

# SENIORS

## — USER'S GUIDE —

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## INTRODUCTION

Urban planning, social policy, and local marketing strategies require a comprehensive understanding of regional socio-economic characteristics. The Small Area and Administrative Data Division (SAADD) provides various data that can contribute significantly to this knowledge.

The Seniors databank is one of these data sources. This databank is compiled from information obtained through annual personal income tax returns and is updated annually.

Beginning with the 1990 tax year, four tables concentrating on seniors and their census family situation were available. With the 1994 data, a fifth table on senior individuals was added to the previous four. See also *Statistical tables - Footnotes and historical availability*.

## SECTION I — THE DATA

### Data Source

Development of the T1 Family File (T1FF) is based on the census family concept. This concept, specific to Statistics Canada, is similar to the traditional family concept. The small area family data include parent(s) and children (i.e., children who do not live with their spouse or partner and do not have children of their own) living in the same dwelling.

Starting with the 1992 tax year, common-law couples were recognized as a separate category on the T1 General tax form. As a result, the coverage of couple families (in which common-law families are included) is very high. This comparison was done using estimates from Statistics Canada's Demography Division (see Figure 1). Beginning with the 2000 data, same-sex couples reporting as a couple are included as common-law couples, and therefore counted in the couple category.

The initial population used to develop the data comprises all taxfilers for the reference year and represents approximately two-thirds of the Canadian population. The census family units are formed from information obtained on the tax returns of the taxfiling family members.

First, taxfilers from the same census family, including children, are matched using common links (e.g., spousal social insurance number, same name, same address). Prior to 1993, non-filing children were identified from information on their parents' tax form. Information from the federal Family Allowance Program was used to assist in the identification of children. Since 1993, children are added to the family by using the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) file, the provincial births files and previous years of the T1FF.

The remaining taxfilers who have not been matched in the census family formation process become persons not in census families (formerly *non-family persons*). They may be living with a census family to whom they are related (e.g., brother-in-law, cousin, grandparent) or unrelated (e.g., lodger, roommate). They may be living with other persons not in census families or living alone.

The T1FF approximates the total Canadian population. It contains information on sources of income (from the taxfilers) and some demographic indicators (derived from both the taxfilers and the non-filers).

The Seniors databank is a subset of the Census families databank. Data begin with the 1990 tax year. A senior for the purposes of these data is a person 55 years of age or over. A senior census family is a couple family where at least one of the partners is aged 55 or over, or a lone-parent family where the parent is aged 55 or over.

## Data Quality

The introduction of the federal sales tax (FST) credit in 1986 and the goods and services tax (GST) credit in 1989 resulted in more seniors filing tax returns. The seniors databank was created to meet a need for information on this specific age range — families and persons aged 55 and over.

The data that appear in the tables are taken directly from the family databank, built from the income tax and the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) records. Information on income is obtained from taxfilers and includes incomes of their non-filing spouses and children. Demographic information is derived from taxfilers and non-filing spouses and/or children, such as the estimates of "total taxfilers and dependents".

Figures derived from the databank compare well with estimated population counts (see figure 1). Coverage rates of the databank population by census family type are reported in figure 2.

**FIGURE 1 – COVERAGE BY AGE AND BY PROVINCE, 2004**

Rates of Coverage by Age		Rates of Coverage by Province	
under 20	103.6%	Newfoundland & Labrador	99.3%
20-24	86.9%	Prince Edward Island	97.0%
25-29	88.0%	Nova Scotia	98.1%
30-34	92.0%	New Brunswick	98.1%
35-39	95.6%	Quebec	95.2%
40-44	96.5%	Ontario	97.4%
45-49	95.8%	Manitoba	99.4%
50-54	94.5%	Saskatchewan	97.0%
55-59	93.4%	Alberta	93.0%
60-64	95.1%	British Columbia	95.3%
65-74	98.6%	Yukon Territory	95.6%
75+	95.2%	Northwest Territories	96.2%
Total	96.2%	Nunavut	
		Canada	96.2%

Coverage rates by age and by province are based on comparisons with the estimated population counts to July 1, 2005 from Statistics Canada catalogue 91-213-XPB, *Annual Demographic Statistics*.

**FIGURE 2 – RATES OF COVERAGE, 2004**

<b>Rates of Coverage T1FF Compared to Population Estimates by Census Family Type</b>			
	<b>All Census Families</b>	<b>Couple Families</b>	<b>Lone-Parent Families</b>
T1FF (excluding territories)	8,867,020	7,429,580	1,437,460
Demography Division <sup>(1)</sup>	8,770,248	7,393,230	1,377,018
Coverage	101.1%	100.5%	104.4%

(1) The same-sex couples are excluded from Demography Division's population estimates.

Sources: Demography Division's *Annual Demographic Statistics* (annual, Statistics Canada catalogue number 91-213-XPB, 2005 edition); the T1 Family File (T1FF) data are from the Small Area and Administrative Data Division's family databank, unpublished data.

The introduction of the FST and GST credits has also resulted in more low income families filing tax returns. This has caused the median family income figures for T1FF to be lower than the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF). Beginning in 1992, family total income was changed to include income of non-filing spouses reported on the taxfiler's income tax return. This caused an increase in family total income as well as an increase in median income for 1992. Starting with the 2001 data, wage and salary income of non-filing spouses can be identified, in some cases, from T4 earnings statements.

Comparing the tax-based family median income figures (T1FF) to the Statistics Canada Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) shows the following results (figure 3). The SCF was replaced by the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID), and the definition of a family was changed for SLID.

