Rural Statistics in Canada

Rural Canada Non-Profits Metadata and User Guide, 2023

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1 Database structure and contents

The Rural Canada Non-Profits (RCNP) database provides information on the counts, revenues, and number of employees for non-profit organizations (NPOs) in Canada. The data are available by geography (Canada, province or territory, rural and small town area or functional urban area), NPO activity type as defined by the International Classification of Non-Profit Organizations,[1] and by the North American Industry Classification System. Data on NPO counts, revenues, and number of employees at the census subdivision level are also available, however unavailable by activity type and industry.

The structure of the RCNP database is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1
Overview of the RCNP database data tables and structure

Table	Variables	Geographical levels	Classifications
Table 45-10-0107	Counts Revenue Employment	Canada Province or Territory Rural and small town or Functional urban area Census Subdivision (CSD)	Not applied
Table 45-10-0108	Counts Revenue Employment	Canada Province or Territory Rural and small town or Functional urban area	North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Canada (2-digits) • NAICS 2017 Version 3.0 for the reference periods 2019-2021; and • NAICS 2022 Version 1.0 for reference period 2022 and onward.
Table 45-10-0109	Counts Revenue Employment	Canada Province or Territory Rural and small town or Functional urban area	The International Classification of Non-Profit Organizations (ICNPO) (12 activity groups)

Note: Table 45-10-0107 business counts are rounded to the nearest multiple of three. A reported value of zero denotes a rounded value between 1 and 3 (inclusive) that was rounded down. This rounding convention applies only to Table 45-10-0107 and does not apply to Tables 45-10-0108 and 45-10-0109.

Definitions of the variables in the RCNP database are provided in Section 8: Data dictionary.

2 Data sources

The RCNP database is derived from the Statistics Canada's Business Register (BR).[2] It includes information such as business addresses, non-profit/for-profit status, industry, and Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) filings and tax returns data, including revenues and employment figures. The BR is updated monthly. The RCNP database draws on information reported in these data sources. Data availability and coverage may vary from year to year because of updates, revisions or differences in reporting.

3 Reference period

Each reference period of the RCNP database begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of the same calendar year.

4 In-scope businesses

The primary criterion for including a business in the RCNP database is their classification as a non-profit in the BR. A non-profit (i.e., a NPO, institution, or business) is an entity that operates for purposes other than generating profit. The RCNP database includes non-profits that are charities as well as all other non-profits identified by the BR, regardless of the sector (households, businesses, or governments) they serve.

NPOs are included in the RCNP database if they reported revenue, the number of employees, or both for the given reference year. For-profit businesses and Public administration (NAICS code 91) businesses are excluded from the RCNP database.

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1.   United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2003). Handbook on non-profit institutions in the System of National Accounts.
2.   Definitions and Concepts used in Business Register.

5 Compilation methodology

This section outlines the processes used to compile the RCNP database. The data tables of the RCNP database are organized according to the structure presented in Section 1: Table 1.

5.1 Identification of active NPOs by reference year

The initial step in creating the RCNP database involves consolidating records from multiple monthly files of the BR to generate a list of all NPOs that show signs of specific activities at any time during the reference year. This includes the identification of NPOs with reported employees, revenue, or both from January to December. Only businesses designated as non-profit are retained. For-profit businesses are excluded.

Employment figures in the RCNP database are based on CRA Statement of account for current source deductions (PD7)[3] data, while revenue figures are based on income tax filings with the CRA. Employment and revenue data are extracted from relevant BR files for identified NPOs.

For NPOs with multiple locations under the same enterprise, a separate record is created for each location, including employment and revenue specific to that location. These location-level values are based on either the characterization of businesses or computation of employment or revenue allocation factors by Statistics Canada.

5.2 Classification of business location: Rural and small town area or functional urban area

For the RCNP database, the statistical unit is the business location (referred to as "location" throughout this document).[4] The BR assigns each business location to a census subdivision (CSD) based on its operating address or legal address postal code. CSDs, or communities, outside of Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) or Census Agglomerations (CAs) are classified as part of a "rural and small town area", while those inside CMAs/CAs are classified as part of "functional urban area".

The geographic classifications at the Canada and provincial or territorial levels are based on Statistics Canada's Standard Geographical Classification (SGC). The 2016 SGC[5] is used for the reference periods from 2019 to 2021. Starting from the 2022 reference period and onward, the 2021 SGC[6] is applied.

5.3 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) assignment

Businesses are classified by their primary industry as identified in the BR. The 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)[7] is used for the reference periods from 2019 to 2021. Starting from the 2022 reference period, the 2022 NAICS[8] is applied. The NAICS structure is hierarchical, with codes ranging from two to six digits, depending on the level of the hierarchy (see Table 2).

