers to groupings of years derived from the year of immigration question. This variable was reported for the population who are, or have been, landed immigrants, excluding institutional residents.

### **AGE AT IMMIGRATION**

Age at Immigration refers to the age at which the respondent first obtained landed immigrant status. This variable was reported for the population who are, or have been, landed immigrants, excluding institutional residents.

#### Reason Asked:

Information on immigration, when combined with data from other census questions, can be used to study the characteristics of Canada's immigrant population. Information on period of immigration is also important for studies of immigration trends.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON  
ETHNO-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ABORIGINAL STATUS**

- (1) Immigrant Population - Estimates and Projections of Population, Households and Families by Demographic Characteristics - Demography Division.
- (2) Ethnic Origin, Year of Immigration and Religion - General Social Survey (Cycles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 - 1985 to 1991) - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
- (3) Country of Birth of Father and Country of Birth of Mother, Year of Immigration and Religion - General Social Survey (Cycle 7 - 1992) - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
- (4) Place of Birth and Religion - Vital Statistics Annual Administrative Data - Canadian Centre for Health Information.
- (5) Aboriginals - Aboriginal Peoples Survey - 1991 - Post-Censal Survey.

F. DISABILITY

1991 VARIABLE SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Disability*	x	x			

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

### BACKGROUND AND POINT FOR DISCUSSION

#### Background

The questions concerning disability are used to screen potential participants in a much more detailed post-censal survey.

#### Point for Discussion

a. *Post-censal Disability Survey:* Is there a need to collect information on disability in 1996?

### 1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON DISABILITY

<b>ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS</b>  <b>18.</b> Is this person limited in the kind or amount of activity that he/she can do because of a long-term physical condition, mental condition or health problem:  See Guide.	At home? 03 <input type="radio"/> No, not limited 04 <input type="radio"/> Yes, limited	At home? 03 <input type="radio"/> No, not limited 04 <input type="radio"/> Yes, limited
	At school or at work? 05 <input type="radio"/> No, not limited 06 <input type="radio"/> Yes, limited 07 <input type="radio"/> Not applicable	At school or at work? 05 <input type="radio"/> No, not limited 06 <input type="radio"/> Yes, limited 07 <input type="radio"/> Not applicable
	In other activities, e.g., transportation to or from work, leisure time activities? 08 <input type="radio"/> No, not limited 09 <input type="radio"/> Yes, limited	In other activities, e.g., transportation to or from work, leisure time activities? 08 <input type="radio"/> No, not limited 09 <input type="radio"/> Yes, limited
<b>19.</b> Does this person have any long-term disabilities or handicaps?  See Guide.	10 <input type="radio"/> No 11 <input type="radio"/> Yes	10 <input type="radio"/> No 11 <input type="radio"/> Yes

## **DEFINITION**

### **DISABILITY**

Disability refers to the limitation in the kind or amount of a person's activity because of a long-term physical condition, mental condition or health problem. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

Since the Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS) provides a better identification of the target population than the census alone, the primary source of data concerning disabilities, for publications and other products, will be the HALS database.

#### **Reason Asked:**

Data on disabled persons are increasingly in demand. Collection of such data was recommended by the Special Parliamentary Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped. The census question on disability constitutes part of Statistics Canada's ongoing commitment to develop a national database on significant social issues. The question is intended as a screening question to identify disabled persons for the post-census survey of this special interest group.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON DISABILITY**

- (1) Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS) (1991, 1986) - Canadian Health and Disability Survey (1983/84).
- (2) General Social Survey (Cycle 1 - 1985) - Health of Canadians - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
- (3) Ontario Child Health Study - 1983, 1987 - Household Surveys Division.

G. LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Mother Tongue*	x	x	x	x	x
Home Language*	x	x	x		x
Knowledge of Official Languages*	x	x	x		x
First Official Language Spoken	x	x			
Knowledge of Non-Official Languages*	x				

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

Language issues are of special concern to Canadians because of the effect they have on such diverse elements as Constitutional reform, government and public sector services, educational programs and immigration policies.

The strength of the French language in Canada reflects the demographic situation for francophones both in Quebec and the rest of the country. The survival of many aboriginal languages is considered to be doubtful.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *Language transfer:* A major concern among francophones is the vitality of French both in Quebec and among francophones outside the province. What is the trend for language transfer to English? Is the immigrant population within Quebec adopting French or English? How can the census best measure this important feature of Canadian life?
- b. *Evolution of bilingualism:* In order to measure these trends, the census has looked at the evolution of bilingualism across Canada with data on ability to conduct a conversation in both of the official languages. Language retention and transfer data are also useful in evaluating the success of efforts to promote both official languages across the country. Is there a need for an additional question on the official language of preference?
- c. *Survival of aboriginal languages:* There is an increasing demand for data pertaining to the language use and language knowledge of the aboriginal population. For the aboriginal community in Canada, such data are essential for understanding cultural pressures on their people, both on- and off-reserve. Is the census providing sufficient information on aboriginal languages?
- d. *Measuring the adaptation of new immigrants through language data:* Language data are also useful for assessing the success of programs available to new immigrants to help them adjust to life in Canada. To that end, the census data measured the existence and strength of non-official languages, including the proportion of the population unable to speak either of the two official languages. In correlation with socio-economic data available through the census, it is also possible to evaluate the need for additional services to assist immigrants in their efforts to contribute more fully to Canadian society -- such as English/French second language programs. Does the language data provide sufficient information?
- e. *Knowledge of languages other than English or French:* Knowledge of languages other than English or French reflects current immigration trends. It also represents a potential resource that may facilitate Canadians' ability to build trading links abroad, for example in Mexico, Japan, the Philippines and Eastern Europe. This question was asked for the first time in 1991. Should it be repeated in 1996?



- f. Ordering of language questions:* In 1991, the ordering of mother tongue questions was different on the long and short form questionnaire. This was done to improve the quality of response but resulted in differing estimates for some languages. Should this be repeated in 1996?
- g. Language of work, language of education:* Canada's census already provides considerable information on Canadians' linguistic abilities. Is there a need for an additional question, specifically in the areas of language of work and language of education?

1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS

LANGUAGE	[07.]	[08.]
<p>7. Can this person speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation? Mark one circle only.</p>	<p>01 <input type="radio"/> English only 02 <input type="radio"/> French only 03 <input type="radio"/> Both English and French 04 <input type="radio"/> Neither English nor French</p>	<p>01 <input type="radio"/> English only 02 <input type="radio"/> French only 03 <input type="radio"/> Both English and French 04 <input type="radio"/> Neither English nor French</p>
<p>8. What language(s), other than English or French, can this person speak well enough to conduct a conversation?</p>	<p>05 <input type="radio"/> None OR Specify other language(s) 06 <input type="text"/> 07 <input type="text"/> 08 <input type="text"/></p>	<p>05 <input type="radio"/> None OR Specify other language(s) 06 <input type="text"/> 07 <input type="text"/> 08 <input type="text"/></p>
<p>9. What language does this person speak most often at home?</p>	<p>09 <input type="radio"/> English 10 <input type="radio"/> French Other — Specify 11 <input type="text"/></p>	<p>09 <input type="radio"/> English 10 <input type="radio"/> French Other — Specify 11 <input type="text"/></p>
<p>10. What is the language that this person first learned at home in childhood and still understands? If this person no longer understands the first language learned, indicate the second language learned.</p>	<p>12 <input type="radio"/> English 13 <input type="radio"/> French Other — Specify 14 <input type="text"/></p>	<p>12 <input type="radio"/> English 13 <input type="radio"/> French Other — Specify 14 <input type="text"/></p>

## DEFINITIONS

### **MOTHER TONGUE**

Mother tongue refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census. It is a 2A variable and was reported for the total population. In the 1991 Census 2B questionnaire, the mother tongue question was asked after the three other questions on language.

In the wording of the question on mother tongue, the expression "at home" was added in 1991 to specify the context in which the individual learned the language.

In 1986, the three most frequently occurring non-official languages, from the preceding census, were listed on the questionnaire. In 1991, the boxes corresponding to those non-official languages were removed and only the two official languages, English and French, appeared on the questionnaire. Other languages could be written in the space provided.

#### Reason Asked:

Mother tongue provides information used in programs which protect the rights of Canadians under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

### **HOME LANGUAGE**

Home language refers to the language spoken most often at home by the individual at the time of the census. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

#### Reason Asked:

Information on the languages Canadians speak at home provides important data on language use and language shifts.

### **KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

Knowledge of official languages refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, in both English and French or in none of the official languages of Canada. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

#### Reason Asked:

This information indicates how many Canadians can communicate in English, French or both. It also provides information on the number of people who speak neither English nor French. The information is used to determine the need for language education and services in English and French.

## FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE SPOKEN

First official language spoken refers to a variable specified within the framework of the implementation of the Official Languages Act. It is a 2B variable and was derived for the total population, excluding institutional residents. Knowledge of official language, mother tongue and home language were used to derive the first official language spoken.

Reason Asked:

This information is used by the federal government to determine the need for services in English or French.

## KNOWLEDGE OF NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

New variable in 1991

Knowledge of non-official languages refers to the language or languages, other than English or French, in which the respondent can conduct a conversation. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the total population, excluding institutional residents.

Reason Asked:

The results from this question indicate how many Canadians can communicate in languages other than English or French. This information is used to assess language diversity and retention.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS**

- (1) Labour Force Survey - August 1982 - Included the three Census questions and a fourth designed to measure the language preference of persons who have indicated that they can conduct a conversation in English and French - Household Surveys Division.
- (2) General Social Survey (Cycle 2 - 1986) - Included a module with many questions on linguistic origin, language use and knowledge - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
- (3) Minority and second language education - elementary and secondary levels - Catalogue No. 81-257 (Annual) - Education, Culture and Tourism Division.
- (4) Aboriginal Peoples Survey - 1991 - Post-Censal Survey.



H. SCHOOLING CHARACTERISTICS

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Highest Level of Schooling	x	x	x	x	x
Highest Grade of Elementary or Secondary*	x	x	x	x	x
Highest Degree, Certificate or Diploma	x	x	x	x	x
Secondary School Graduation Certificate	x	x	x		
Trades and Other Non-university Certificates	x	x	x		x
University Certificate Above Bachelor Level	x	x	x		
Degree in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine or Optometry	x	x	x		
Total Years of Schooling	x	x	x	x	x
Years of University*	x	x	x	x	x
Years of Other Non-university Education*	x	x	x	x	x
Major Field of Study*	x	x			x
School Attendance*	x		x	x	x

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

The census questions on schooling are asked to find out the educational qualifications of Canadians. This helps us to better understand exactly who it is that makes up the labour force. We can also find out what it is that people are studying in order to know if in the future we will have, for example, too many doctors and not enough engineers.