**FIGURE 3 – COMPARISON OF FAMILY INCOMES**

Year	Median income, all families		% ratio (T1FF/Other)
	T1FF	Other	
1990	42,700	44,783	95.3%
1991	42,900	45,368	94.6%
1992	43,500	46,175	94.2%
1993	43,000	45,583	94.3%
1994	43,300	46,908	92.3%
1995	44,200	47,124	93.8%
1996	44,800	48,023	93.3%
1997	45,900	48,862	93.9%
1998	47,300	...	...
1999	48,600	...	...
2000	50,800	55,016	92.3%
2001	53,500	...	...
2002	55,000	...	...
2003	56,000	...	...
2004	58,100	...	...

Note: The above T1FF medians are taken from the family databank being discussed here; the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) medians are from Statistics Canada's annual publication 13-208: *Family Incomes, Census Families*. The SCF estimates do not include the Territories (or Nunavut in 1997) while the T1FF medians do include the North. The 2000 T1FF median is compared to the 2001 Census data (2000 income).



## Confidentiality and Rounding

All data are subject to the confidentiality procedures of rounding and suppression.

To protect the confidentiality of Canadians, counts are rounded. Rounding may increase, decrease, or cause no change to counts. Rounding can affect the results obtained from calculations. For example, when calculating percentages from rounded data, results may be distorted as both the numerator and denominator have been rounded. The distortion can be greatest with small numbers.

All reported amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Since 1990, data cells represent counts of 15 or greater, and are rounded to a base of 10. For example, a cell count of 15 would be rounded to 20 and a cell count of 24 would be rounded to 20.

For 1988 and 1989 data, all counts are 25 or greater and are rounded to the nearest 25. Reported amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

For data up to and including 1987, all counts are randomly rounded to a base of 5, and reported amounts are unrounded, but are adjusted according to the rounding of the counts.

Note: *Counts* represent the number of persons.  
*Reported amounts* are aggregate dollar amounts reported.

## Suppressed Data

To maintain confidentiality, data cells have been suppressed whenever:

- areas comprise less than 100 taxfilers;
- cells represent less than 15 taxfilers<sup>1</sup>;
- cells were dominated by a single filer.

Suppressed data may occur:

### **i) within one area:**

- when one of the *income* categories is suppressed, a second category must also be suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential data by subtraction (called residual disclosure) (see figure 3);
- when one of the *gender* categories is suppressed, the other *gender* category must also be suppressed to avoid residual disclosure (see figure 3);
- when one age group category is suppressed, another age group must also be suppressed to avoid residual disclosure.

### **ii) between areas:**

- when a variable amount in one area is suppressed, that variable amount is also suppressed in another area to prevent disclosure by subtraction.

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<sup>1</sup> Likewise, the median income is omitted when the rounded count of a category is less than 30 (15 on either side of the median).

**FIGURE 4 - SUPPRESSION OF INCOME DATA,  
AN ILLUSTRATION**

<b>Amount (Millions of Dollars)</b>			
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
Wages/Salaries/Commissions	6.7	3.4	10.2
Self-Employment	0.3	0.2	0.5
Dividends and Interest	1.2	1.1	2.3
Employment Insurance	0.7	0.3	1.0
Old Age Security/Net Federal Supplements	0.7	0.5	1.1
Canada/Quebec Pension Plan	1.1	0.5	1.6
Other Pensions	1.9	0.4	2.3
Canada Child Tax Benefits	x	x <sup>*</sup>	0.1
Goods and Services Tax Credit/Harmonized Sales Tax Credit	x <sup>**</sup>	x <sup>**</sup>	0.2
Workers' Compensation	0.1	0.1	0.2
Social Assistance	0.2	0.2	0.5
Provincial Refundable Tax Credits	0.1	0.1	0.2
Registered Retirement Saving Plan Income	0.1	0.1	0.2
Other Income	0.6	0.6	1.2
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>22.3</b>

x Confidential when reported by fewer than 15 taxfilers. (In the data supplied to clients, the suppressed cell will contain a "0".)

x<sup>\*</sup> For the same income variable, the value for the opposite gender was suppressed in the table to avoid disclosure by subtraction.

x<sup>\*\*</sup> The value for a second income variable was suppressed elsewhere in the table to avoid disclosure by subtraction.

## SECTION II — THE DATA TABLES

### Content of Tables

#### **Table 1: Senior Census Family Units by Age Group**

Table 1a: Senior couple families by age of older partner and presence of children

Table 1b: Senior lone-parent families by age of parent and persons not in families by age

Table 1c: Total census families and persons not in census families by age of older partner/parent/person not in a census family and presence of children

#### **Table 2: Persons in Senior Census Family Units by Age Group and Gender**

Table 2a: Persons in senior couple families by age group and gender

Table 2b: Persons in senior lone-parent families and senior persons not in census families by age group and gender

Table 2c: Persons in senior census family units and senior persons not in census families by age group and gender

#### **Table 3: Sources of Income of Senior Couple Families**

Counts and amounts by source of income and age of older partner:

- Employment income
- Investment income
- Pensions
- RRSP income
- Other income
- Total family income

#### **Table 4: Sources of Income of Senior Lone-Parent Families and Senior Persons not in Census Families**

Counts and amounts by source of income and age of parent or non-family person:

- Employment income
- Investment income
- Pensions
- RRSP income
- Other income
- Total family income

#### **Table 5: Sources of Income of Senior Individuals by Age Group**

Counts and amounts by source of income and age:

- Employment income
- Investment income
- Pensions
- RRSP income
- Other income
- Total family income

## Statistical Tables – Footnotes and Historical Availability

### All tables:

- Available for census divisions, census metropolitan areas and all levels of the postal geography starting with the 1990 data (historical data not available for postal walks).
- Available for census tracts, economic regions and federal electoral districts starting with 1999 data.
- Available for census agglomerations starting with 2001 data.
- The income shown could be reported by any member of the family.
- Starting with the 2000 data, couple families include same-sex couples.