Table 2
NAICS hierarchical classification structure

Code	Hierarchical level
11	Sector
111	Subsector
1111	Industry group
11111	Industry
111111	Canadian industry

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3. Business register data.
4. A location refers to the lowest level of the Business Register statistical hierarchy. The location, as a statistical unit, is defined as a production unit at a single geographical location at which or from which economic activity is conducted and for which, at a minimum, employment data are available. A geographic location refers to the physical place a statistical unit is located and for which statistics are collected and disseminated. Unless specified otherwise, the term location will refer to the business location as a statistical unit. See: Variable(s) - Surveys and statistical programs - Business Register (BR) December 2021.
5. Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2016 - Volume I, The Classification.
6. Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2021 - Volume I, The Classification.
7. North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Canada 2017 Version 3.0.
8. North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Canada 2022 Version 1.0.

The RCNP database provides tabulations by NAICS at the two-digit (sector) level and includes all industry sectors except for Public administration (NAICS 91).

5.4 International Classification of Non-Profit Organizations (ICNPO)

The RCNP database also provides tabulations by the International Classification of Non-Profit Organizations (ICNPO). The ICNPO classifies NPOs based on their primary area of non-profit activity — 12 major groups, including a residual group known as 'not elsewhere classified'. It is the recommended classification system for the non-profit sector according to the United Nations Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions for the System of National Accounts.[9]

- Group 1A: Culture and arts
- Group 1B: Sports, recreation and social clubs
- Group 2: Education and research
- Group 3: Health
- Group 4: Social services
- Group 5: Environment
- Group 6: Development and housing
- Group 7: Law, advocacy and politics
- Group 8: Philanthropic intermediaries and voluntarism promotion
- Group 9: International activities[10] (not available in the RCNP database)
- Group 10: Religion
- Group 11: Business and professional associations, unions
- Group 12: Not elsewhere classified

An NPO's ICNPO category was obtained using a mapping of NAICS codes to ICNPO groups. This mapping methodology is also utilized by Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts Satellite Account of Non-Profit Institutions and Volunteering.[11] The mapping is provided in Section 7: Table 3.

5.5 Protecting confidentiality

Statistics Canada is prohibited by law from releasing any data which would divulge information obtained under the *Statistics Act*[12] that relates to any identifiable person, business or organization without the prior knowledge or the consent in writing of that person, business or organization. Various confidentiality rules are applied to all data that are released or published to prevent the publication or disclosure of any information deemed confidential. If necessary, data are suppressed to prevent direct or residual disclosure of identifiable data.

To maintain the confidentiality of businesses contributing to the data, certain values in the RCNP database are suppressed. This suppression is necessary due to the level of granularity provided and is implemented using a hierarchy-aware confidentiality program (G-Confid) developed by Statistics Canada, specifically to protect confidential information.

There are two reasons for data suppression:

1. Primary suppression: This occurs when there are too few businesses contributing to the value of a particular cell, or when a cell's value is disproportionately influenced by one or too few businesses.

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9. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2003). Handbook on non-profit institutions in the System of National Accounts. The ICNPO was developed through the Johns Hopkins Comparative Non-profit Sector Project as existing industrial classification systems were not sufficiently suited to accurately describe the activity of non-profits. Note that a revision, International Classification of Non-Profit and Third Sector Organizations (ICNP/TSO), was implemented in 2017.
10. The ICNPO was originally based on the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) industry codes. When the corresponding NAICS codes were identified, differences between the two classification systems made it unfeasible to define a Group 9. As a result, Group 9 is not included in the RCNP database.
11. Surveys and statistical programs - Satellite Account of Non-profit Institutions and Volunteering.
12. The *Statistics Act* gives Statistics Canada the authority to "collect, compile, analyze, abstract, and publish information on the economic, social and general conditions of the country and its citizens". For further information, see: Statistics Act (justice.gc.ca).

2. Secondary suppression: This is applied when a secondary cell is suppressed to maintain the confidentiality of a primary suppressed cell, enabling the publication of higher-level aggregate data. For example, if the value of a variable (e.g., revenues) for a single CSD in a specific province and industry is suppressed, the corresponding value for another CSD in the same industry is also suppressed. This approach ensures that the suppressed value cannot be inferred from the total value for that province and industry.

6 Updates and revision strategy

Future updates to the RCNP database may involve the addition of new reference years on an ongoing basis. Subsequent releases of the RCNP database could include modifications to the methodology, structure, or contents of the data tables provided.

7 Mapping framework between ICNPO and NAICS

The mapping framework used in the RCNP database to align ICNPO and NAICS is outlined below.

