

GLOSSARY



Aboriginal Identity: persons who identified with at least one Aboriginal group (such as North American Indian, Métis or Inuit/Eskimo), those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada, or those who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation. This variable should not be confused with the ethnic origin variable which was often used to identify Aboriginal people in previous Censuses.

Annual Employment Activity: employment activity of persons aged 15 to 64, excluding institutional residents, based on their weeks of employment in 2000. Employment refers to work for pay or in self-employment at all jobs held and includes paid vacation or sick leave with pay, or paid absence on training courses.

- **Full-year:** 49 to 52 weeks of employment.
- **Part-year:** 1 to 48 weeks of employment.
- **Full-time:** 30 hours or more of employment most weeks.
- **Part-time:** 1 to 29 hours of employment most weeks.

Disabilities: new disability questions were developed for the 2001 Census; as a result, disability data from the 2001 Census are *not* comparable with those gathered in previous census years. The new questions asked about: (a) any difficulty with a list of daily activities (the following examples were provided: hearing, seeing, communicating, walking, climbing stairs, bending, learning,

or doing any similar activities); and/or (b) any reduction in activities resulting from a “physical condition OR mental condition OR health problem” that takes place in the different domains of home, work/school, and other activities (for example, transportation and leisure). The “yes” answer category was split into two possibilities: “Yes, sometimes” and “Yes, often.”

As well, 2001 Census disability rates should *not* be directly compared with rates derived from the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS). A number of factors account for the differences in rates obtained from these two data sources, including differences in the sampling approach/data collection methods, differences in the treatment of non-response/imputation, and the ‘fluidity’ of some types of disabilities.

Earnings / Employment Income: income received in 2000 by persons aged 15 and older as wages and salaries, net income from non-farm unincorporated business or professional practice, and net farm self-employment income.

Economic Families: two or more household members related by blood, marriage, common-law, or adoption.

- **Couples:** families headed by a married or common-law couple; they are further identified as those with or without children under age 18.
- **Lone-parent families:** one parent (male or female) and their children under age 18.

- **Other families:** headed by couples, lone parents, or non-parents living with relatives other than children under age 18.
- **Non-elderly families:** working-age families in which both the head of the family and the spouse are under age 65.
- **Elderly families:** those in which either the head or spouse are aged 65 or older.

Education Level: completed degrees or diplomas.

- **Post-secondary certificate:** completed programs in a university, college, technical institute, or trade school.
- **Secondary:** completed high school.

Government Transfer Income: income from all transfer payments received from federal, provincial, or municipal governments during the calendar year 2000. This includes pensions received under Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement; benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plans; Employment Insurance benefits; and federal child tax benefits. It also includes provincial social assistance payments and income supplements to the elderly; other transfers such as payments from federal or provincial training programs; regular payments for employees in the fishing industry and from provincial automobile insurance plans; veterans' pensions and allowances; workers' compensation payments; and any amounts received in 2000 for refundable provincial tax credits and federal goods and services tax credits.

Gross Rent: the average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by tenant households, including rent and costs of electricity, heat, and municipal services.

Immigrant: a person who is, or has been, a landed immigrant in Canada, i.e., has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. It includes immigrants of any class, including refugees. It does not include non-permanent residents. Most immigrants are born outside of Canada. Children born in Canada to immigrant parents are considered to be non-immigrants.

- **Recent immigrant:** person who gained landed immigrant status between 1996 and 2001.

Incidence of Low Income: the percentage of economic families or unattached individuals who spend 20% more than average on food, shelter, and clothing.

Labour Force: persons aged 15 and older who were either employed or unemployed during the week prior to the survey date. It does not include persons who were not actively seeking employment.

Low Income Cut-Offs (LICOs): Statistics Canada's measure of low income based on income and family expenditure patterns. LICO is used to define households and persons in poverty. In these community profiles, the pre-tax LICO is used to calculate the incidence of low income.

Other Income: all income garnered from sources other than earnings or government transfers.

Owner's Major Payments: the average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that own their dwelling. This includes the mortgage payment and costs of electricity, heat, and municipal services.

Participation Rate: percentage of the population aged 15 and older, excluding institutional residents, who are currently employed or actively seeking employment.

Poor: persons in households with incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs).

- **Poverty line:** the LICO threshold amounts.
- **Poverty rate:** proportion of the population living in households below the LICO.
- **Poverty gap:** dollar amount difference between a household's total income and the LICO.

Proportion Spending 30%+ of Household Income on Gross Rent or Major Payments: the percentage of households that spend more than 30% of average total monthly income on shelter-related expenses, including the monthly rent (for tenants) or the mortgage payment (for owners), and the costs of electricity, heat, municipal services, etc.

Total Income: total annual household income from all sources, such as earnings from the labour market, transfer payments from any level of government, and “other” income from unspecified sources.

Unattached Individuals: persons living alone or in a household where they are not related to other household members.

- **Non-elderly unattached individuals:** single men or women under age 65.
- **Elderly unattached individuals:** single persons aged 65 or older.

Unemployed Persons: those who during the week prior to the Census: a) were without work, had actively looked for work in the previous four weeks and were available for work; or, b) were on lay-off but expected to return to their job and were available for work; or, c) had definite arrangements to start a new job within four weeks or less and were available for work.

Visible Minorities: persons (other than Aboriginal people) who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour. This information was collected through the population group question to inform programs under the Employment Equity Act (1986).

Working-age Persons: people aged 15 to 64.

CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES

Every five years, Statistics Canada conducts a national Census. Data collected are then organized according to different levels of geography which refer to defined spatial areas in Canada, including administrative areas determined by federal and provincial statutes and statistical geographic areas.

Between the 1996 and 2001 Censuses, some geographies underwent changes. This is usually the result of population growth.

As part of the CCSD’s Urban Poverty Project, data collected in the 2001 Census have been organized into Community Profiles for the following standard geographic units: Canada, the 10 provinces, census metropolitan areas (CMAs), census divisions (CDs), and census subdivisions (CSDs).

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) / Census Agglomeration (CA): A CMA refers to an urban core with a population of at least 100,000, based on the previous Census, together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. A CA is similar, except that its urban core population is at least 10,000, based on the previous Census. As part of the Urban Poverty Project, data for 29 CMAs/CAs were compiled in Community Profiles and can be accessed at www.ccsd.ca.

Census Division (CD): A CD refers to areas established by provincial law that are intermediate geographic areas

between the municipal and provincial levels. Regional municipalities, regional districts, and counties tend to be CDs. As part of the Urban Poverty Project, Community Profiles for 22 CDs were compiled and can be accessed at www.ccsd.ca. Each of the CDs selected for inclusion overlaps a CMA and contains a large city with a population of at least 100,000.

Census Sub-Division (CSD): CSDs are incorporated municipalities determined by provincial legislation and can include cities, towns, villages, and townships. Because cities are established through provincial statutes, they are not always consistently defined. As well, the boundaries or names of CSDs can change from one Census to the next as municipalities or cities become annexed, dissolved, or incorporated. According to the 2001 Census, for example, there were 5,600 CSDs in Canada – 384 fewer than were found in the 1996 Census.

In the Urban Poverty Project, the CSDs selected for analysis are provincially defined municipalities with populations over 100,000 and located within a CMA. For example, the city of Vancouver is a CSD within the CMA of Vancouver. However, in areas where there was no CSD with a population over 100,000 within a CMA, a Community Profile for the largest CSD is included, as are those CSDs with a history as a central area in the CMA in which it is located. Community Profiles for the 49 selected CSDs can be accessed at www.ccsd.ca.