

## Release and concepts overview

# 2016 Census of Population: Housing



Release date: August 31, 2017



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

---

## How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca).

You can also contact us by

email at [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)

telephone, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| • Statistical Information Service                             | 1-800-263-1136 |
| • National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired | 1-800-363-7629 |
| • Fax line  | 1-514-283-9350 |

### Depository Services Program

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| • Inquiries line | 1-800-635-7943 |
| • Fax line       | 1-800-565-7757 |

## Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed standards of service that its employees observe. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca) under “Contact us” > “Standards of service to the public.”

## Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued co-operation and goodwill.

## Standard table symbols

The following symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| .              | not available for any reference period   |
| ..             | not available for a specific reference period  |
| ...            | not applicable   |
| 0              | true zero or a value rounded to zero   |
| 0 <sup>s</sup> | value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded |
| <sup>p</sup>   | preliminary  |
| <sup>r</sup>   | revised  |
| x              | suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>                                   |
| <sup>E</sup>   | use with caution   |
| F              | too unreliable to be published   |
| *              | significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )   |

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Minister of Industry, 2017

All rights reserved. Use of this publication is governed by the Statistics Canada [Open Licence Agreement](#).

**An HTML version is also available.**

*Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.*

---



C E N S U S • R E C E N S E M E N T

---

# **Release and Concepts Overview**

## **2016 Census of Population: Housing**

**98-501-X2016007**

**ISBN: 978-0-660-07180-0**

**Release date: August 31, 2017**



Statistics  
Canada Statistique  
Canada

Canada

## Table of contents

1. Objectives of the *Release and Concepts Overview* series
2. Concepts and definitions:
  - Housing
    - Dwelling characteristics
    - Household characteristics
  - Geography
3. Key indicators
4. Products and activities available with this release:
  - Products available on day of release
  - Social media activities with this release
5. Products available after release
6. 2016 Census Program web module
7. 2016 Census Program release schedule
8. Contact information

## 1. Objectives

- Census of Population release topics will be accompanied by their own *Release and Concepts Overview* and will be available from Statistics Canada's website in advance of each release.
- The purpose of the *Release and Concepts Overview* series is to provide an overview of:
  - the concepts, definitions and key indicators used by each of the major 2016 Census of Population releases
  - the products that will be available on each major day of release and later.
- The *Release and Concepts Overview* series will help partners, stakeholders and other data users to better understand the information being released.

**This *Release and Concepts Overview* is for the Housing release, which will be on October 25, 2017.**

The information provided in this overview is subject to change.



## **2. Concepts and definitions: Housing**

- a) Dwelling characteristics
- b) Household characteristics

## 2. Concepts and definitions: Housing

- a) **Dwelling characteristics** refer to the physical attributes of the living quarters occupied by the household. The following information was collected for the 2016 Census of Population: number of [rooms](#), number of [bedrooms](#), [period of construction](#), [dwelling condition](#), [condominium status](#) and [value \(owner estimated\)](#) of dwelling. Dwelling characteristics, except the value of the dwelling, are disseminated for all occupied private dwellings.

**Note:** Unless otherwise specified, all data are for [private dwellings occupied by usual residents](#). “Private dwellings occupied by usual residents” are also referred to as “occupied private dwellings” in certain census products.

## 2. Concepts and definitions: Housing

- Number of [rooms](#)
- Number of [bedrooms](#)
- [Period of construction](#)
- [Dwelling condition](#)
- [Condominium status](#)
- [Value \(owner estimated\)](#) of dwelling



## 2. Concepts and definitions: Housing

- b) **Household characteristics** refer to characteristics of the person or group of persons occupying the private dwelling. Household characteristics collected for the 2016 Census of Population that are commonly used in housing analysis include [tenure](#), [household size](#), [household total income](#) and [household type](#). Household characteristics were collected for all private households. Information was also collected for the 2016 Census of Population to identify the [household maintainers](#), that is, which household members paid the shelter costs. A common approach in housing analysis is to examine the characteristics of the [primary household maintainer](#) (such as age) in relation to dwelling characteristics, shelter costs and other household characteristics.

## 2. Concepts and definitions: Housing

- [Household](#)
- [Household living arrangements](#)
- [Household outside Canada](#)
- [Household maintainer](#)
- [Household type](#)

## 2. Concepts and definitions: Housing

- [Household size](#)
- [Household total income](#) refers to receipts from certain sources of all household members, before income taxes and deductions, during the 2015 calendar year for all income variables.
  - See detailed definition of [total income](#).
- [Shelter cost](#)

## 2. Concepts and definitions: Geography

In addition to making data available for Canada, the following other levels of geography will be available:

- a) [Province or territory](#)
- b) [Census metropolitan area \(CMA\)](#)
- c) [Census agglomeration \(CA\)](#)
- d) [Census division \(CD\)](#)
- e) [Census subdivision \(CSD\)](#)
- f) [Census tract \(CT\)](#)
- g) [Population centre \(POPCTR\)](#)
- h) [Statistical Area Classification \(SAC\)](#)
- i) [Federal electoral district \(FED\)](#)
- j) [Economic region \(ER\)](#)
- k) [Forward sortation area \(FSA\)®](#)
- l) [Designated place \(DPL\)](#)
- m) [Aggregate dissemination area \(ADA\) \(new!\)](#)
- n) [Dissemination area \(DA\)](#)

### 3. Key indicators

- a) Housing adequacy
  - [Dwelling condition](#)
- b) [Housing suitability](#)
  - [Persons per room](#)
- c) Housing affordability
  - [Shelter-cost-to-income ratio](#)

### 3. Key indicators

#### a) Housing adequacy

The housing adequacy indicator is derived from the [dwelling condition](#) variable. Dwellings in need of major repairs are considered an indicator of inadequate housing by housing organizations, including the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Adequate housing does not require any major repairs, as reported by residents. Major repairs include those to defective plumbing or electrical wiring, or structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings.