The data collected are also used to plan school and training programs, and to identify potential gaps in our labour force.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *School attendance question not on 1986 questionnaire:* A question on school attendance was asked on the 1991 Census questionnaire, but not on the 1986 questionnaire. Should a pattern be developed of asking this question only every ten years?
- b. *Taking into account variations in provincial and territorial education standards:* Provincial and territorial educational standards vary across the country, but respondents are not asked where they received their education. Should a question be added asking for the name and location of the educational institution? Would the additional respondent burden be offset by the value of the information that would be gained? In addition, these data would have to be coded to a small geographic area. This would increase the cost of processing the data. Are the data that would be collected worth this extra expense?
- c. *Information on continuing education:* A question on adult education programs and continuing education classes would be useful to map an ever-growing trend in our population. Many people also take self-improvement courses or courses just for interest-sake. Should a question be included on the census questionnaire that deals exclusively with these types of continuing education?
- d. *Information on retraining in the work place:* Acknowledging the constant demand for retraining and skill upgrading in the Canadian work place, would it not be appropriate to include a question on this type of education? Or would a repeat of the 1990 Adult Education and Training Survey be a more appropriate way to obtain such information?



1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON SCHOOLING CHARACTERISTICS

<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p>24. What is the highest grade (or year) of secondary (high school) or elementary school this person ever attended?</p> <p>■ Enter highest number (1 to 13) of grades or years, excluding kindergarten.</p>	<p>10 <input type="text"/> ◀ Enter number (1 to 13) of grades or years of secondary and/or elementary school</p> <p>OR</p> <p>11 <input type="radio"/> Never attended school or attended kindergarten only</p>	<p>10 <input type="text"/> ◀ Enter number (1 to 13) of grades or years of secondary and/or elementary school</p> <p>OR</p> <p>11 <input type="radio"/> Never attended school or attended kindergarten only</p>
<p>25. How many years of education has this person completed at university?</p> <p>■</p>	<p>12 <input type="radio"/> None</p> <p>13 <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 year (of completed courses)</p> <p>14 <input type="text"/> ◀ Number of completed years at university</p>	<p>12 <input type="radio"/> None</p> <p>13 <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 year (of completed courses)</p> <p>14 <input type="text"/> ◀ Number of completed years at university</p>
<p>26. How many years of schooling has this person ever completed at an institution other than a university, a secondary (high school) or an elementary school?</p> <p>■</p> <p><i>Include years of schooling at community colleges, institutes of technology, CEGEPs (general and professional), private trade schools or private business colleges, diploma schools of nursing, etc.</i></p>	<p>31. <input type="text"/></p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> None</p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 year (of completed courses)</p> <p>03 <input type="text"/> ◀ Number of completed years at community colleges, trade schools, CEGEPs, etc.</p>	<p>32. <input type="text"/></p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> None</p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 year (of completed courses)</p> <p>03 <input type="text"/> ◀ Number of completed years at community colleges, trade schools, CEGEPs, etc.</p>
<p>27. In the past nine months (that is, since last September), was this person attending a school, college or university?</p> <p>■</p> <p><i>Include attendance at elementary or secondary schools, business or trade schools, community colleges, institutes of technology, CEGEPs, etc., for courses which can be used as credits towards a certificate, diploma or degree.</i></p> <p><i>Mark one circle only.</i></p>	<p>04 <input type="radio"/> No, did not attend in past nine months</p> <p>05 <input type="radio"/> Yes, full time</p> <p>06 <input type="radio"/> Yes, part time, day or evening</p>	<p>04 <input type="radio"/> No, did not attend in past nine months</p> <p>05 <input type="radio"/> Yes, full time</p> <p>06 <input type="radio"/> Yes, part time, day or evening</p>

1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON SCHOOLING CHARACTERISTICS

<p><b>28.</b> What certificates, diplomas or degrees has this person ever obtained?</p> <p>■</p> <p><i>Include all qualifications obtained from secondary (high) schools, or trade schools and other postsecondary educational institutions.</i></p> <p><i>Mark as many circles as applicable.</i></p>	<p>07 <input type="radio"/> None Go to Question 30</p> <p>08 <input type="radio"/> Secondary/high school graduation certificate or equivalent</p> <p>09 <input type="radio"/> Trades certificate or diploma</p> <p>10 <input type="radio"/> Other non-university certificate or diploma (obtained at community college, CEGEP, institute of technology, etc.)</p> <p>11 <input type="radio"/> University certificate or diploma below bachelor level</p> <p>12 <input type="radio"/> Bachelor's degree(s) (e.g., B.A., B.Sc., LL.B.)</p> <p>13 <input type="radio"/> University certificate or diploma above bachelor level</p> <p>14 <input type="radio"/> Master's degree(s) (e.g., M.A., M.Sc., M.Ed.)</p> <p>15 <input type="radio"/> Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry (M.D., D.D.S., D.M.D., D.V.M., O.D.)</p> <p>16 <input type="radio"/> Earned doctorate (e.g., Ph.D., D.Sc., D.Ed.)</p>	<p>07 <input type="radio"/> None Go to Question 30</p> <p>08 <input type="radio"/> Secondary/high school graduation certificate or equivalent</p> <p>09 <input type="radio"/> Trades certificate or diploma</p> <p>10 <input type="radio"/> Other non-university certificate or diploma (obtained at community college, CEGEP, institute of technology, etc.)</p> <p>11 <input type="radio"/> University certificate or diploma below bachelor level</p> <p>12 <input type="radio"/> Bachelor's degree(s) (e.g., B.A., B.Sc., LL.B.)</p> <p>13 <input type="radio"/> University certificate or diploma above bachelor level</p> <p>14 <input type="radio"/> Master's degree(s) (e.g., M.A., M.Sc., M.Ed.)</p> <p>15 <input type="radio"/> Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry (M.D., D.D.S., D.M.D., D.V.M., O.D.)</p> <p>16 <input type="radio"/> Earned doctorate (e.g., Ph.D., D.Sc., D.Ed.)</p>
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<p><b>29.</b> What was the major field of study or training of this person's highest degree, certificate or diploma (excluding secondary or high school graduation certificates)?</p> <p><i>For example, accounting, carpentry, civil engineering, history, legal secretary, welding</i></p>	<p><b>37.</b></p> <p>Major field of study or training</p> <p>01 <input type="text"/></p> <p>OR</p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> This person's highest qualification is a secondary/high school graduation certificate.</p>	<p><b>38.</b></p> <p>Major field of study or training</p> <p>01 <input type="text"/></p> <p>OR</p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> This person's highest qualification is a secondary/high school graduation certificate.</p>
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## **DEFINITIONS**

### **HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOLING**

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. University education is considered to be above other non-university. Also, the attainment of a degree, certificate or diploma is considered to be at a higher level than years completed or attended without an educational qualification. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **HIGHEST GRADE OF ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY**

Highest grade of elementary or secondary refers to the highest grade or year of elementary or secondary school attended according to the province where the education was obtained, or according to the province of residence in the event this education was received outside Canada. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **HIGHEST DEGREE, CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA**

This variable refers to the highest degree, certificate or diploma obtained. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATION CERTIFICATE**

Secondary school graduation certificate refers to the possession of a secondary school graduation certificate or its equivalent regardless of whether other educational qualifications were held or not. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **TRADES AND OTHER NON-UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATES**

Trades and other non-university certificates refers to the possession of either a trades certificate or diploma, or another non-university certificate or diploma, or both, regardless of whether other educational qualifications are held or not. This variable also indicates whether a secondary school graduation certificate was reported or not. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over.

### **UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATE ABOVE BACHELOR LEVEL**

University certificate above bachelor level refers to the possession of a university certificate or diploma above the bachelor level, regardless of whether other educational qualifications are held or not. Normally, this type of certificate is obtained following a first degree in the same field of study, or following a master's or first professional degree. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over.

### **DEGREE IN MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, VETERINARY MEDICINE OR OPTOMETRY**

This variable refers to the possession of a degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry, regardless of whether higher educational qualifications (i.e. master's or earned doctorate degrees) were held or not. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **TOTAL YEARS OF SCHOOLING**

Total years of schooling refers to the total sum of the years (or grades) of schooling at the elementary, secondary, university and other non-university levels. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **YEARS OF UNIVERSITY**

Years of university refers to the total number of completed years (or less than one year of completed courses) of education at educational institutions which confer a degree, certificate or diploma upon successful completion of a program of studies. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **YEARS OF OTHER NON-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION**

Years of other non-university education refers to the total number of completed years (or less than one year of completed courses) of training at educational institutions which do not grant degrees and are not at the elementary-school level. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY**

Major field of study refers to the predominant discipline or area of learning or training of a person's highest postsecondary degree, certificate or diploma. The major field of study classification structure consists of 10 broad or major categories: educational, recreational and counselling services; fine and applied arts; humanities and related fields; social sciences and related fields; commerce, management and business administration; agricultural and biological sciences/technologies; engineering and applied sciences; engineering and applied science technologies and trades; health professions, sciences and technologies; and mathematics and physical sciences. This structure is, in turn, subdivided into over 100 "minor" classification categories and about 425 "unit" groups. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over with a postsecondary degree, certificate or diploma, excluding institutional residents.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

School attendance refers to either full-time or part-time (day or evening) attendance at school, college or university during the nine-month period between September 1990 and June 4, 1991. Attendance is counted only for courses which could be used as credits towards a certificate, diploma or degree. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents. Attendance is excluded for courses taken for leisure, recreation or personal interest.

Information on the trends in college and university attendance by those aged 15 and over is vital for the planning and financing of postsecondary and adult education in both full-time and part-time programs.

#### **Reason Asked:**

Schooling information is necessary because finding out the educational qualifications of Canadians helps us to understand the make-up of the labour force (whether we have an abundance or a lack of human resources in a particular area). The results are used to plan schools and training programs in response to the changing technological needs of our workforce.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON SCHOOLING CHARACTERISTICS**

- (1) Annual Institutional Data - Education, Culture and Tourism Division.
- (2) Labour Force Survey - Monthly - Household Surveys Division.
- (3) Adult Education and Training Survey - 1990 - Household Surveys Division.
- (4) General Social Survey (Cycle 4 - 1989) - Work and Education - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.



I. LABOUR FORCE AND PLACE OF WORK CHARACTERISTICS

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Labour Force Activity	x	x	x	x	x
Total Labour Force	x	x	x	x	x
Employed	x	x	x	x	x
Unemployed	x	x	x	x	x
Reasons Unable to Start Work*	x	x	x		
On Temporary Lay-off or Absent from Job or Business*	x	x	x	x	x
Looked for Work in Past Four Weeks (Full- or Part-time)*	x	x	x	x	x
New Job to Start in Four Weeks or Less*	x	x	x	x	
Hours Worked in Reference Week*	x	x	x	x	x
When Last Worked*	x	x	x		x
Not in Labour Force	x	x	x	x	x
Experienced Labour Force	x	x	x		x
Inexperienced Labour Force	x	x	x		x
Unemployment Rate	x	x	x	x	x
Participation Rate	x	x	x	x	x
Employment-Population Ratio	x	x	x	x	x
Work Activity in 1990	x	x	x		
Weeks Worked in 1990*	x	x	x		x
Full-time or Part-time Weeks Worked in 1990*	x	x	x		x
Occupation (1971 Occupational Classification)	x	x	x		x
Occupation (1980 Standard Occupational Classification)	x	x	x		
Occupation (1990 National Occupational Classification)	x				

I. LABOUR FORCE AND PLACE OF WORK CHARACTERISTICS (Concluded)

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Industry (1970 Standard Industrial Classification)	x	x	x		x
Industry (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	x	x			
Class of Worker (Derived)	x	x	x		x
Class of Worker (Direct)*	x	x	x		x
Incorporation Status*	x	x	x		x
Place of Work*	x		x		x

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.



## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

Questions are asked on labour market activity in order to track trends in Canada's work place and to trace the need for the development of social, educational and economic programs. Information on the composition and characteristics of Canada's labour force is one of the most widely requested blocks of census data. These data are used by both the public and private sectors. For example, the establishment of day care programs requires labour force data so that the need for such services in specific areas can be assessed. Labour force information is also used to develop educational, human resource and communication programs.

Additional information on the number of weeks worked is important in detailing trends in seasonal and part-time work.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *Time spent on unpaid work such as child care, housework and volunteer work:* As in previous censuses, the 1991 Census form asked respondents how many hours they had worked in the previous week. They were instructed **not** to include time spent doing volunteer work, housework, maintenance or repairs for their own home.

Statistics Canada has been aware of the public's interest in data on unpaid work since the mid-1970's. In attempts to develop an appropriate census question on this topic, testing was conducted prior to the 1981 and 1991 Censuses. Respondents had difficulty responding to these questions because of the lack of a uniform understanding of what should be included as unpaid work. In addition, they had difficulty calculating the number of hours spent on these types of activities.

If the census were to ask about unpaid work, what aspects should it cover? Do users require detailed information about the types of unpaid work being undertaken, or about the time spent doing this work? Alternatively, would it be more appropriate to have one single question which, by its presence, recognizes the importance of this work and which could also be used as a filter for a more detailed follow-up survey on this topic? It is important to remember that since the census must accommodate diverse subject-matter areas while keeping respondent burden to a minimum, only a few simply worded and unambiguous questions can be asked on the census itself on any particular topic.

- b. *Work experience:* Prior to the 1991 Census, Statistics Canada tested questions on years of labour market experience. It is believed that this information in combination with information on schooling would provide additional insight into the acquisition of employee skills. Is there a need for information on work experience and if so, what specific information is required?
- c. *Multiple job holders:* The Labour Force Survey shows that increasing numbers of people hold more than one job. Is it important to identify these persons? Is this information useful even if the industry and occupation of the other job(s) is not known? Should the census collect this information?

## PLACE OF WORK

### Background

The census collects data on a person's place of work in order to gain information on employment and commuting patterns. The data represent a unique source of daytime demographic information as they enable commuting structures to be linked with other census data. Since the data show local and regional commuter flows, they allow municipal and provincial governments to determine the needs for transportation networks and improvements that should be made to existing systems.

The data collected on place of work are also used to help plan the location of other public services such as: schools, hospitals, day care centres and recreational facilities.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *The amount of detail required from the respondent:* Respondents are required to write in the address of their place of work and to include the postal code. Many people do not have this information or have incomplete information when they are filling out their census form.

Nevertheless, it is important that this level of detailed information be reported in order that the cost of filling in missing information, like postal codes, be reduced during data processing. Does the importance of this question outweigh the response burden?

- b. *The cost involved in coding the collected data:* It appears from previous consultation that there is a growing interest in coding place of work to submunicipal levels, for instance at the census tract level or for traffic zones. This is an expensive process. Is there enough demand for these data to justify such an additional expense?
- c. *Mode of transportation to work:* Other countries, notably the United States, Australia, Japan and Great Britain, collect data on the mode of transportation used to travel to and from work. The United States also collects information on time spent travelling to work. Some provinces are asking these questions on their own transportation surveys. Is there a need for this type of information and is the census the best means of collecting these data?

1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON LABOUR FORCE AND PLACE OF WORK CHARACTERISTICS

<b>WORK</b>		
<p><b>30.</b> Last week, how many hours did this person work (not including volunteer work, housework, maintenance or repairs for his/her own home)?</p> <p><i>Include as work:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working without pay in a family farm or business (e.g., assisting in seeding, doing accounts);</li> <li>• working in his/her own business, farm or professional practice, alone or in partnership;</li> <li>• working for wages, salary, tips or commission.</li> </ul>	<p>03 <input type="text"/> ← Number of hours (to the nearest hour) Go to Question 36</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>04 <input type="radio"/> None Continue with the next question</p>	<p>03 <input type="text"/> ← Number of hours (to the nearest hour) Go to Question 36</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>04 <input type="radio"/> None Continue with the next question</p>
<p><b>31.</b> Last week, was this person on temporary lay-off or absent from his/her job or business?</p> <p><i>Mark one circle only.</i></p>	<p>05 <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>06 <input type="radio"/> Yes, on temporary lay-off from a job to which this person expects to return</p> <p>07 <input type="radio"/> Yes, on vacation, ill, on strike or locked out, or absent for other reasons</p>	<p>05 <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>06 <input type="radio"/> Yes, on temporary lay-off from a job to which this person expects to return</p> <p>07 <input type="radio"/> Yes, on vacation, ill, on strike or locked out, or absent for other reasons</p>
<p><b>32.</b> Last week, did this person have definite arrangements to start a new job within the next four weeks?</p>	<p>08 <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>09 <input type="radio"/> Yes</p>	<p>08 <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>09 <input type="radio"/> Yes</p>
<p><b>33.</b> Did this person look for work during the past four weeks?</p> <p><i>For example, did this person contact a Canada Employment Centre, check with employers, place or answer newspaper ads?</i></p> <p><i>Mark one circle only.</i></p>	<p>10 <input type="radio"/> No Go to Question 35</p> <p>11 <input type="radio"/> Yes, looked for full-time work</p> <p>12 <input type="radio"/> Yes, looked for part-time work (less than 30 hours per week)</p>	<p>10 <input type="radio"/> No Go to Question 35</p> <p>11 <input type="radio"/> Yes, looked for full-time work</p> <p>12 <input type="radio"/> Yes, looked for part-time work (less than 30 hours per week)</p>

1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON LABOUR FORCE AND PLACE OF WORK CHARACTERISTICS

<p><b>34.</b> Could this person have started work last week had a job been available?  <input type="checkbox"/> available?  <i>Mark one circle only.</i></p>	<p><b>43.</b>                  01 <input type="radio"/> Yes, could have started work                  02 <input type="radio"/> No, already had a job                  03 <input type="radio"/> No, temporary illness or disability                  04 <input type="radio"/> No, personal or family responsibilities                  05 <input type="radio"/> No, going to school                  06 <input type="radio"/> No, other reasons</p>	<p><b>44.</b>                  01 <input type="radio"/> Yes, could have started work                  02 <input type="radio"/> No, already had a job                  03 <input type="radio"/> No, temporary illness or disability                  04 <input type="radio"/> No, personal or family responsibilities                  05 <input type="radio"/> No, going to school                  06 <input type="radio"/> No, other reasons</p>
<p><b>35.</b> When did this person last work, even for a few days (not including volunteer work, housework, maintenance or repairs for his/her own home)?</p>	<p>07 <input type="radio"/> In 1991                  Continue with the next question                  08 <input type="radio"/> In 1990                  Continue with the next question                  09 <input type="radio"/> Before 1990                  Go to Question 45                  10 <input type="radio"/> Never worked in lifetime                  Go to Question 45</p>	<p>07 <input type="radio"/> In 1991                  Continue with the next question                  08 <input type="radio"/> In 1990                  Continue with the next question                  09 <input type="radio"/> Before 1990                  Go to Question 45                  10 <input type="radio"/> Never worked in lifetime                  Go to Question 45</p>
<p><b>Note:</b>                  Questions 36 to 42 refer to this person's job or business last week. If this person held no job last week, answer for the job of longest duration since January 1, 1990. If this person held more than one job last week, answer for the job at which he/she worked the most hours.</p>		
<p><b>36.</b> For whom did this person work?</p>	<p>Name of firm, government agency, etc.  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>                  Department, branch, division, section or plant  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/></p>	<p>Name of firm, government agency, etc.  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>                  Department, branch, division, section or plant  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/></p>
<p><b>37.</b> What kind of business, industry or service was this?  <i>Give full description. For example, wheat farm, trapping, road maintenance, retail shoe store, secondary school, temporary help agency, municipal police.</i></p>	<p>Kind of business, industry or service  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>                  11 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Kind of business, industry or service  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>  <input type="text"/>                  11 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>



1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON LABOUR FORCE AND PLACE OF WORK CHARACTERISTICS

<p>41. In this job, was this person mainly:</p>	<p>55.</p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> working for wages, salary, tips or commission? Go to Question 43</p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> working without pay for his/her spouse or another relative in a family farm or business? Go to Question 43</p> <p>03 <input type="radio"/> self-employed without paid help (alone or in partnership)? Continue with the next question</p> <p>04 <input type="radio"/> self-employed with paid help (alone or in partnership)? Continue with the next question</p>	<p>56.</p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> working for wages, salary, tips or commission? Go to Question 43</p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> working without pay for his/her spouse or another relative in a family farm or business? Go to Question 43</p> <p>03 <input type="radio"/> self-employed without paid help (alone or in partnership)? Continue with the next question</p> <p>04 <input type="radio"/> self-employed with paid help (alone or in partnership)? Continue with the next question</p>
<p>42. If self-employed, was this person's farm or business incorporated? ■</p>	<p>05 <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>06 <input type="radio"/> Yes</p>	<p>05 <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>06 <input type="radio"/> Yes</p>
<p>43. In how many weeks did this person work in 1990? ■</p> <p><i>Include those weeks in which this person:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• was on vacation or sick leave with pay;</li> <li>• worked full time or part time;</li> <li>• worked for wages, salary, tips or commission;</li> <li>• was self-employed or an unpaid worker in a family farm or business.</li> </ul>	<p>07 <input type="radio"/> None Go to Question 45</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>08 <input type="text"/> ◀ Number of weeks Continue with the next question</p>	<p>07 <input type="radio"/> None Go to Question 45</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>08 <input type="text"/> ◀ Number of weeks Continue with the next question</p>
<p>44. During most of those weeks, did this person work full time or part time? ■</p> <p><i>Mark one circle only.</i></p>	<p>09 <input type="radio"/> Full time (30 hours or more per week)</p> <p>10 <input type="radio"/> Part time (less than 30 hours per week)</p>	<p>09 <input type="radio"/> Full time (30 hours or more per week)</p> <p>10 <input type="radio"/> Part time (less than 30 hours per week)</p>

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY**

Labour force activity refers to the labour market activity of the working age population who, in the week prior to June 4, 1991, were employed or unemployed. The remainder of the working age population is classified as not in the labour force. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

School attendance information was used in deriving labour force activity status in 1981 and in 1991 but not in 1986, since the 1986 Census questionnaire did not include a question on school attendance. School attendance information is used in determining whether persons were available for work and, therefore, in differentiating between the unemployed and not in the labour force components of the labour force activity status variable.