### Table 1:

- Available in its current format beginning with the 1990 data.
- Age groupings are cumulative. This means, for example, that if a person is 87 years of age, that person will be included in the 55+ age group, the 60+ age group, the 65+ age group, the 70+ age group, etc.
- There is no age limit for children in these families.

### Table 2:

- Available in its current format beginning with the 1990 data.
- Age groupings are cumulative. This means, for example, that a person 87 years of age will be included in the 55+ age group, the 60+ age group, the 65+ age group, the 70+ age group, etc.

### Table 3:

- Available in its current format beginning with the 1990 data.
- The sources of income have changed over the years, depending on the information available from the T1 (most notably RRSP income first shown in the 1994 tables).
- Since 1994, OAS payments also include guaranteed income supplements and spousal allowances.
- Starting in 1999, the RRSP income includes only RRSP income of persons aged 65+ years.

### Table 4:

- Available in its current format beginning with the 1990 data.
- The sources of income have changed over the years, depending on the information available from the T1 (most notably RRSP income first shown in the 1994 tables).
- Since 1994, OAS payments also include guaranteed income supplements and spousal allowances.
- Starting in 1999, the RRSP income includes only RRSP income of persons aged 65+ years.

### Table 5:

- Available in its current format beginning with the 1994 data.
- The sources of income have changed over the years, depending on the information available from the T1
- Since 1994, OAS payments also include guaranteed income supplements and spousal allowances.

- In 1996, "transfer payments" was replaced by two separate categories: government transfers and other pensions. Prior to 1996, the category of other (private) pensions was included in the total transfer payments.
- Starting in 1999, the RRSP income includes only RRSP income of persons aged 65+ years.

## SECTION III — GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### **Age**

Is calculated as of December 31 of the reference year (i.e., tax year minus year of birth).

### **Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit**

Beginning in 1997, the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit is a non-taxable amount paid to families with working income that have children under the age of 18. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

### **Alimony**

Payments from one former spouse to the other, for couples that are separated or divorced. Child support is also included in this variable, as reported on line 128 of the T1 tax form, where both alimony and child support are reported together, without distinction. Starting with 1998, this information is taken from line 156 of the T1 (support payments received). Included in *Other income* in the statistical tables.

### **British Columbia Family Bonus**

Commencing in July 1996, the BC Family Bonus program provides non-taxable amounts paid monthly to help low- and modest-income families with the cost of raising children under the age of 18. This program includes the basic Family Bonus and the BC Earned Income Benefit. Benefits are combined with the CCTB into a single monthly payment. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

### **Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB)**

Is a system that replaces (beginning with the 1993 data year) the previous federal Family Allowance program, the non-refundable child deduction and the refundable child tax credit. It is an income supplement for individuals who have at least one qualified dependent child. The Canada Child Tax Benefit is also based on the individual's family income and the number of dependent children.

### **Canada/Quebec Pension Plan (CPP/QPP)**

Are compulsory contributory social insurance plans that protect workers and their families against loss of income due to retirement, disability or death. Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan benefits include all benefits reported for the reference year.

### **Census Family**

This definition of the family classifies people in the following manner: 1) couples (married or common-law) living in the same dwelling, with or without children; and 2) lone parents (male or female) with one or more children. The residual population is called "persons not in census families" and is made up of persons living alone and of persons living in a household but who are not part of a couple family or lone-parent family. See *also* "Children".

**Children**

Are taxfilers or imputed persons in couple and lone-parent families. Taxfiling children do not live with their spouse, have no children of their own and live with their parent(s). Previous to the 1998 data, taxfiling children had to report “single” as their marital status. Most children are identified from the Canada Child Tax Benefit file, a provincial births file or a previous T1 family file.

**CityID**

Since names can be, in some cases, quite long and cumbersome for handling in electronic files, municipalities are given a city identification number.

**Couple Family**

Consists of a couple living together (whether married or common-law) at the same address, and any children living at the same address; taxfiling children do not live with their spouse, have no child of their own and live with their parent(s). Previous to the 1998 data, taxfiling children had to report “single” as their marital status. Beginning in 2000, same-sex couples reporting as couples are counted as couple families. *See also Census families.*

**Dependents**

For the purpose of these databanks, dependents are the non-filing members of a family. We do not attempt to measure dependency in any way, but are able to identify certain non-filing family members, and include these in the total counts of people in a given area.

**Dividend Income**

Includes dividend income from taxable Canadian corporations (such as stocks or mutual funds) as reported on line 120 of the personal income tax return, and then grossed down to the actual amounts received; dividend income does not include dividends received from foreign investments (which are included in interest income and reported on line 121).

**Employment Income**

Includes wages and salaries, commissions from employment, training allowances, tips and gratuities, self-employment income (net income from business, profession, farming, fishing and commissions) and Indian Employment Income (new in 1999).

**Employment Insurance (EI) *Previously Unemployment Insurance (UI)***

Comprises all types of benefits paid to individuals under this program, regardless of reason, including regular benefits for unemployment, fishing, job creation, maternity, parental/adoption, retirement, self-employment, sickness, training and work sharing.

**Families Reporting Income**

Is counted for a given source of income when that income is received by at least one family member. Families and individuals may report more than one source of income.

**Family Benefits**

See Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit; British Columbia Family Bonus; New Brunswick Child Tax Benefit Supplement; Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit; Northwest Territories Child Benefit; Nova Scotia Child Tax Benefit; Nunavut Child Benefit; Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families; Quebec Family Allowance;

Saskatchewan Child Benefit; Yukon Child Benefit; Canada Child Tax Benefit.

### **Family Total Income**

Is the sum of the total incomes of all members of the family (see Total income). New to the 1992 definition of total income is income for non-filing spouses. The information is derived from the taxfiling spouse.

### **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Credit**

Includes all amounts received through this program. In 1990, the goods and services tax credit began replacing the federal sales tax (FST) credit. By 1991, the FST credit no longer existed. Beginning in 1997, the GST was harmonized with the provincial sales taxes in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and became the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit.