Table 3
Mapping framework between ICNPO and NAICS

ICNPO group code	ICNPO group	Corresponding NAICS codes	Corresponding NAICS descriptions
Group 1A	Culture and arts	511	Publishing Industries (except Internet)
		512	Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries
		515	Broadcasting (except Internet)
		517	Telecommunications
		518	Internet Service Providers, Web Search Portals, and Data Processing Services
		519	Other Information Services
		7111	Performing Arts Companies
		7113	Promoters (Presenters) of Performing Arts, Sports and Similar Events
		7114	Agents and Managers for Artists, Athletes, Entertainers and Other Public Figures
		7115	Independent Artists, Writers and Performers
		712	Heritage Institutions
Group 1B	Sports, recreation and social clubs	7112	Spectator Sports
		7139	Other Amusement and Recreation Industries
		8134	Civic and Social Organizations
		81399	Other Membership Organizations
Group 2	Education and research	5417	Scientific Research and Development Services
		611	Educational Services
Group 3	Health	621	Ambulatory Health Care Services
		622	Hospitals
		6231	Nursing Care Facilities
		62322	Residential Mental Health and Substance Abuse Facilities

Table 3
Mapping framework between ICNPO and NAICS

ICNPO group code	ICNPO group	Corresponding NAICS codes	Corresponding NAICS descriptions
Group 4	Social services	62321	Residential Developmental Handicap Facilities
		6233	Community Care Facilities for Elderly
		6239	Other Residential Care Facilities
		6241	Individual & Family Services
		62421	Community Food Services
		62422	Community Housing Services
		62423	Emergency and Other Relief Services
		6244	Child Day-Care Services
		8122	Funeral Services
Group 5	Environment	54132	Landscape Architectural Services
		54162	Environmental Consulting Services
		54194	Veterinary Services
		5621	Waste Collection
		5622	Waste Treatment and Disposal
		5629	Remediation and Other Waste Management Services
		81291	Pet Care Services
Group 6	Development and housing	221	Utilities
		23	Construction
		48, 49	Transportation and Warehousing
		52	Finance and Insurance (except 526989)
		53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing Services
		5613	Employment Services
		6243	Vocational Rehabilitation Services
		721	Accommodation
Group 7	Law, advocacy and politics	5411	Legal Services
		8133	Social Advocacy Organizations
		81394	Political Organizations
Group 8	Philanthropic intermediaries and voluntarism promotion	526989	All Other Miscellaneous Funds and Financial Vehicles (see foundation funds)
		56149	Other Business Support Services (includes fundraising service for fees)
		8132	Grant-Making and Giving Services
Group 10	Religion	8131	Religious Organizations
Group 11	Business and professional associations, unions	81391	Business Associations
		81392	Professional Organizations
		81393	Labour Organizations
Group 12	Not elsewhere classified	Various	NAICS codes that have not been classified elsewhere to another ICNPO grouping

Note: Public administration (NAICS 91) is excluded from the RCNP database.
The ICNPO was originally based on the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) industry codes. When the corresponding NAICS codes were identified, differences between the two classification systems made it unfeasible to define a Group 9: International Activities using NAICS codes. As a result, Group 9: International Activities is not included in the RCNP database.

8 Data dictionary

Variable name	Variable description
Businesses count	Sum of counts of the business locations.
Employment	Sum of employment of the business locations.
Geography	Derived from the business address postal code in Statistics Canada's Business Register and based on Statistics Canada's Standard Geographical Classification (SGC). 2016 SGC is used for the 2019 to 2021 reference periods. 2021 SGC is used starting from the 2022 reference period and onward.
	Canada is divided into ten provinces and three territories. Province and territory are basic areas for which data are tabulated.
	Geographic elements used for the RCNP database include Canada, province or territory and census subdivisions.
Location indicator	The type of area in which the NPO is located - rural and small town area or functional urban area. The location is based on the NPO's postal code. All census subdivisions (CSDs) outside Census Metropolitan Areas/Census Agglomerations (CMAs/CAs) are classified as "rural and small town areas". CSDs inside CMAs/CAs are classified as "functional urban areas". "All areas" includes rural and small town areas and functional urban areas combined.
	For more information, see Statistics Canada's Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2016 - Volume I, The Classification and Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2021 - Volume I, The Classification.
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	The main industry (two-digits) of the non-profit as identified in Statistics Canada's Business Register.
	For more information see Statistics Canada's North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Canada 2017 Version 3.0 and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Canada 2022 Version 1.0.
Reference year	A reference period from January 1 to December 31 of a given calendar year.
Revenue	Sum of revenue generated by the business locations.
The International Classification of Non-profit Organizations (ICNPO)	The 2-digit code of the ICNPO group of the non-profit obtained by using a mapping of the non-profit's identified NAICS classification obtained from Statistics Canada's Business Register to the ICNPO. For the mapping of NAICS to ICNPO used for the RCNP database, see Section 7: Table 3.