### **TOTAL LABOUR FORCE (IN REFERENCE WEEK)**

Total labour force (in reference week) refers to persons who were either employed or unemployed during the week prior to enumeration (June 4, 1991). It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **EMPLOYED**

The employed refers to persons who, during the week prior to June 4, 1991:

- a. did any work at all excluding housework or other maintenance or repairs around the home and volunteer work; or
- b. were absent from their job or business because of own temporary illness or disability, vacation, labour dispute at their place of work, or were absent for other reasons.

It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **UNEMPLOYED**

The unemployed refers to persons who, during the week prior to enumeration (June 4, 1991):

- a. were without work, actively looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work; or
- b. were on lay-off and expected to return to their job and were available for work; or
- c. had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less and were available for work.

It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **REASONS UNABLE TO START WORK (IN REFERENCE WEEK)**

Reasons unable to start work (in reference week) refers to whether or not persons who did not have a job in the week prior to June 4, 1991 and who actively looked for work in the four weeks prior to enumeration could have started work in that week and if not, the reasons why. It is a 2B variable and was reported for persons 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who did not have a job in the week prior to enumeration and who actively looked for work in the four weeks prior to enumeration.

### **ON TEMPORARY LAY-OFF OR ABSENT FROM JOB OR BUSINESS (IN REFERENCE WEEK)**

On temporary lay-off or absent from job or business (in reference week) refers to whether persons were, during the week prior to June 4, 1991 (i) on temporary lay-off from a job to which they expected to return, (ii) absent from their job or business during that week because of illness, vacation, a strike or lock out at their place of work, or such other reasons as maternity leave, bad weather, fire and personal or family responsibilities, including absence on training courses if receiving wages or salaries or (iii) to whether neither of these situations applied. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who did not work in the week prior to enumeration.

### **LOOKED FOR WORK IN PAST FOUR WEEKS (FULL- OR PART-TIME)**

Looked for work in past four weeks refers to whether a person actively looked for work in the four weeks prior to Census Day, either full- or part-time work (less than 30 hours a week). "Actively looked" means using such job search methods as contacting a Canada Employment Centre, checking with employers, or placing or answering newspaper ads. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who did not work in the week prior to enumeration.

### **NEW JOB TO START IN FOUR WEEKS OR LESS (FROM REFERENCE WEEK)**

New job to start in four weeks or less (from reference week) refers to whether a person had definite arrangements to start a new job within the next four weeks. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who did not work in the week prior to enumeration.

### **HOURS WORKED IN REFERENCE WEEK**

Hours worked in reference week refers to the actual number of hours that persons worked in the week prior to enumeration. It includes hours worked for wages, salaries, tips or commissions, hours worked in one's own business, farm or professional practice, or hours worked without pay in a family business or farm owned or operated by a relative living in the same household. "Work" excludes housework or other maintenance or repairs around the home and volunteer work. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **WHEN LAST WORKED**

When last worked refers to the year or period in which a person last worked at all, even for a few days. "Work" excludes housework or other maintenance or repairs around the home and volunteer work. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **NOT IN LABOUR FORCE**

Not in labour force refers to those persons who, in the week prior to enumeration, were unwilling or unable to offer or supply their labour services under conditions existing in the labour market. It includes persons who looked for work during the last four weeks but who were not available to start work in the reference week, as well as persons who did not work, did not have a new job to start in four weeks or less, were not on temporary lay-off or did not look for work in the four weeks prior to enumeration.

The "Not in the Labour Force" category is a residual group. Persons who are not "Employed" or "Unemployed" fall into this category provided they are in the population for which labour force activity is relevant. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.



### **EXPERIENCED LABOUR FORCE**

Experienced labour force refers to persons who, during the week prior to June 4, 1991, were employed or unemployed but who had worked since January 1, 1990. The experienced labour force can be derived by deleting from the total labour force those unemployed persons 15 years of age and over who have never worked or who worked only prior to January 1, 1990. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990.

The experienced labour force is a subuniverse which is frequently used when tabulating occupation, industry and class of worker data. (Only respondents who worked since January 1, 1990 were required to respond to those questions.)

The experienced labour force is not the same as the population who worked since January 1, 1990 (or does not consist of all persons who have worked since January 1, 1990). The population who worked since January 1, 1990 refers to persons who were either in or not in the labour force during the reference week and who had worked at some time since January 1, 1990. The experienced labour force refers to person who were either employed or unemployed in the reference week and who had worked at some time since January 1, 1990.

Similar data are not tabulated regularly by the Labour Force Survey as the subuniverse for which occupation, industry and class of worker data are collected in that survey includes all persons who have worked in the past five years.

### **INEXPERIENCED LABOUR FORCE**

The inexperienced labour force consists of unemployed persons 15 years of age and over who have never worked or who worked only prior to January 1, 1990. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who did not work since January 1, 1990.

The inexperienced labour force is that portion of the total labour force who has not worked since January 1, 1990. No occupation, industry or class of worker data are collected for these persons. This concept is not comparable to that used by the Labour Force Survey.

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

The unemployment rate refers to the unemployed labour force expressed as a percentage of the total labour force (in reference week). The unemployment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the number of unemployed in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that group. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **PARTICIPATION RATE**

Participation rate refers to the total labour force (in reference week) expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents. The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the labour force in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **EMPLOYMENT-POPULATION RATIO**

Employment-population ratio refers to the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents. The employment/population ratio for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the number employed in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

Reason Asked:

Labour force data are useful in the development of social and economic programs. Information on the labour force, its composition and characteristics is one of the most widely requested blocks of census data.

The census is recognized as a valuable source of detailed labour information and the only source of this information for small geographic areas. For example, federal, provincial and local day care programs require data (for small areas) on employment of persons in households and families so that they can assess the need for such services and plan for their delivery.

### **WORK ACTIVITY IN 1990**

Work activity in 1990 refers to the number of weeks in which a person worked in 1990 and whether these weeks worked were full-time or part-time. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **WEEKS WORKED IN 1990**

Weeks worked in 1990 refers to the number of weeks in 1990 during which a person worked, even if only for a few hours. It includes weeks of paid vacation or sick leave with pay or paid absence on training courses. "Work" excludes housework or other maintenance or repairs around the home and volunteer work. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WEEKS WORKED IN 1990**

Full-time or part-time weeks worked in 1990 refers to persons who worked in 1990. These persons were asked to report whether the weeks they worked in 1990 were full weeks (30 hours or more per week) of work or not. Persons with a part-time job for part of the year and a full-time job for another part of the year were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most weeks. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked in 1990.

Reason Asked:

Information on the number of weeks worked is important in evaluating trends in such areas as seasonal or part-time work.

### **OCCUPATION (BASED ON 1971 OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION)**

Occupation (based on 1971 occupational classification) refers to the kind of work persons were doing during the reference week, as determined by their kind of work and the description of the most important duties in their job. If the persons did not have a job during the week prior to enumeration, the data relate to the job of longest duration since January 1, 1990. Persons with two or more jobs were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990.

### **OCCUPATION (BASED ON 1980 STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION)**

Occupation (based on 1980 standard occupational classification) refers to the kind of work persons were doing during the reference week, as determined by their kind of work and the description of the most important duties in their job. If the person did not have a job during the week prior to enumeration, the data relate to the job of longest duration since January 1, 1990. Persons with two or more jobs were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990.

Most 1991 Census standard products present occupation data based on the 1980 SOC.

Comparisons between the Labour Force Survey and census data on occupation are possible at the major and minor group level of detail provided differences in the coverage and methodology of the two surveys are taken into consideration.

### **OCCUPATION (BASED ON 1990 NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION)**

#### **New variable in 1991**

Occupation (based on 1990 national occupational classification) refers to the kind of work persons were doing during the reference week, as determined by their kind of work and the description of the most important duties in their job. If the person did not have a job during the week prior to enumeration, the data relate to the job of longest duration since January 1, 1990. Persons with two or more jobs were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990.

The 1991 Census occupation data will be classified to a third classification structure: the 1990 National Occupational Classification (NOC). The NOC is a new classification structure unrelated to the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) or the 1971 Occupational Classification Manual (OCM).

Because of the difference in classification criteria (e.g., job training and work performed), occupation data coded to the NOC cannot be compared with data from previous censuses or the Labour Force Survey.

### **INDUSTRY (BASED ON 1970 STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION)**

Industry (based on 1970 Standard Industrial Classification) refers to the general nature of the business carried out in the establishment where the person worked, as indicated by the name of the employer and the kind of business, industry or service. If the person was not employed in the week prior to enumeration, the information relates to the job of longest duration since January 1, 1990. Persons with two or more jobs were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990.

The 1991 industry data (based on the 1970 SIC) allow direct comparison between 1991, 1986, 1981 and 1971 census data. It should be noted that some differences exist in the definition of the labour force.

### **INDUSTRY (BASED ON 1980 STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION)**

Industry (based on 1980 Standard Industrial Classification) refers to the general nature of the business carried out in the establishment where the person worked, as indicated by the name of the employer and the kind of business, industry or service. If the person was not employed in the week prior to enumeration, the information relates to the job of longest duration since January 1, 1990. Persons with two or more jobs were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990.

The industry questions request write-in responses which are subsequently coded to correspond to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). This classification consists of a systematic and comprehensive arrangement of industries

structured into divisions, major groups, groups and classes. These industrial classes are based on the general nature of the establishment's business, industry or service. For further information on the classification, see Standard Industrial Classification, 1980. Catalogue No. 12-501.

### **CLASS OF WORKER (DERIVED)**

This variable classifies persons who reported a job into those who (i) worked mainly for someone else for wages, salaries, commissions or payments "in kind", (ii) worked without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice owned or operated by a related household member, (iii) worked mainly for themselves, with or without paid help. The job reported was the one held in the week prior to enumeration if the person was employed, or the job of longest duration since January 1, 1990, if the person was not employed during the reference week. Persons with two or more jobs in the reference week were to provide information for the job at which they worked the most hours. This variable differs from **Labour: Class of Worker (Direct)** in that self-employed workers who reported that their business was incorporated have been included in the "paid worker" category. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990.

### **CLASS OF WORKER (DIRECT)**

This variable classifies persons who reported a job into those who (i) worked mainly for someone else for wages, salaries, commissions or payments "in kind", (ii) worked without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice owned or operated by a related household member, (iii) worked mainly for themselves, with or without paid help. The job reported was the one held in the week prior to enumeration if the person was employed, or the job of longest duration since January 1, 1990, if the person was not employed during the reference week. Persons with two or more jobs during the reference week were to provide information for the job at which they worked the most hours. This variable differs from **Labour: Class of Worker (Derived)** in that those persons who are self-employed in an incorporated company have not been added to the "paid worker" category. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990.