### **Government Transfer Payments**

For the purpose of these data, transfer payments denote the following payments made to individuals by the federal or provincial governments: Employment Insurance, Family Allowance (to 1992), FST credit (in 1989 and 1990), GST credit (which began replacing the FST credit in 1990 and completely replaced it by 1991, and became the GST/HST credit starting in 1997), Child Tax Credit (to 1992), Canada Child Tax Benefit (starting with 1993), Old Age Security pension benefits/net federal supplements, Canada and Quebec Pension plans benefits, non-taxable income and provincial refundable tax credits (both beginning in 1990), Quebec family allowance (beginning in 1994), British Columbia Family Bonus (beginning in 1996), New Brunswick Child Tax Benefit (beginning in 1997), Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit (beginning in 1997), Northwest Territories Child Benefit (beginning in 1998), Nova Scotia Child Tax Benefit (beginning in 1998), Nunavut Child Benefit (beginning in 1998), Ontario child care supplement for working families (beginning in 1998), Saskatchewan Child Benefit (beginning in 1998), Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit (beginning in 1999) and the Yukon Child Benefit (beginning in 1999). The individuals in this case receive these payments without providing goods or services in return. Previous to the 1996 data, *Transfer payments* also included superannuation and other (private) pensions.

### **Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)**

In Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the provincial sales tax has been harmonized with the goods and services tax (GST) since 1997, to become the harmonized sales tax. For this reason, the federal GST credit is now known as the GST/HST credit.

### **Husband-Wife Family**

See *Couple Family*.

### **Imputed Persons**

Are persons who are not taxfilers, but are reported or otherwise identified by a taxfiler (for example, a non-filing spouse or child).



**Interest Income**

Refers to the amount Canadians claimed on line 121 of the personal income tax return. This amount includes interest generated from bank deposits, Canada Savings Bonds, corporate bonds, treasury bills, investment certificates, term deposits, annuities, mutual funds, earnings on life insurance policies and all foreign interest and foreign dividend incomes.

**Investment Income**

Includes both interest income and dividend income.

**Level of Geography**

Is a code designating the type of geographic area to which the information in the table applies. See the section on Geography for further information.

**Limited Partnership Income**

Is net income (i.e., gross income less expenses) from a limited partnership, where a limited partner is a passive or non-active partner whose liability as a member is limited to his/her investment. Included in *Other income* in the statistical tables.

**Lone-Parent Family**

Is a family with only one parent, male or female, and with at least one child. See also *Census family* and *Children*.

**Median**

Is the middle number in a group of numbers. Where a median income, for example, is given as \$26,000, it means that exactly half of the incomes reported are greater than or equal to \$26,000, and that the other half are less than or equal to the median amount. Median incomes in the data tables are rounded to the nearest hundred dollars. Zero values are not included in the calculation of medians for individuals, but are included in the calculation of medians for families.

**Negative Income**

Generally applies to net self-employment income, net rental income and net limited partnership income. Negative income would indicate that expenses exceeded gross income.

**Net Federal Supplements**

Are part of the Old Age Security (OAS) pension program, intended to supplement the income of pensioners and spouses with lower income; payments take the form of a Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or a Spouse's Allowance (SPA). Between 1990 and 1993, net federal supplements were included in non-taxable income.

**Net Rental Income**

Is income received or earned from the rental of property, less related costs and expenses.

**New Brunswick Child Tax Benefit**

Since 1997, the New Brunswick Child Tax Benefit (NBCTB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to qualifying families with children under the age of 18. The New Brunswick Working Income Supplement (NBWIS) is an additional benefit paid to qualifying families with earned income who have children under the age of 18. Benefits are combined with the CCTB into a single monthly payment. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

**Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit**

Beginning in 1999, the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit (NLCB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to help low-income families with the cost of raising children under the age of 18. The Mother Baby Nutrition Supplement (MBNS) is an additional benefit paid to qualifying families who have children under the age of one. Benefits are combined with the CCTB into a single monthly payment. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

**Non-Family Person**

See *Persons not in Census Families*.

**Non-Negative Income**

Is income that is zero or greater.

**Non-Senior Family**

Represents a couple family where both partners are under the age of 55, or a lone parent family where the parent is under the age of 55.

**Non-Taxable Income/Provincial (refundable) Tax Credits**

Non-taxable income refers to the amounts included in a taxfiler's income when applying for refundable tax credits, but not included in the calculation of taxable income; these amounts include workers' compensation payments, net federal supplements received (Guaranteed Income Supplements and/or Spouse's Allowance), and social assistance payments. Beginning with the 1994 data, information is available separately for net federal supplements, workers' compensation and social assistance. Provincial tax credits are a refundable credit paid to individuals by the province in which he/she resided as of December 31 of the taxation year. See also *Provincial refundable tax credits*.

**Northwest Territories Child Benefit**

Beginning in July 1998, the Northwest Territories Child Benefit (NWTCB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to qualifying families with children under age 18. The Territorial Worker's Supplement, part of the NWTCB program, is an additional benefit paid to qualifying families with working income who have children under age 18. Benefits are combined with the CCTB into a single monthly payment. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

**Nova Scotia Child Benefit**

Beginning in October 1998, but retro-active to July 1998, the Nova Scotia Child Benefit (NSCB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to help low- and modest-income families with the costs of raising children under the age of 18. Benefits are combined with the CCTB into a single monthly payment. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

**Nova Scotia Taxpayer Refund Program**

Is a one-time payment of \$155 made in 2003 to residents of Nova Scotia who paid \$1 or more in provincial income tax. The refund is part of the government's commitment to lower Taxes in the province. Included in 2003 data only.

