

What's new?

Internet

For the first time, on a country-wide scale, the 2006 Census offered the vast majority of Canadians the option of completing their census questionnaire over the Internet. The latest technologies were used to ensure that Statistics Canada's strict security and confidentiality requirements were met without imposing any pre-registration or lengthy download processes for the census Internet application.

This new method places Statistics Canada at the forefront of census taking.

New questions for the 2006 Census

Education

The 2006 Census includes a new question on where individuals received their highest level of education, allowing analysis of inter-provincial/territorial and international flows of skilled personnel.

Income

A question was added that gives respondents the option of granting Statistics Canada consent to use income information available in their income tax file in lieu of answering the income questions. This is aimed at reducing response burden and improving data quality.

Two other income questions were added to the questionnaire on income from child benefits and income tax paid.

Access to personal information in 92 years

A new question has been added, asking respondents to permit Statistics Canada to make their information public in 92 years (number 8 on the short form or number 53 on the long form). By agreeing to the release of this information, respondents will help future generations better understand the Canada of today and will allow researchers and genealogists to learn more about Canadian society in 2006.

Question not asked in the 2006 Census

A question on religion is normally asked only once every 10 years, and the religion question was asked in the 2001 Census. Therefore, this question was not included in the 2006 questionnaire.

Modified questions

Education

The 2006 Census includes revised content for education that will provide more detailed data on all of the postsecondary diplomas, certificates and degrees held by individuals than in 2001.

Modified questions include:

- A separate question for each level of schooling, replacing the 2001 question asking respondents to report all degrees.
- Type of school attended, replacing the 2001 question asking respondents the nature of school attendance (full-time vs. part-time).

The question on number of years of schooling completed has been removed, reflecting the increasing importance of credentials earned.

About Question 6 — Same-sex couples

The 2006 Census is the first Canadian census where same-sex married couples can indicate their relationship.

As in the 2001 Census, the question on household relationships on the 2006 Census includes a response category for the identification of same-sex common-law partners. Same-sex married couples can identify their relationship by providing a written response of "same-sex married spouse" in the write-in field.

The census thus continues to keep in step with societal and legal realities. Results of the 2006 Census will be used to provide Canadian citizens and institutions with accurate data needed for decision making.

Minor wording changes

Ethno-cultural

- Population group — Order of categories and some examples modified based on 2001 Census results.
- Ethnic origin — Examples modified based on 2001 Census results, a new preamble and a definition of ancestor added.

Differences between the paper and Internet questionnaires

For the 2006 Census, technology has enabled the addition of two questions to confirm data accuracy. On the Internet and computer-assisted questionnaires a question confirmed the age of individuals in the household, based on previously provided information in the date of birth question. In the Internet questionnaire, a household income review screen showed income amounts for each individual, as provided by the respondent in earlier questions, and respondents were asked to correct any amounts in error on this screen.