User Guide

National Address Register

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Statistics   Statistique
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Canada

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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.

Summary

The National Address Register (NAR) sets up a standardized address structure and provides a list of valid georeferenced civic addresses in Canada. The addresses are extracted from Statistics Canada's Building Register and were validated by two independent data sources. The addresses do not disclose the identity of any of the residents or businesses at the address and as such are deemed non-confidential. The corresponding mailing version of the address is added and follows Canada Post's addressing guidelines. Non-civic address, additional delivery, and building usage information will be included for civic addresses that have this data available. This first prototype was developed in the context of the Data Strategy Roadmap for the Federal Public Service and in close collaboration with Employment and Social Development Canada to set up address reference data as a service. It is made available for free under the Statistics Canada Open Licence. The NAR also contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence – Yukon.

Definitions

Census division (CD) is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as county, municipalité régionale de comté and regional district) or their equivalents. In other provinces and the territories where laws do not provide for such areas, Statistics Canada defines equivalent areas for statistical reporting purposes in cooperation with these provinces and territories. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province/territory level and the municipality (census subdivision).

Census subdivision (CSD) 2025 is the general term for municipalities (as determined by provincial/territorial legislation) or areas treated as municipal equivalents for statistical purposes (e.g., Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories). Municipal status is defined by laws in effect in each province and territory in Canada.

Economic region (ER) 2021 is a grouping of complete census divisions (CDs) (with one exception in Ontario)) created as a standard geographic unit for analysis of regional economic activity.

Federal electoral district (FED) 2023 is an area represented by a member of the House of Commons. The federal electoral district boundaries used for the 2021 Census are based on the 2013 Representation Order. The 2023 Representation Order (proclaimed on September 22, 2023) was based on 2021 Census population counts, and increased the number of FEDs to 343, up from 338 from the previous 2013 Representation Order.

Globally unique identifier (GUID) is a hexadecimal unique ID represented in a string format with a length of 36, including dashes (i.e., 12345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789abc). GUIDs are assigned and used within the NAR to permit the referencing of specific entities such as address or location entities and the efficient retrieval of their attributes. See the Technical specifications section for more details on address and location definition.

Coordinates are representative points associated with buildings, and are intended to provide a geospatial reference. However, it should be noted that these coordinates may not correspond exactly to the physical center of the building structure itself. For example, it may represent the road access point or driveway leading to that building.

Technical specifications

National Address Register Data model

Location (locationId) vs. address (addressId)

Location is referencing a specific place or position. In the case of the National Address Register (NAR), the location is synonymous with a physical building. The address can be defined as the particulars of the location where someone lives or an organization is situated. In the case of the NAR, the address corresponds to "building units." Each location (building) has at least one address (building unit). For example, a single home will have one location and one physical address. An apartment or office building would have one location and several addresses for each building unit. A single home would be a one-to-one relationship and an apartment building would be a one-to-many relationship.

Example 1

A single home (single dwelling or building unit) with one address, 1 MAIN ST, TORONTO, ON M1M1A1, would have one unique locationId and one unique addressId (1:1 relationship).

1 MAIN ST, TORONTO, ON M1M1A1
locationId: 12345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789abc
addressId: 12345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789Bbc

Example 2

An office building that has multiple floors and units or suites at location 123 MAIN ST, TORONTO, ON M2M1A1 would have one unique locationId and many unique addressIds (1:n relationship). Each "building unit" would have its own address differentiated by the unit or suite number.