**Nunavut Child Benefit**

Beginning in July 1998, the Nunavut Child Benefit (NUCB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to qualifying families with children under age 18. The Territorial Worker's Supplement, part of the NUCB program, is an additional benefit paid to qualifying families with working income who have children under age 18. Benefits are combined with the CCTB into a single monthly payment. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

**Old Age Security (OAS) Pension**

Is part of the Old Age Security program, a federal government program that guarantees a degree of financial security to Canadian seniors. All persons in Canada aged 65 or older, who are Canadian citizens or legal residents, may qualify for a full OAS pension, depending on their years of residence in Canada after reaching age 18. Old Age Security benefits include all benefits reported for the reference year, excluding Guaranteed Income Supplements and Spousal Allowance benefits; *see also Net federal supplements and Non-taxable income*. Starting with 1994 data, OAS income of non-filing spouses was estimated and included in the tables.

**Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families**

Beginning in July 1998, the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families (OCCSWF) is not administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (formerly Canada Customs and Revenue Agency) and therefore families must apply for the supplement annually. This program is a tax-free monthly payment to help with the cost of raising children under the age of seven. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

**Other Income**

Includes net rental income, alimony, income from a limited partnership, retiring allowances, scholarships, amounts received through a supplementary unemployment benefit plan (guaranteed annual income plan), payments from income-averaging annuity contracts, as well as all other taxable income not included elsewhere. Beginning with the 1992 data, this variable also includes the imputed income of imputed spouses, as derived from the tax return of the filing spouse. *See also Total income*.

**Parent**

Is a person for whom we have identified one or more children living at the same address. See also *Census families* and *Children*.

**Persons not in Census Families** *Previously Non-Family Persons*

Is an individual who is not part of a census family – couple family or lone-parent family. Persons not in census families may live with their married children or with their children who have children of their own (e.g., grandparent). They may be living with a census family to whom they are related (e.g., sibling, cousin) or unrelated (e.g., lodger, roommate). They may also be living alone or with other persons not in census families. See also *Census family*.

**Private (other) Pensions**

Include pension benefits (superannuation and private pensions) other than Old Age Security pension benefits and Canada/Quebec Pension Plan benefits.

**Provincial Refundable Tax Credits / Family Benefits**

Unlike non-refundable tax credits, these amounts are paid to the taxfiler, regardless of tax liability. Included are the refundable provincial tax credits received by taxfilers in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan (since 1990), British Columbia and the Northwest Territories (since 1993), Newfoundland and Nunavut (beginning in 1997), Quebec Family Allowances (beginning with 1994), the British Columbia Family Bonus (beginning with 1996), the New Brunswick Child Tax Benefit (beginning in 1997), the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit (beginning with 1997), the Northwest Territories Child Benefit (beginning with 1998), the Nova Scotia Child Tax Benefit (beginning with 1998), the Nunavut Child Benefit (beginning with 1998), the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families (beginning with 1998), Saskatchewan Child Benefit (beginning with 1998), the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit (beginning with 1999), the Yukon Child Benefit (beginning with 1999) and the Nova Scotia one-time payment Taxpayer Refund Program (2003 only).

**Quebec Family Allowance**

The Régie des rentes du Québec administers the family benefits program, which provides for the payment of a family allowance intended to cover the basic needs of children under age 18 in low-income families. This allowance takes into account the Canada Child Tax Benefit paid by the federal government. Available starting with 1994 data. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

**Registered Retirement Saving Plan (RRSP) Income**

Is any money withdrawn from a RRSP, either as a lump sum or as a periodic payment. Included in this amount are withdrawals and monies from RRSP annuities. Note that monies from a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) may be reported on line 115 (other pensions or superannuation) if the recipient is 65 years of age or older; otherwise, monies from a RRIF are reported on line 130 (other income). Information on RRSP income is available starting with the 1994 data. Information on RRSP income is available starting with the 1994 data. Starting in 1999, only RRSP income of persons aged 65 years or older is included.

**Saskatchewan Child Benefit**

Beginning in July 1998, the Saskatchewan Child Benefit (SCB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to help lower-income families with the cost of raising children under age of 18. Benefits are combined with the CCTB into a single monthly payment. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

**Self-Employment Income**

Is net income from business, professional, commission, farming and fishing.

**Senior**

Is, for the purpose of these data, a person 55 years of age or over.

**Senior Census Family**

Is a couple family where at least one of the partners is 55 years of age or over, or a lone-parent family where the parent is 55 years of age or over.

**Social Assistance**

Includes payments made in the year on the basis of a means, needs or income test (whether made by an organized charity or under a government program). The value is reported on line 145 of the personal income tax return. Available only since 1994; previously included in Non-taxable income.

**Spouse**

Is either partner in a couple family.

**Suppressed Data**

Are intentionally omitted because they breach confidentiality. All data counts under a certain number are suppressed along with the corresponding income amounts. If the count for one cell or component is suppressed, then corresponding income aggregates in another cell are also suppressed to avoid disclosure by subtraction (called residual disclosure). See the section on Confidentiality.

**Taxfilers**

Most taxfilers are people who filed a tax return for the reference year and were alive at the end of the year. Starting with the 1993 tax year, those taxfilers who died within the tax year and who had a non-filing spouse had their income and their filing status attributed to the surviving spouse.