### 3. Key indicators

#### b) Housing suitability

The housing suitability of a dwelling is based on the National Occupancy Standard (NOS) developed by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The housing suitability indicator classifies dwellings as “not suitable” if they do not have enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household, as calculated using the NOS. Dwellings that are not suitable are also further classified by the shortfall in the number of bedrooms when compared with the required number of bedrooms based on the NOS.

### 3. Key indicators

#### c) Housing affordability

The [shelter-cost-to-income ratio](#), a measure of housing affordability, refers to the proportion of average household total income that is spent on shelter costs. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), when a household spends less than 30% of before-tax household income on shelter costs, the household is considered to be in affordable housing. Shelter costs include the following:

- For renters: rent and any payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services
- For owners: mortgage payments (principal and interest), property taxes, and any condominium fees, along with payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services.



## 4. Products and activities available with this release

The following will be available with the Housing release on October 25, 2017:

### Analytical products

- *The Daily* article
- Infographic

### Data products

- Highlight tables
- Data tables
- Census Profile
- Focus on Geography Series

### Reference products

- Release and Concepts Overview series
- Guide to the Census of Population, 2016
- Census Dictionary
- Housing Reference Guide

### Geography product

- GeoSearch

### **Social media**

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Chat with an expert (October 30, 2017)

## 4. Products available on day of release

The following provides additional details on some key products that will be available at the time of the Housing release. Together, they will provide main findings, important messages, latest trends and additional background information.

- ***The Daily article:*** This will provide main findings and important messages about the Housing topic such as homeownership trends and regional variations in Canada.
- ***Infographic:*** This will allow users to quickly visualize some key findings on housing from the 2016 Census of Population.

## 4. Products available on day of release

- **Highlight tables:** They present focused information for various levels of geography. These tables allow users to perform simple rank and sort functions and include percentage distributions and percentage changes from previous censuses to facilitate comparisons between years, and different geographic areas.
- **Data tables:** These cross-tabulations allow for a more detailed examination of Canada, by comparing up to eight variables across various levels of geography.
- **Census Profile:** This product provides key statistics about the dwellings and the people living there. Users are able to select a standard geographic area and compare two geographic areas. They can search by place name or postal code for an area of interest as large as Canada or as small as a grouping of city blocks.
- **Focus on Geography Series:** This product presents highlights through short text, tables and figures for various release topics and levels of geography, including Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas (CMAs), census agglomerations (CAs) and Canadian municipalities (census subdivisions).

## 4. Products available on day of release

- **Housing Reference Guide:** This guide explains census concepts and changes made for the 2016 Census. It also includes information about data quality and historical comparability, as well as comparisons with other data sources.
- **[Guide to the Census of Population, 2016](#):** This reference document provides an overview of the 2016 Census of Population processes, including content determination, collection, processing, data quality assessment, data dissemination and data suppression. It also includes response rates, global non-response rates, the distribution of the number of census subdivisions for which data have been published, by province and territory and at the national level, as well as other data quality information.

The majority of the content was released with the previous census releases; additional content will be added with the Housing and subsequent releases.

## 4. Products available on day of release

- **Census Dictionary**: This provides detailed definitions of census concepts, variables and geographic terms, as well as historical information to facilitate the comparison between census years.

Content is released cumulatively through to November 2017, with the majority of the definitions released on May 3, 2017.

## 4. Social media activities with this release

- **Facebook and Twitter:** The official social media accounts will also be used to communicate and engage with the public for the dissemination of results from the 2016 Census of Population.
- **Chat with an expert:** Users are invited to chat with Statistics Canada experts on the topics of Housing and Aboriginal peoples on October 30, 2017, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Eastern time. For more information, refer to Statistics Canada's website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/chatwithanexpert>.

## 5. Products available after release

The following products will be available with later releases:

### Analytical products

- Articles in *Insights on Canadian Society (ICS)*
- Data visualization tool. More information about this initiative will be made available during the release cycle.

### Data products

- Additional data tables at various levels of geography
- 2016 Census Aboriginal Population Profile
- 2016 Census Individuals Public Use Microdata File (PUMF)
- 2016 Census Hierarchical Public Use Microdata File (PUMF)
- 2016 Census Long-form Research Data Centre (RDC) Microdata File

### Reference products

- Reference guides (various topics)
- Technical reports



## **6. 2016 Census Program web module**

To access the 2016 Census of Population products, please consult the 2016 Census Program web module:

[www.statcan.gc.ca/census](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/census)



## 7. 2016 Census Program release schedule

Release date	Release topic
November 16, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography</li> </ul>
February 8, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population and dwelling counts</li> </ul>
May 3, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age and sex</li> <li>• Type of dwelling</li> </ul>
May 10, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census of Agriculture</li> </ul>
August 2, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families, households and marital status</li> <li>• Language</li> </ul>
September 13, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income</li> </ul>
October 25, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigration and ethnocultural diversity</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Aboriginal peoples</li> </ul>
November 29, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Labour</li> <li>• Journey to work</li> <li>• Language of work</li> <li>• Mobility and migration</li> </ul>

## 8. Contact information

### General enquiries

- 1-800-263-1136 – Canada and the United States only  
7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday to Friday (time zones within Canada)
- Email: [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)

### Media Relations – Media Hotline

- 613-951-INFO (613-951-4636)  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday to Friday, excluding holidays
- Email: [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)