### **INCORPORATION STATUS**

Incorporation status refers to the legal status of a business or farm. It is directed at persons who were mainly self-employed, either with or without paid help in the job reported (i.e. their job in the week prior to enumeration or that of longest duration since January 1, 1990). An incorporated business is a business or farm which has been formed into a legal corporation, having a legal entity under either federal or provincial laws. An unincorporated business or farm has no separate legal entity, but may be a partnership, family business or owner-operated business. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990 and who were self-employed.

In 1991 the question on incorporation was a separate question from the Class of Worker question. No formal definition for "incorporation" was given to respondents. The question on incorporation is often used in conjunction with **Labour: Class of Worker**, since self-employed persons who reported their farm or business as incorporated can be included with paid workers in certain types of analysis.

#### Reason Asked:

Information on Class of Worker and Incorporation Status is necessary to learn about the contribution of paid and self-employed workers in various industry and occupation groups. The dependence of industries such as agriculture and retail trade on unpaid family workers can also be determined.

## PLACE OF WORK

Place of work refers to the usual place of work of non-institutional residents 15 years of age and over who have worked since January 1, 1990. The variables usually relate to the individual's job in the week prior to enumeration. However, if the person had not worked in that week but had worked since January 1, 1990, the information relates to the job held longest during that period. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents, who worked since January 1, 1990.

### Reason Asked:

Place of Work data are useful for identifying requirements for public services such as: transportation facilities, schools, hospitals, day care facilities, recreation, etc. The data are also used in the analysis of traffic patterns, public transit needs and energy use. They have a special importance in analyzing the differential growth rates of industrialization within regions and the phenomena of dispersion and decentralization of industry from the central core areas to more peripheral zones in major urban areas.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON LABOUR FORCE AND PLACE OF WORK CHARACTERISTICS**

- (1) Labour Force Survey - Monthly - Household Surveys Division.
- (2) Absence from Work Survey - Annual - Household Surveys Division.
- (3) Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours - Monthly - Labour Division.
- (4) Labour Market Activity Survey - 1990 is the last year for which data are available.
- (5) Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics - to begin in 1993.
- (6) "The Value of Household Work in Canada, 1986", Technical Series, Number 19, Reprinted from Canadian Economic Observer, June 1992 (Catalogue No. 11-010), National Accounts and Environment Division.
- (7) General Social Survey - Cycle 2 (Time Use) - 1986, Cycle 7 (Time Use), 1992 - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

J. INCOME CHARACTERISTICS

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Total Income	x	x	x		x
Employment Income	x	x	x		x
Wages and Salaries*	x	x	x		x
Net Income from Unincorporated Non-farm Business and/or Professional Practice*	x	x	x		x
Net Farm Self-employment Income*	x	x	x		x
Government Transfer Payments	x	x	x		x
Old Age Security Pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement*	x	x	x		x
Benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan*	x	x	x		x
Benefits from Unemployment Insurance*	x	x	x		
Family Allowances	x	x	x		x
Federal Child Tax Credits	x	x			
Other Income from Government Sources*	x	x	x		x
Dividends and Interest on Bonds, Deposits and Savings Certificates, and Other Investment Income*	x	x	x		x
Retirement Pensions, Superannuation and Annuities*	x	x	x		x
Other Money Income*	x	x	x		x
Composition of Income	x	x	x		x
Major Source of Income	x	x	x		x
Constant Dollars Income	x	x	x		x

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

J. INCOME CHARACTERISTICS (Concluded)

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Average Income of Individuals	x	x	x		x
Median Income of Individuals	x	x	x		x
Standard Error of Average Income	x	x	x		x
Census Family Total Income	x	x	x		x
Average Income of Census Families and Non-family Persons 15 Years of Age and Over	x	x	x		x
Median Income of Census Families and Non-family Persons 15 Years of Age and Over	x	x	x		x
Economic Family Total Income	x	x	x		x
Average Income of Economic Families and Unattached Individuals 15 Years of Age and Over	x	x	x		x
Median Income of Economic Families and Unattached Individuals 15 Years of Age and Over	x	x	x		x
Household Total Income	x	x	x		x
Average Income of Households	x	x	x		x
Median Income of Households	x	x	x		x
Income Status	x	x	x		x
Incidence of Low Income	x	x	x		x
Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs)	x	x	x		x



## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

Data concerning income are among the most widely requested data produced by the census. Information on income provides an important indicator of the well-being of Canadians and is used to develop income support programs, welfare provisions and social services. No other source -- not even income tax records -- can provide this level of detail. However, census questions on income generate many queries from respondents who consider income questions to be somewhat personal and intrusive.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *Response burden and duplication of requests for information:* Based on inquiries made by respondents following the 1991 Census, there was a widespread misunderstanding that income information asked by the census was already available from Revenue Canada Taxation and that asking respondents to recalculate sources of income places an unfair burden on them. If Statistics Canada could link tax records to those of the census, would respondents welcome this change even though doing so would require that they provide their social insurance number to the census?
- b. *After-tax income:* There is a significant difference between before- and after-tax income distributions. The impact of government programs on redistribution, poverty and inequality is much better examined by taking into account direct income taxes. Should a question on personal income tax be asked?
- c. *Weeks of unemployment in the reference year:* The impact of unemployment on the economic well-being of families could be established if such data were available. Should such a question be asked?
- d. *Addition of further income questions:* Should the 1996 Census include a separate question on social assistance and provincial income supplements?

1991 CENSUS QUESTION ON INCOME CHARACTERISTICS

INCOME IN 1990	61.	62.
<p>45. During the year ending December 31, 1990, did this person receive any income or suffer any loss from the sources listed below?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer "Yes" or "No" for all sources.</li> <li>• If "Yes", also enter the amount; in case of a loss, also mark "Loss".</li> <li>• Do not include Family Allowances and Child Tax Credits.</li> <li>• Consult the Guide for details.</li> </ul>		
(a) Total wages and salaries including commissions, bonuses, tips, etc., before any deductions	<p>Dollars Cents</p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Dollars Cents</p> <p>01 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>02 <input type="radio"/> No</p>
(b) Net income from unincorporated non-farm business, professional practice, etc., on own account or in partnership (gross receipts minus expenses)	<p>03 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>05 <input type="radio"/> No                      04 <input type="radio"/> Loss</p>	<p>03 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>05 <input type="radio"/> No                      04 <input type="radio"/> Loss</p>
(c) Net farm self-employment income from agricultural operations on own account or in partnership (gross receipts minus expenses)	<p>06 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>08 <input type="radio"/> No                      07 <input type="radio"/> Loss</p>	<p>06 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>08 <input type="radio"/> No                      07 <input type="radio"/> Loss</p>
(d) Old Age Security Pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement from federal government only (provincial income supplements should be reported in (g))	<p>09 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>10 <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>09 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>10 <input type="radio"/> No</p>
(e) Benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan	<p>11 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>12 <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>11 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>12 <input type="radio"/> No</p>
(f) Benefits from Unemployment Insurance (total benefits before tax deductions)	<p>13 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>14 <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>13 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>14 <input type="radio"/> No</p>
(g) Other income from government sources including provincial income supplements and grants and social assistance, e.g., veterans' pensions, workers' compensation, welfare payments (do not include Family Allowances and Child Tax Credits)	<p>15 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>16 <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>15 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>16 <input type="radio"/> No</p>
(h) Dividends and interest on bonds, deposits and savings certificates, and other investment income, e.g., net rents from real estate, interest from mortgages	<p>17 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>19 <input type="radio"/> No                      18 <input type="radio"/> Loss</p>	<p>17 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>19 <input type="radio"/> No                      18 <input type="radio"/> Loss</p>
(i) Retirement pensions, superannuation and annuities	<p>20 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>21 <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>20 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>21 <input type="radio"/> No</p>
(j) Other money income, e.g., alimony, scholarships	<p>22 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>23 <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>22 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>23 <input type="radio"/> No</p>
(k) TOTAL INCOME from all of the above sources	<p>24 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>26 <input type="radio"/> No                      25 <input type="radio"/> Loss</p>	<p>24 <input type="radio"/> Yes ▶ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>26 <input type="radio"/> No                      25 <input type="radio"/> Loss</p>

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **TOTAL INCOME**

Total income refers to the total money income received from the following sources during the calendar year 1990 by persons 15 years of age and over:

- Total wages and salaries
- Net income from unincorporated non-farm business and/or professional practice
- Net farm self-employment income
- Family Allowances
- Federal Child Tax Credits
- Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan
- Benefits from Unemployment Insurance
- Other income from government sources
- Dividends and interest on bonds, deposits, savings certificates and other investment income
- Retirement pensions, superannuation and annuities
- Other money income

It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

In all censuses, income received by immigrants prior to their arrival in Canada was not included in "Total Income".

In all censuses, the income concept excluded gambling gains and losses, lottery prizes, money inherited during the year in a lump sum, capital gains or losses, receipts from the sale of property, income tax refunds, loan payments received, lump-sum settlements of insurance policies, rebates received on property taxes, refunds of pension contributions as well as all income "in kind" such as free meals, living accommodations, or agricultural products produced and consumed on the farm.

### **EMPLOYMENT INCOME**

Employment income refers to total income received by persons 15 years of age and over during 1990 as wages and salaries, net income from unincorporated non-farm business and/or professional practice and net farm self-employment income. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **WAGES AND SALARIES**

This variable refers to gross wages and salaries before deductions for such items as income tax, pensions, unemployment insurance, etc. Included in this source are military pay and allowances, tips, commissions and cash bonuses, as well as all types of casual earnings in the 1990 calendar year. The value of taxable allowances and benefits provided by employers, such as free lodging and free automobile use, is excluded. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **NET INCOME FROM UNINCORPORATED NON-FARM BUSINESS AND/OR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

Net income from unincorporated non-farm business and/or professional practice refers to net income (gross receipts minus expenses of operation such as wages, rents and depreciation) received during calendar year 1990 from the respondent's non-farm unincorporated business or professional practice. In the case of a partnership, only the respondent's share was to be reported. Also included is net income from persons baby-sitting in their own homes, operators of direct distributorships such as those selling and delivering cosmetics, as well as from free-lance activities of artists, writers, music teachers, hairdressers, dressmakers, etc. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **NET FARM SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME**

Net farm self-employment income refers to net income (gross receipts from farm sales minus depreciation and cost of operation) received during calendar year 1990 from the operation of a farm, either on own account or in partnership. In the case of partnerships, only the respondent's share of income was to be reported. Also included are advance, supplementary or assistance payments to farmers by federal or provincial governments. However, the value of income "in kind", such as agricultural products produced and consumed on the farm, is excluded. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **GOVERNMENT TRANSFER PAYMENTS**

Government transfer payments refers to total income from all transfer payments received from federal, provincial or municipal governments in calendar year 1990. This variable is derived by summing the amounts in:

- the Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement
- benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan
- benefits from Unemployment Insurance
- Family Allowances
- federal Child Tax Credits
- other income from government sources.