**Total Income**

*Note: this variable was revised over the years, as reflected in the comments below; data users who plan to compare current data to data from previous years should bear in mind these changes. Also, it should be noted that all income amounts are gross, with the exception of net rental income, net limited partnership income and all forms of net self-employment income.*

Income reported by taxfilers from any of the following sources:

Labour income

Employment income

- Wages/salaries/commissions
- Other employment income as reported on line 104 of the tax form (tips, gratuities, royalties, etc.)
- Net self-employment
- Indian Employment Income (new in 1999)
- Employment insurance (EI) benefits
- Pension income
  - Old Age Security pension benefits/net federal supplements (the latter including guaranteed income supplements and spouses' allowances since 1994)
  - Canada/Quebec Pension Plan benefits
  - Superannuation and other (private) pensions
- Federal Family Allowance benefits (up to and including 1992)
- Quebec Family Allowance (beginning with 1994)
- British Columbia Family Bonus (beginning with 1996)
- New Brunswick Child Benefit Supplement (beginning with 1997)
- Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit (beginning with 1997)
- Northwest Territories Child Benefit (beginning with 1998)
- Nova Scotia Child Tax Benefit (beginning with 1998)
- Nunavut Child Benefit (beginning with 1998)
- Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families (beginning with 1998)
- Saskatchewan Child Benefit (beginning with 1998)
- Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit (beginning with 1999)
- Yukon Child Benefit (beginning with 1999)
- Interest and other investment income
- Dividend income
- RRSP income (since 1994; previously in "other income" / since 1999; only taxfilers 65+)
- Net limited partnership income (included in "other income")
- Alimony (included in "other income")
- Net rental income (included in "other income")
- Income for non-filing spouses (since 1992; included in "other income")
- Other incomes as reported on line 130 of the tax form (fellowships, bursaries, grants, etc.; included in "other income")
- Federal sales tax (FST) credit (for 1989-1990 inclusive)
- Goods and services tax (GST) credit (beginning in 1990)
- Harmonized sales tax (HST) credit (beginning in 1997)
- Child tax credit (up to and including 1992)
- Canada Child Tax Benefit (starting with 1993)
- Other non-taxable income (since 1990)
  - Workers' compensation payments (shown separately starting with 1994)
  - Social assistance payments (shown separately starting with 1994)
  - Guaranteed income supplements (included with net federal supplements since 1994; previously in "non-taxable income")
  - Spouses' allowances (included with net federal supplements since 1994; previously in "non-taxable income")
- Provincial refundable tax credits in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan (since 1990), British Columbia and the Northwest Territories (since 1993), Newfoundland and Nunavut (since 1997) and the Nova Scotia one-time payment Taxpayer Refund Program (2003 only).

*Monies not included in income above are: veterans' disability and dependent pensioners' payments, war veterans' allowances, lottery winnings and capital gains.*

### **Unemployment Insurance (UI)**

See Employment Insurance (EI).

### **User-Defined Areas**

Are areas that have been defined by the data users as the specific area for which they require data. The smallest "building block" for these special areas is the six-character postal code. To obtain data, provide us with a list of the postal codes for which data are required and we will provide the aggregated data. Also, the user-defined area may be a total of a number of individual standard areas, grouped together for a total, rather than a number of individual areas each with their own total. Of course, the area must satisfy our confidentiality requirements, or no data can be produced. See section on Geography.

### **Wages, Salaries and Commissions**

Include employment pay and commissions as stated on T4 information slips, training allowances, tips, gratuities and royalties. Starting in 1999, the total wages, salaries and commissions also includes tax-exempt employment income earned on an Indian reserve. Starting with the 2001 data, wage and salary income of non-filing spouses can be identified, in some cases, from T4 earnings statements.

### **Workers' Compensation**

Includes any compensation received under Workers' Compensation in respect of an injury, disability or death. This value is reported on line 144 of the personal income tax return. Information on Workers' Compensation is available as a distinct income source starting with the 1994 data; previously included in Non-taxable Income.

### **Yukon Child Benefit**

Beginning in 1999, the Yukon Child Benefit (YCB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to help low- and modest-income families with the cost of raising children under the age of 18. Benefits are combined with the CCTB into a single monthly payment. Included in *Provincial refundable tax credits/Family benefits* in the statistical tables.

## SECTION IV — GEOGRAPHY

The data are available for the following geographic areas. See "Statistical Tables – Footnotes and Historical Availability" for further details. The mailing address at the time of filing is the basis for the geographic information in the tables.

### **Standard areas:**

#### **Postal Geography**

- Canada
- Provinces and Territories
- Cities
- Rural Communities
- Urban Forward Sortation Areas
- Postal Walks

#### **Census Geography**

- Economic Regions
- Census Divisions
- Census Metropolitan Areas
- Census Agglomerations
- Census Tracts
- Federal Electoral Districts

### **User-defined areas:**

Users may select a specific area of interest that is not a standard area for which data can be made available in standard format. To obtain data, provide us with a list of the postal codes for which data are required and we will provide the aggregated data. Of course, the area must satisfy our confidentiality requirements, or no data can be produced. See the "Special Geography" section for further information.



## Geographic Levels - Postal Geography

The various databanks compiled from the tax file are available for different levels of the postal geography, and for some levels of the Census geography. Coded geographic indicators appearing on the data tables are shown below with a brief description.

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
12	Canada	This level of data is an aggregation of the provincial/territorial totals (code 11). The national total is identified by the region code Z99099.
11	Province or Territory Total	<p>This level of data is an aggregation of the following geographies within a province:</p> <p>City Totals..... L.O.G. 08  Rural Postal Codes..... L.O.G. 09  Other Provincial Totals ..... L.O.G. 10</p> <p>These totals are identified by a provincial/territorial postal letter, then a "990" followed by the province/territory code, as follows:</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador ..... A99010  Nova Scotia ..... B99012  Prince Edward Island..... C99011  New Brunswick ..... E99013  Quebec ..... J99024  Ontario ..... P99035  Manitoba ..... R99046  Saskatchewan ..... S99047  Alberta ..... T99048  British Columbia ..... V99059  Northwest Territories ..... X99061  Nunavut ..... X99062  Yukon Territory ..... Y99060</p>