1) 2-123 MAIN ST, TORONTO, ON M2M1A1
    locationId: 22345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789abc
    addressId: 22345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789Zbc

2) 4-123 MAIN ST, TORONTO, ON M2M1A1
    locationId: 22345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789abc
    addressId: 22345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789Ybc

3) 5-123 MAIN ST, TORONTO, ON M2M1A1
    locationId: 22345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789abc
    addressId: 22345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789Xbc

4) 8-123 MAIN ST, TORONTO, ON M2M1A1
    locationId: 22345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789abc
    addressId: 22345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789Rbc

Example 3

Address that uses all properties and attributes:
12-123 A MAIN ST N, OTTAWA, ON A0A 0A0

NAR attributes

Attributes	Description
LOC_GUID (locationId)	Globally unique identifier for location
ADDR_GUID (addressId)	Globally unique identifier for address
APT_NO_LABEL	Apartment or suite number
CIVIC_NO	Civic number
CIVIC_NO_SUFFIX	Civic number suffix
OFFICIAL_STREET_NAME	Official street name
OFFICIAL_STREET_TYPE	Official street designator
OFFICIAL_STREET_DIR	Official street direction
PROV_CODE	Province code
CSD_CODE	Census subdivision code (2025)
CSD_TYPE_ENG_CODE	Census subdivision type code English
CSD_TYPE_FRE_CODE	Census subdivision type code French
CSD_ENG_NAME	Census subdivision English name
CSD_FRE_NAME	Census subdivision French name
ER_CODE	Economic region code (2021)
ER_ENG_NAME	Economic region English name
ER_FRE_NAME	Economic region French name
FED_CODE	Federal electoral district code (2023)
FED_ENG_NAME	Federal electoral district English name
FED_FRE_NAME	Federal electoral district French name
MAIL_STREET_NAME	Mailing street name
MAIL_STREET_TYPE	Mailing street designator
MAIL_STREET_DIR	Mailing street direction
MAIL_MUN_NAME	Mailing municipality name
MAIL_PROV_ABVN	Mailing province abbreviation
MAIL_POSTAL_CODE	Mailing postal code
BG_DLS_LSD	Dominion Land Survey coordinate - Legal Subdivision
BG_DLS_QTR	Dominion Land Survey coordinate - Quarter
BG_DLS_SCTN	Dominion Land Survey coordinate - Section
BG_DLS_TWNSHP	Dominion Land Survey coordinate - Township
BG_DLS_RNG	Dominion Land Survey coordinate - Range
BG_DLS_MRD	Dominion Land Survey coordinate - Meridian
BG_LATITUDE	Latitude coordinate of building (EPSG:4326)
BG_LONGITUDE	Longitude coordinate of building (EPSG:4326)
BG_X	Spatial X coordinate of building (EPSG:3347)
BG_Y	Spatial Y coordinate of building (EPSG:3347)
BU_USE	Building usage codes
BU_N_CIVIC_ADD	Additional delivery information for mailing address (Ex: PO Box 432 or RR2 Site19 Box42)

Appendix

Census Subdivision (CSD)
Census Subdivision Boundary File, Reference Guide

Geographies
Standard Geographical Classification (SGC)

Building Usage Codes

Code	Description_English	Description_Français
1	Residential	Résidentiel
2	Partial Residential	Résidentiel partiel
3	Non Residential	Non résidentiel
4	Unknown	Inconnu

Provinces

Province Code	Province Abbreviation	Description_English	Description_Français
10	NL	Newfoundland and Labrador	Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador
11	PE	Prince Edward Island	Île-du-Prince-Édouard
12	NS	Nova Scotia	Nouvelle-Écosse
13	NB	New Brunswick	Nouveau-Brunswick
24	QC	Quebec	Québec
35	ON	Ontario	Ontario
46	MB	Manitoba	Manitoba
47	SK	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
48	AB	Alberta	Alberta
59	BC	British Columbia	Colombie-Britannique
60	YT	Yukon	Yukon
61	NT	Northwest Territories	Territoires du Nord-Ouest
62	NU	Nunavut	Nunavut

Canada Post Symbols and abbreviations

Street types, Street directions, Provinces and territories

Contact information

Feedback and suggestions are welcome to improve and expand the use of the NAR, as well as questions or concerns. Please contact us at the following email address: statcan.statisticalregistersinfo-inforegistresstatistiques.statcan@statcan.gc.ca