It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **OLD AGE SECURITY PENSION AND GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT**

This variable refers to Old Age Security pensions and Guaranteed Income Supplements paid to persons 65 years of age and over, and Spouses' Allowances paid to 60- to 64-year-old spouses of Old Age Security recipients by the federal government only during the calendar year 1990. Also included are Extended Spouses' Allowances paid to 60- to 64-year-old widows/widowers. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

Provincial income supplements and retirement pensions to civil servants, RCMP and military personnel are not included.

### **BENEFITS FROM CANADA OR QUEBEC PENSION PLAN**

Benefits from Canada or Quebec pension plan refers to benefits received in calendar year 1990 from the Canada or Quebec Pension Plan, e.g., retirement pensions, survivors' benefits and disability pensions. Does not include lump sum death benefits. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **BENEFITS FROM UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

Benefits from unemployment insurance refers to total Unemployment Insurance benefits received in calendar year 1990, before income tax deductions. It includes benefits for sickness, maternity, fishing, work sharing, retraining and retirement received under the Federal Unemployment Insurance Program. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

### **FAMILY ALLOWANCES**

Family allowances refers to total allowances paid in calendar year 1990 by the federal and provincial governments in respect of dependent children under 18 years of age. For Quebec residents, "Allowance for children less than 6 years of age" and "Allowance for newborn children" are included. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

No information was collected from the respondents on family allowances. Instead, these were calculated in the course of processing and assigned, where applicable, to one of the parents in the census family on the basis of information on children in the family and the rates prevailing in the various provinces in 1990.

#### **FEDERAL CHILD TAX CREDITS**

Federal child tax credits refers to federal Child Tax Credits paid in calendar year 1990 by the federal government in respect of dependent children under 18 years of age. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

No information was collected from the respondents on Child Tax Credits. Instead, these were calculated in the course of processing and assigned, where applicable, to one of the parents in the census family on the basis of information on children in the family and the family income.

#### **OTHER INCOME FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES**

Other income from government sources refers to all transfer payments, excluding those covered as a separate income source (Family Allowances, Federal Child Tax Credits, Old Age Security pensions and Guaranteed Income Supplements, Canada or Quebec Pension Plan benefits and Unemployment Insurance benefits) received from federal, provincial or municipal programs in calendar year 1990. This source includes social assistance payments received by persons in need, such as mothers with dependent children, persons temporarily or permanently unable to work, elderly individuals, the blind and the disabled. Included are provincial income supplement payments to seniors to supplement the Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement and provincial payments to seniors to help offset accommodation costs. Also included are other transfer payments such as benefits under the Canadian Jobs Strategy, veterans' pensions, war veterans' allowance, pensions to widows and dependants of veterans and workers compensation. Additionally, any amounts received in 1990 for refundable Provincial Tax Credits, Federal Sales Tax Credits and the Federal Goods and Services Tax Credits are included. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

#### **DIVIDENDS AND INTEREST ON BONDS, DEPOSITS AND SAVINGS CERTIFICATES, AND OTHER INVESTMENT INCOME**

Dividends and interest on bonds, deposits and savings certificates, and other investment income refers to interest received in calendar year 1990 from deposits in banks, trust companies, co-operatives, credit unions, caisse populaires, etc., as well as interest on savings certificates, bonds and debentures and all dividends from both Canadian and foreign stocks. Also included is other investment income from either Canadian or foreign sources such as net rents from real estate, mortgage and loan interest received, regular income from an estate or trust fund, and interest from insurance policies. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents. The responses may be either positive or negative dollar values or nil.

#### **RETIREMENT PENSIONS, SUPERANNUATION AND ANNUITIES**

Retirement pensions, superannuation and annuities refers to all regular income received during calendar year 1990 as the result of having been a member of a pension plan of one or more employers. It includes payments received from all annuities, including payments from a matured Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) in the form of a life annuity, a fixed term annuity, a registered retirement income fund or an income-averaging annuity contract; pensions paid to widows or other relatives of deceased pensioners; pensions of retired civil servants, Armed Forces personnel and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers; annuity payments received from the Canadian Government Annuities Fund, an insurance company, etc. Does not include lump sum death benefits, lump sum benefits or withdrawals from a pension plan or RRSP or refunds of over-contributions. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

## **OTHER MONEY INCOME**

Other money income refers to regular cash income received during calendar year 1990 and not reported in any of the other nine sources listed on the questionnaire, e.g., alimony, child support, periodic support from other persons not in the household, net income from roomers and boarders, income from abroad (except dividends and interest), non-refundable scholarships and bursaries, severance pay, royalties and strike pay. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

## **COMPOSITION OF INCOME**

The composition of the total income of a population group or a geographic area refers to the relative share of each income source or group of sources, expressed as a percentage of the aggregate income of that group or area. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over with income, excluding institutional residents.

## **MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME**

Major source of income refers to that component which constitutes the largest proportion of an income recipient's total income. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

Various combinations of income sources can be used to derive this classification. For example, at the most detailed published level, the income sources were combined into five components: wages and salaries, self-employment (non-farm and farm), government transfer payments, investment income and other income. The absolute values for these components can then be compared and the component with the largest absolute value is designated as the major source of income.

## **CONSTANT DOLLARS INCOME**

Constant dollars income refers to the presentation of income statistics from two or more censuses in terms of the value of the dollar in one of those censuses. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over with income, excluding institutional residents.

To convert the 1985 incomes into 1990 dollars, the 1985 values were revised upwards by the change in the consumer price index between 1985 and 1990.

## **AVERAGE INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS**

Average income of individuals refers to the weighted mean total income of individuals 15 years of age and over who reported income for 1990. Average income is calculated from unrounded data by dividing the aggregate income of a specified group of individuals (e.g., males, 45-54 years of age) by the number of individuals with income in that group. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over with income, excluding institutional residents.

Average and median incomes and standard errors for average income of individuals will be calculated for those individuals who are at least 15 years of age and who have an income (positive or negative). For all other universes, those statistics will be calculated over all units whether or not they reported any income.

## **MEDIAN INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS**

The median income of a specified group of income recipients is that amount which divides their income size distribution into two halves, i.e. the incomes of the first half of individuals are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over with income, excluding institutional residents.

#### **STANDARD ERROR OF AVERAGE INCOME**

Standard error of average income refers to the estimated standard error of average income for an income size distribution. It serves as a rough indicator of the precision of the corresponding estimate of average income, if interpreted as shown below. For about 68% of the samples which could be selected from the sample frame, the difference between the sample estimate of average income and the corresponding figure based on complete enumeration would be less than one standard error. For about 95% of the possible samples, the difference would be less than two standard errors and, in about 99% of the samples, the difference would be approximately two and a half times the standard error. It is a 2B variable and was reported for the population 15 years of age and over with income, excluding institutional residents.

#### **CENSUS FAMILY TOTAL INCOME**

The total income of a census family is the sum of the total incomes of all members of that family. It is a 2B variable and was reported for census families in private households.

#### **AVERAGE INCOME OF CENSUS FAMILIES AND NON-FAMILY PERSONS 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER**

Average census family income refers to the weighted mean total income of census families in 1990. It is a 2B variable and was reported for census families and non-family persons 15 years of age and over.

#### **MEDIAN INCOME OF CENSUS FAMILIES AND NON-FAMILY PERSONS 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER**

The median income of a specified group of census families or non-family persons 15 years of age and over is that amount which divides their income size distribution into two halves, i.e. the incomes of the first half of the families or non-family persons are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median. It is a 2B variable and was reported for census families and non-family persons 15 years of age and over.

#### **ECONOMIC FAMILY TOTAL INCOME**

The total income of an economic family is the sum of the total incomes of all members of that family. It is a 2B variable and was reported for economic families in private households.

#### **AVERAGE INCOME OF ECONOMIC FAMILIES AND UNATTACHED INDIVIDUALS 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER**

Average economic family income refers to the weighted mean total income of economic families in 1990. It is a 2B variable and was reported for economic families and unattached individuals 15 years of age and over.

#### **MEDIAN INCOME OF ECONOMIC FAMILIES AND UNATTACHED INDIVIDUALS 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER**

The median income of a specified group of economic families or unattached individuals 15 years of age and over is that amount which divides their income size distribution into two halves, i.e. the incomes of the first half of the families or unattached individuals are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median. It is a 2B variable and was reported for economic families and unattached individuals 15 years of age and over.

#### **HOUSEHOLD TOTAL INCOME**

The total income of a household is the sum of the total incomes of all members of that household. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households.

### **AVERAGE INCOME OF HOUSEHOLDS**

Average household income refers to the weighted mean total income of households in 1990. It is a 2B variable and was reported for households.

Average and median incomes of households and the corresponding standard error for average income are normally calculated for all units in the specified group, whether or not they reported income.

### **MEDIAN INCOME OF HOUSEHOLDS**

The median income of a specified group of households is that amount which divides their income size distribution into two halves, i.e. the incomes of the first half of households are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median. It is a 2B variable and was reported for households.

Average and median incomes of households and the corresponding standard error for average income are normally calculated for all units in the specified group, whether or not they reported income.

### **INCOME STATUS**

Income status refers to the position of an economic family or an unattached individual 15 years of age and over in relation to Statistics Canada's low income cut-offs (LICOs). It is a 2B variable and was reported for economic families and unattached individuals 15 years of age and over in private households.

### **INCIDENCE OF LOW INCOME**

The incidence of low income is the proportion or percentage of economic families or unattached individuals in a given classification below the low-income cut-offs. These incidence rates are calculated from unrounded estimates of economic families and unattached individuals 15 years of age and over. It is a 2B variable and was reported for economic families and unattached individuals 15 years of age and over in private households.

### **LOW INCOME CUT-OFFS (LICOs)**

Measures of low income known as low income cut-offs (LICOs) were first introduced in Canada in 1968 based on 1961 Census income data and 1959 family expenditure patterns. At that time, expenditure patterns indicated that Canadian families spend about 50% of their income on food, shelter and clothing. It was arbitrarily estimated that families spending 70% or more of their income on these basic necessities would be in "straitened" circumstances. With this assumption, low income cut-off points were set for five different sizes of families.

Subsequent to these initial cut-offs, revised low income cut-offs were established based on national family expenditure data from 1969, 1978 and 1986. These data indicated that Canadian families spent, on average, 42% in 1969, 38.5% in 1978 and 36.2% in 1986 of their income on basic necessities. By adding the original difference of 20 percentage points to the basic level of expenditure on necessities, new low income cut-offs were set at income levels differentiated by family size and degree of urbanization. Since then, these cut-offs have been updated yearly by changes in the consumer price index.

This is reported for economic families and unattached individuals 15 years of age and over in private households.



Reason Asked:

Information on income provides the most important indicator of the well-being of Canadians: of men and women, young and old, of trades and office workers, artists and scientists and of families and households. No other source - not even income tax records - can provide this level of detail.

Governments use the detailed analysis made possible by the census to develop income support programs, welfare provisions and social services.