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
10	Other Provincial Total ("P" Pot)	<p>This level of data is an aggregation of small communities in the province that had less than 100 taxfilers, where these communities are combined into a "pot". Before 1992, it was identified by the same codes as the provincial/territorial totals, and only the "Delivery Mode" codes 2 and 3 distinguished between the two. To avoid this problem, starting with the 1992 data, an "8" appears after the provincial/territorial letter instead of a "9". The "9" will be reserved for the provincial/territorial total, as explained in 11 above. These "pot" codes are as follows:</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador ..... A89010  Nova Scotia ..... B89012  Prince Edward Island..... C89011  New Brunswick ..... E89013  Quebec ..... J89024  Ontario ..... P89035  Manitoba ..... R89046  Saskatchewan ..... S89047  Alberta ..... T89048  British Columbia ..... V89059  Northwest Territories ..... X89061  Nunavut ..... X89062  Yukon Territory ..... Y89060</p>
09	Rural Postal Code (Not in City )	<p>This level of geography pertains to rural communities that have one and only one rural postal code. These stand-alone rural postal codes can be identified by a "zero" in the second position of the postal code and a level of geography code 09.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 4,072 areas coded as level of geography 09.</p>

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
08	City Total	<p>This level of data is an aggregation of the following geographies for unique place names within a province/territory:</p> <p>Urban FSA (Residential)..... L.O.G. 03  Rural Route ..... L.O.G. 04  Suburban Services ..... L.O.G. 05  Rural Postal Code (within city) ..... L.O.G. 06  Other Urban Area ..... L.O.G. 07</p> <p>They have the following format: e.g., Edmonton = T95479; Regina = S94876. The pattern is the postal letter of the city plus "9" in the second position (indicating a total), followed by a 4 digit numeric code for the community (often called "CityID").</p> <p>In general, postal cities do not coincide with census subdivisions.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 995 areas coded as level of geography 08.</p>
07	Other Urban Area (Non-residential within city)	<p>This aggregation of data (or "pot") covers non-residential addresses within an urban centre and all other data not otherwise displayed. Commercial addresses, post office boxes and general delivery are included, as are residential addresses with too few taxfilers to report separately. They can be recognized by codes that are similar to the city totals, with a distinguishing difference: an "8" will follow the city postal letter rather than the "9" of the city total (e.g., Edmonton = T85479; Regina = S84876).</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 482 areas coded as level of geography 07.</p>
06	Rural Postal Code (Within City)	<p>These data pertain to rural postal codes that belong to communities with more than one rural postal code. These occur in areas that were formerly serviced by rural delivery service and changed by Canada Post to urban delivery service or in communities served by more than one rural postal code. Rural postal codes of this type can be identified by a "zero" in the second position of the postal code and a level of geography code 06.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 429 areas coded as level of geography 06.</p>

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
05	Suburban Service	<p>Sparsely populated fringe areas of urban centres may receive their postal service from an urban post office by delivery designated as "suburban service". Their region code retains all six characters of the postal code. Suburban Services are usually near or on the perimeters of urban areas, and mail is delivered by a contractor to group mail boxes, community mail boxes and/or external delivery sites (e.g., kiosks, miniparks).</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 18 areas coded as level of geography 05.</p>
04	Rural Route	<p>Reasonably well-settled rural areas may receive their postal service from an urban post office by delivery designated as "rural route". Mail is delivered by a contractor to customers living along or near well-defined roads. Their region code retains all six characters of the postal code.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 827 areas coded as level of geography 04.</p>
03	Urban FSA (Residential Area)	<p>The urban Forward Sortation Area (FSA, identified by the first three characters of the postal code) includes all residential addresses covered by the first three characters of a postal code in a particular urban area (not including L.O.G. 04 and 05). Only residential FSAs are considered for these databanks. This level of data is an aggregation of:</p> <p>Postal Walk..... L.O.G. 01  Other Postal Walk..... L.O.G. 02</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 1,887 areas coded as level of geography 03.</p>

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
02	Other Postal Walk	<p>This level of geography is an aggregation of urban residential postal codes unallocated to a letter carrier route and postal walks with less than 100 taxfilers. A postal walk record of this type can be identified by the FSA followed by three blanks, and the postal walk number "XXXX".</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 220 areas coded as level of geography 02.</p>
01	Postal Walk	<p>This is the finest level of geography and is an aggregation of urban residential postal codes allocated to a letter carrier route. A postal walk of this type can be identified by a region code which is the FSA followed by three blanks, and the postal walk number. An average FSA contains 11 walks.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 20,799 areas coded as level of geography 01. The total population of these postal walks is 23.8 million (with an average population of 1,144). The walks range in size from 100 to over 8,000.</p>

## Adding postal areas without duplication

Data files according to the postal geography will often contain subtotals and totals. Many data users need to add certain geographies in order to come up with a total for their particular area of interest. However, including subtotals during this process results in double-counting some populations, and this leads to an erroneous total. The following is a summary of which postal areas are aggregations in the standard postal geography.

Postal walks (Level of Geography, or L.O.G 1) and walk pots (L.O.G 2) add up to urban Forward Sortation Areas (FSAs, L.O.G 3).

Urban FSAs (L.O.G 3), rural routes (L.O.G 4), suburban services (L.O.G 5), rural postal codes within a city (L.O.G 6) and other urban areas (L.O.G 7) add up to city totals (L.O.G 8).

City totals (L.O.G 8), rural postal codes not in a city (L.O.G 9) and other areas in a province (L.O.G 10) add up to provincial/territorial totals (L.O.G 11).