Businesses use census income data in marketing products, in locating retail and wholesale sites near the appropriate groups of consumers, and in developing new products and services.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON INCOME CHARACTERISTICS**

- (1) Family Expenditure Survey - Biennial - Household Surveys Division.
- (2) Survey of Consumer Finances - Annual - Household Surveys Division.
- (3) Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries - Labour Division.
- (4) Revenue Canada-Taxation and other administrative data files - Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

**K. HOUSEHOLD AND DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS**

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Owner's Major Payments	x	x	x		
Monthly Mortgage Payment*	x	x	x		
Rent, Gross	x	x	x		x
Rent, Monthly Cash*	x	x	x		x
Owner's Major Payments or Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income	x	x	x		
Property Taxes Included in Mortgage Payments*	x	x	x		
Annual Property Taxes*	x	x	x		
Condominium Fees*	x				
Annual Payment for Electricity*	x	x	x		x
Annual Payment for Oil, Gas, Coal, Wood or Other Fuels*	x	x	x		x
Annual Payment for Water and Other Municipal Services*	x	x	x		x
Tenure*	x	x	x	x	x
Tenure - Condominium*	x	x	x		
Household Maintainer(s)	x	x	x		
Primary Household Maintainer	x				
Number of Household Maintainers	x				
Household Size	x	x	x	x	x
Household Type	x	x	x	x	x
Number of Persons per Room	x	x	x		x

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

**K. HOUSEHOLD AND DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS (Concluded)**

1991 VARIABLES SHOWING HISTORICAL AVAILABILITY	Census Years				
	1991	1986	1981	1976	1971
Structural Type of Dwelling*	x	x	x	x	x
Period of Construction*	x	x	x		x
Condition of Dwelling*	x		x		
Value of Dwelling*	x	x	x		x
Number of Rooms*	x	x	x		x
Number of Bedrooms*	x				x

VARIABLES NOT AVAILABLE IN 1991 BUT AVAILABLE IN PREVIOUS YEARS	Census Years			
	1986	1981	1976	1971
Number of Bathrooms		x		
Heating Equipment	x	x		x
Fuel Used for Cooking				x
Fuel Used for Heating	x	x		x
Fuel Used for Water		x		x
Reason for Unoccupied Dwelling	x		x	

\* Variables indicated with an asterisk are direct variables. All others are derived.

## BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### Background

In addition to information on the population, the census also collects information on the country's household composition and housing stock.

### Points for Discussion

- a. *Household expense questions:* Support for a change to the person responsible for household payments by allowing joint-sharing or equal/unequal sharing to be indicated has been expressed in previous consultations. If such a question would require the addition of a new mark-box, would the resulting information justify the additional cost?
- b. *Changing lifestyles require different housing options:* As middle-age children become responsible for the care of their aging parents, is there a need to collect more detailed information on granny flats, basement suites or self-contained suites for dependent family members? Is there a need for data on the housing choices of seniors who divide their time between a permanent home in Canada and a winter residence (or mobile home) in a warmer climate?
- c. *Increased detail on condominiums as a housing option:* Information on condominium fees was first collected in 1991; should it be retained? Is it necessary to collect information on the structural type of condominiums?
- d. *Heating and cooling equipment:* As the result of a lack of interest expressed during 1991 Census consultations, specific heating fuel questions were dropped from the census although provincial environment ministries later indicated that this might have been premature. Can information on heating fuels be collected from administrative records or other surveys? Should this question be reinstated on the 1996 Census? Is there a need for information on air-conditioning equipment or heat pumps?
- e. *Number of rooms and condition of the dwelling:* Asking respondents about the number of specific rooms (bedrooms or bathrooms) is often perceived to be a personal question. Is the census the most effective means for collecting such data? Condition of dwelling was asked in 1981 and 1991; should it be included in 1996?
- f. *Identifying special housing needs:* Is it useful to add questions to the census to identify the existence of housing either already modified or required for special needs groups, for instance seniors and the disabled?
- g. *Information on renovations:* Would a question concerning renovations made on a dwelling in the past year be useful to the home-building or construction industries?



1991 CENSUS QUESTIONS ON HOUSEHOLD AND DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS

<p><b>H2. Is this dwelling:</b> <i>Mark one circle only.</i></p>	<p>08 <input type="radio"/> owned by you or a member of this household (even if it is still being paid for)?</p> <p>09 <input type="radio"/> rented (even if no cash rent is paid)?</p>
<p><b>H3. (a) How many rooms are there in this dwelling?</b> <i>Include kitchen, bedrooms, finished rooms in attic or basement, etc. Do not count bathrooms, halls, vestibules and rooms used solely for business purposes.</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>(b) How many of these rooms are bedrooms?</b></p>	<p>10 <input type="text"/> ← Number of rooms</p> <p>11 <input type="text"/> ← Number of bedrooms</p>
<p><b>H4. When was this dwelling originally built?</b> <i>Mark the period in which the building was completed, not the time of any later remodeling, additions or conversions. If year is not known, give best estimate.</i></p>	<p>12 <input type="radio"/> 1920 or before      16 <input type="radio"/> 1971-1980</p> <p>13 <input type="radio"/> 1921-1945      17 <input type="radio"/> 1981-1985</p> <p>14 <input type="radio"/> 1946-1960      18 <input type="radio"/> 1986-1990</p> <p>15 <input type="radio"/> 1961-1970      19 <input type="radio"/> 1991</p>
<p><b>H5. Is this dwelling in need of any repairs?</b> <i>(Do not include desirable remodeling or additions.)</i></p>	<p>20 <input type="radio"/> No, only regular maintenance is needed (painting, furnace cleaning, etc.)</p> <p>21 <input type="radio"/> Yes, minor repairs are needed (missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles, defective steps, railing or siding, etc.)</p> <p>22 <input type="radio"/> Yes, major repairs are needed (defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc.)</p>





## **DEFINITIONS**

### **OWNER'S MAJOR PAYMENTS**

Owner's major payments refers to the total average monthly payments made by owner households to secure shelter.

Owner's major payments include payments for electricity, oil, gas, coal, wood or other fuels, water and other municipal services, monthly mortgage payments, property taxes (municipal and school) and, for 1991 only, condominium fees. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in owner-occupied non-farm dwellings.

Owner's major payments is not strictly comparable to previous censuses due to the inclusion, for the first time, of condominium fees. The impact should be small (5% of owners), but could be noticeable at small geographic levels in large urban areas.

No data are available on the individual components of this variable; only the total of the main expenses is published.

Published data are further restricted to non-reserve dwellings.

### **MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT**

This variable refers to regular monthly mortgage or debt payments for the dwelling. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in owner-occupied non-farm dwellings.

### **RENT, GROSS**

This variable refers to the total average monthly payments paid by tenant households to secure shelter. Gross rent includes payments for electricity, oil, gas, coal, wood or other fuels, water and other municipal services and monthly cash rent. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in tenant-occupied non-farm dwellings.

No data are available on the individual components of this variable (except for the monthly cash rent). Only data on the total of the main rental expenses (gross rent) is published.

Published data are further restricted to non-reserve dwellings.

### **RENT, MONTHLY CASH**

This variable refers to the regular monthly cash rent paid by tenant households. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in tenant-occupied non-farm dwellings.

### **OWNER'S MAJOR PAYMENTS OR GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

Owners major payments or gross rent as a percentage of household income refers to the proportion of average monthly 1990 total household income which is spent on owner's major payments (in the case of owner-occupied dwellings) or on gross rent (in the case of tenant-occupied dwellings). It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in owner/tenant-occupied non-farm dwellings.

Published data are further restricted to non-reserve dwellings.

## **PROPERTY TAXES INCLUDED IN MORTGAGE PAYMENTS**

Property taxes included in mortgage payments refers to whether property taxes (municipal and school) are included in the total regular monthly mortgage or debt payments for a dwelling. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in owner-occupied non-farm dwellings.

## **ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES**

This variable refers to yearly property taxes (municipal and school) for an owner-occupied dwelling. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in owner-occupied non-farm dwellings.

## **CONDOMINIUM FEES**

**New variable in 1991**

Condominium fees refers to monthly payments for maintenance and various condominium services. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in owner-occupied non-farm dwellings and forming part of a registered condominium.

## **ANNUAL PAYMENT FOR ELECTRICITY**

This variable refers to yearly payments (last 12 months) for electricity. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in non-farm dwellings.

## **ANNUAL PAYMENT FOR OIL, GAS, COAL, WOOD OR OTHER FUELS**

This variable refers to yearly payments (last 12 months) for oil, gas, coal, wood or other fuels. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in non-farm dwellings.

## **ANNUAL PAYMENT FOR WATER AND OTHER MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

This variable refers to yearly payments (last 12 months) for water and other municipal services. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in non-farm dwellings.

## **TENURE**

Tenure refers to whether some member of the household owns or rents the dwelling, or whether the dwelling is band housing (on an Indian reserve or settlement). It is a 2A variable and was reported for all private households.

Tenure has changed substantially since 1986, and will not be comparable on Indian reserves due to the inclusion of a third form of tenure, "Band Housing", on reserves. Off reserves, there should be no problem. As for understanding housing on reserves, the new variable should be far superior to the old one.

## **TENURE - CONDOMINIUM**

Tenure - condominium refers to whether or not the dwelling is part of a registered condominium. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households in owner-occupied private non-farm dwellings.

The counts of condominiums do not include a substantial number of renter-occupied condos. The universe is strictly owner-occupied.

Published data are further restricted to non-reserve dwellings.

## HOUSEHOLD MAINTAINER(s)

Household maintainer(s) refers to the person or persons in the household who pay the rent, or the mortgage, or the taxes, or the electricity, etc., for the dwelling. If no person in the household is responsible for such payments, Person 1 is considered to be the only household maintainer. It is a 2A variable and was reported for private households.

## PRIMARY HOUSEHOLD MAINTAINER

New variable in 1991

This variable refers to the first person in the household identified as being the household maintainer. It is a 2A variable and was reported for private households.

The concept of Primary Household Maintainer is perfectly equivalent to that of household maintainer. What's new and different in 1991 is that one can find those households where more than one person contributes (number of maintainers), and one can look at the characteristics of these persons.

## NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD MAINTAINERS

New variable in 1991

Number of household maintainers refers to the number of persons of the same household who have been identified as household maintainers. It is a 2A variable and was reported for all private households.

### Reason Asked:

Shelter is one of the basic necessities of life and these questions are asked in order to evaluate present conditions and future housing needs. The data compiled from these questions are used by municipal planners, provincial housing ministries, developers, and members of the construction and real estate industries.

## HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household size refers to the number of persons in a private household. It is a 2A variable and was reported for private households.

## HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Household type refers to the basic division of private households into family and non-family households. Family household refers to a household that contains at least one census family, that is a married couple with or without never-married sons or daughters, or a couple living common-law with or without never-married sons or daughters, or a lone-parent living with one or more never-married sons or daughters (single-parent family). One-family household refers to a single census family (with or without other non-family persons) that occupies a private dwelling. Multiple family household refers to one in which two or more census families (with or without additional non-family persons) occupy the same private dwelling.

Non-family household refers to either one person living alone in a private dwelling or to a group of two or more people who share a private dwelling, but who do not constitute a census family. It is a 2A variable and was reported for private households.

This variable has more categories, although published data usually will not reflect this. Specifically, new detail is available through the distinction between husband-wife and common-law couple family households (possible in 1986 but not

reliable), and through the distinction between "secondary family of a maintainer" and "secondary family of a non-maintainer" types of households.

#### **NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ROOM**

Number of persons per room refers to the number of persons per room in a dwelling. It is a 2B variable and was reported for private households.

#### **STRUCTURAL TYPE OF DWELLING**

Structural type of dwelling refers to the structural characteristics and/or dwelling configuration, that is, whether the dwelling is a detached single house, apartment in a high-rise building, a row house, a mobile home, etc. It is a 2A variable and was reported for all occupied private dwellings.

#### **PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION**

Period of construction refers to the period in time during which the building or dwelling was originally constructed. It is a 2B variable and was reported for occupied private dwellings.

#### **CONDITION OF DWELLING**

Condition of dwelling refers to whether, in the judgement of the respondent, the dwelling requires any repairs (excluding desirable remodelling or additions). It is a 2B variable and was reported for occupied private dwellings.

#### Reason Asked:

Information such as period of construction and state of repair is important for evaluating the quality of Canada's housing stock and for identifying the need for neighbourhood improvement programs. Further structural type of dwelling, period of construction, condition of dwelling, value of dwelling, number of rooms/bedrooms, etc., all help to identify and characterize neighbourhoods and communities.

#### **VALUE OF DWELLING**

Value of dwelling refers to the dollar amount expected by the owner if the dwelling were to be sold. It is a 2B variable and was reported for owner-occupied non-farm dwellings.

#### **ROOMS**

This variable refers to the number of rooms in a dwelling. A room is an enclosed area within a dwelling which is finished and suitable for year-round living. It is a 2B variable and was reported for occupied private dwellings.

#### **BEDROOMS**

Bedrooms refers to all rooms designed and furnished as bedrooms and used mainly for sleeping purposes, even though the use may be occasional (i.e. spare bedroom). It is a 2B variable and was reported for occupied private dwellings.

Reason Asked:

Information on the number of rooms/bedrooms in houses across Canada, when combined with data on the number of persons in households as well as shelter costs, provides another dimension for measuring the economic situation of Canadian families and, in particular, for measuring crowding and the quality of life.

**OTHER STATISTICS CANADA SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
ON HOUSEHOLD AND DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS**

- (1) Household Facilities and Equipment Survey - Annual - Household Surveys Division.
- (2) Family Expenditure Survey - Biennial - Household Surveys Division.
- (3) Survey of Consumer Finances - Annual - Household Surveys Division.
- (4) Household Income, Facilities and Equipment (H.I.F.E.): Linked Data Base System - Annual - Household Surveys Division.
- (5) Labour Force Survey - Monthly - Household Surveys Division.
- (6) Shelter Cost Survey - Triennial - Household Surveys Division.
- (7) General Social Survey - (Cycle 5 - 1990) - Changes in Canadian Family Structures - Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
- (8) Building Permits Survey - Monthly - Investment and Capital Stock Division.

## L. EDITING AND IMPUTING DATA TO RESOLVE ERROR AND NON-RESPONSE

### BACKGROUND AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

#### Background

For the 1996 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada would like to achieve a more timely release of census information while maintaining low collection, processing and dissemination costs.

Processing activities are seen as having the greatest potential for reducing overall time and cost requirements. In addressing this objective, alternate strategies are being considered, including increased automated coding for write-in responses and an earlier start to editing the data.

Historically, most of the census variables have been edited to identify all occurrences of illogical and inconsistent responses as well as non-response. All identified errors have then been corrected through imputation, an automated process where appropriate values are found to replace the error or missing value.

Imputation can create further editing failures. There are difficulties in anticipating all possible permutations of responses and there is subjectivity in devising corrective actions. The costs and delays between collection and release increase relative to the extent of editing and imputation.

Users of Canadian census data have become accustomed to waiting up to two years after collection for the release of data. They have however been able to expect that census data will not contain blank or invalid responses.

#### **Options for Edit and Imputation to Reduce Release Period**

In order to minimize processing time, Statistics Canada is exploring the possibility of reducing the scope of editing and imputation to satisfy the minimal level of quality and convenience acceptable to data users. Among the options being considered are:

- a. Statistics Canada would assign missing or invalid responses to a "not stated" category and would not attempt to resolve inconsistent but otherwise valid responses.
- b. As in a. except that variables needed to identify key target populations would be imputed or corrected.
- c. Resolve errors as done for the 1991 Census, except that greater use would be made of probability imputation instead of complex deterministic resolution of errors.

Points for Discussion

- a. Would assignment of blanks or invalid responses to a "not stated" category be acceptable for all variables?
- b. If not, are there any variables for which this approach would be acceptable?
- c. Would the inclusion of logically incorrect combinations of responses in cross tabulations be acceptable?
- d. Would some loss of data quality resulting from probabilistic rather than deterministic imputations be acceptable?
- e. Would such changes in editing and imputation cause unacceptable disruption to time series?



## Regional Reference Centres

Statistics Canada's Regional Reference Centres provide a full range of census products and services. Each reference centre is equipped with a library and a sales counter where users can consult or purchase publications, microcomputer diskettes, microfiche, maps and more.

The staff of the Regional Reference Centres provide consultative and research services in addition to providing after-sales service and support, including seminars and workshops on the use of Statistics Canada information.

Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from Statistics Canada's computerized data retrieval systems CANSIM and TELICHART. A telephone inquiry service is also available with toll-free numbers for regional users outside local calling areas. Call, write, fax or visit the nearest Regional Reference Centre for more information.

### Atlantic Provinces

Statistics Canada  
Advisory Services  
North American Life Centre  
3rd Floor  
1770 Market Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3M3  
Local calls: 902-426-5331  
Toll free: 1-800-565-7192  
Fax: 1-902-426-9538

### Quebec

Statistics Canada  
Advisory Services  
200 René-Lévesque Blvd. West  
Guy-Favreau Complex  
4th floor, East Tower  
Montréal, Quebec  
H2Z 1X4  
Local calls: 514-283-5725  
Toll free: 1-800-361-2831  
Fax: 1-514-283-9350

### National Capital Region

Statistics Canada  
Statistical Reference Centre  
Lobby  
R.H. Coats Building  
Tunney's Pasture  
Holland Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0T6  
Local calls: 613-951-8116  
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dial the toll-free number for  
your province.  
Fax: 1-613-951-0581

### Ontario

Statistics Canada  
Advisory Services  
10th Floor  
Arthur Meighen Building  
25 St. Clair Avenue East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4T 1M4  
Local calls: 416-973-6586  
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-416-973-7475

### Manitoba

Statistics Canada  
Advisory Services  
Suite 300  
MacDonald Building  
344 Edmonton Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3B 3L9  
Local calls: 204-983-4020  
Toll free: 1-800-542-3404  
Fax: 1-204-983-7543

### Saskatchewan

Statistics Canada  
Advisory Services  
9th Floor  
Avord Tower  
2002 Victoria Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4P 0R7  
Local calls: 306-780-5405  
Toll free: 1-800-667-7164  
Fax: 1-306-780-5403

### Alberta and Northwest Territories

Statistics Canada  
Advisory Services  
8th Floor  
Park Square  
10001 Bellamy Hill  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 3B6  
Local calls: 403-495-3027  
Toll free: 1-800-282-3907  
N.W.T.: Call collect 1-403-495-3028  
Fax: 1-403-495-3026

### Southern Alberta

Statistics Canada  
Advisory Services  
Room 401  
First Street Plaza  
138-4th Avenue South East  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2G 4Z6  
Local calls: 403-292-6717  
Toll free: 1-800-472-9708  
Fax: 1-403-292-4958

### British Columbia and Yukon

Statistics Canada  
Advisory Services  
Suite 440F  
3rd Floor  
Federal Building  
Sinclair Centre  
757 West Hastings St.  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V6C 3C9  
Local calls: 604-666-3691  
Toll free: 1-800-663-1551  
(except Atlin, B.C.)  
**Yukon and Atlin, B.C.**  
Zenith 08913  
Fax: 1-604-666-4863

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The Statistics Canada Library in Ottawa maintains complete current and historical records of all Statistics Canada publications, both catalogued and non-catalogued. The library staff is available to help users find the required information.

Statistics Canada Library  
R.H. Coats Building, 2nd Floor  
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Ottawa, Ontario  
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Bibliothèque  
Montréal, Quebec  
H2L 4S6

##### Québec

National Assembly Library  
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G1A 1A5

##### Sherbrooke

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Cité universitaire  
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J1K 2R1

##### Sainte-Foy

Université Laval  
Bibliothèque générale  
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G1K 7P4

##### Ontario

##### Downsview

York University  
Scott Library  
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M3J 2R6

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Library  
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##### Ottawa

Library of Parliament  
Canadian Government Information  
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National Library of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0N4

University of Ottawa  
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Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 9A5

#### **Sudbury**

Laurentian University of Sudbury  
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P3C 2C6

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Thunder Bay Public Library  
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#### **Toronto**

Legislative Library  
Toronto, Ontario  
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#### **British Columbia**

##### **Burnaby**

Simon Fraser University  
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V5A 1S6

##### **Vancouver**

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Library  
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##### **Victoria**

Legislative Library  
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#### **Northwest Territories**

##### **Yellowknife**

Northwest Territories  
Government Library  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
X0E 1H0

#### **Other Countries**

##### **Federal Republic of Germany**

Preussischer Kulturbesitz  
Staatsbibliothek  
Abt. Amtsdrukchriften U. Tausch  
Postfach 1407  
1000 Berlin 30  
Germany

##### **United Kingdom**

The British Library  
London, WC1B 3DG  
England, United Kingdom

##### **Japan**

National Diet Library  
Tokyo, Japan

##### **United States of America**

Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C. 20540  
United States of America

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In addition to Regional Reference Centres and depository libraries, Statistics Canada publications may be ordered through your **local bookstore** or **subscription agent**. Contact the nearest Regional Reference Centre for a list of Canadian outlets available, or consult the 1991 Census Catalogue (Catalogue No. 92-302E).

Secondary distributors offer data access and analytical support through a variety of consulting and computer-based services not available at Statistics Canada. The names and addresses of licensed distributors may be obtained from any Regional Reference Centre.

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Information concerning **census of agriculture products and services** may be referenced in the 1991 Census of Agriculture Products and Services publication, Catalogue No. 92-303, or by calling toll free 1-800-465-1991.

Users with special data requirements may request **post-census survey services**. Data are made available on microcomputer diskettes for use with spreadsheet software, or on paper output. For additional information, please contact the nearest Regional Reference Centre.

The Electronic Data Dissemination Division (EDDD) is responsible for CANSIM, Statistics Canada's computerized database network and information retrieval service. Users are provided with access to current and historical statistics in various forms including specialized data manipulation and analysis packages, graphics facilities and a bibliographic search service. For more information about CANSIM, contact any Regional Reference Centre.



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