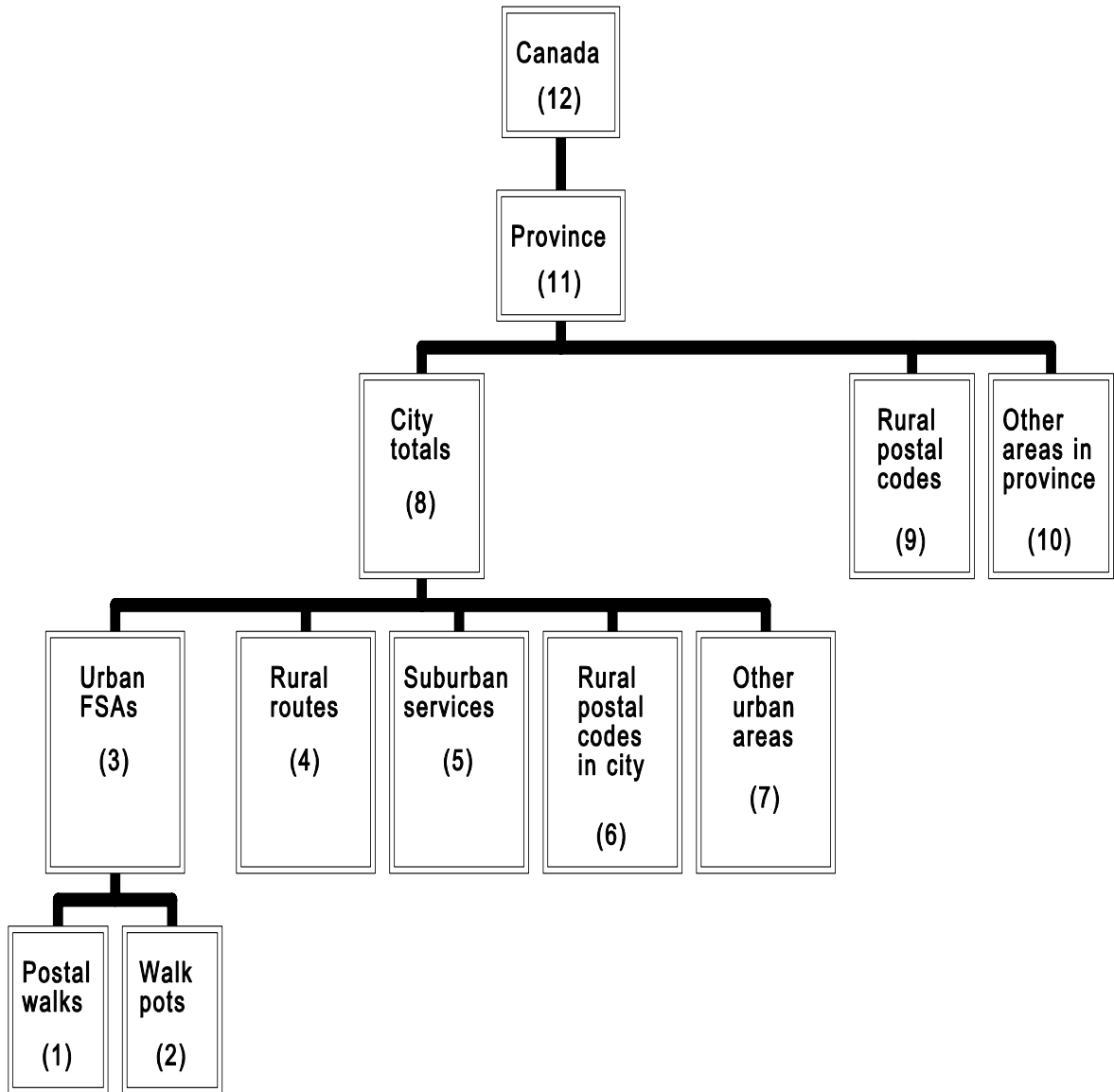
Provincial/territorial totals (L.O.G 11) add up to the Canada total (L.O.G 12).

Thus, using the Level of geography codes:

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

$$3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 = 8$$

$$8 + 9 + 10 = 11$$



## Concordance files

A concordance file accompanies data that are aggregated by postal walk. This file lists all of the six-character postal codes for which there is information, and identifies the postal walk to which each postal code is assigned. An urban Forward Sortation Area (FSA) may be split between two or more municipalities, and so the FSA label as well as the city identification number (or CityID) becomes important parts of the geographic identifiers. It is a combination of CityID, FSA label and postal walk number that creates unique geographic identifiers. The concordance file consists therefore of the CityID, the FSA label (called the *postal area*), the postal walk number and the six-character urban postal code. By simply browsing the concordance file, one can determine which postal codes make up a given walk. The following illustration is an example of a concordance file.

CityID	Postal area	Postal walk	Postal code
6092	K1B	52	K1B3K5
6092	K1B	52	K1B3V5
6092	K1B	52	K1B4C6
6092	K1B	52	K1B4N7
6092	K1B	52	K1B4N9
6092	K1B	52	K1B4M8
6092	K1B	52	K1B4N9

## Vintage of the postal walks

The postal walks represented in the 2004 databanks were coded from a February 2006 Canada Post Corporation file with a December 2005 basefile.

## Old walk/new walk file

Since postal walks are subject to change, we will also supply on request, along with postal walk aggregated data and the corresponding concordance file, a third file called the Old walk/New walk file. This file shows the percentage change in the postal walks between the date of the walks to which the data are attached and the latest such information available to us from Canada Post. This file compares the six-character urban postal codes that make up the postal walk at two different points in time. It shows the percentage of the postal codes from the original (old) walk that are included in the newer walk, and the percentage of the new walk that is derived from the old. The following illustration is an example of an old walk/new walk file.



**Comparison Between Old Walks (Month)  
and New Walks (Month)**

<b>CityID</b>	<b>FSA</b>	<b>Old walk #</b>	<b>New walk #</b>	<b>% of old included in new</b>	<b>% of new derived from old</b>
2434	K1B	50	50	94	74
2434	K1B	50	51	6	8
2434	K1B	51	50	33	26
2434	K1B	51	51	61	92
2434	K1B	51	57	6	5
2434	K1B	57	57	91	50
2434	K1B	57	58	9	100
2434	K1B	52	52	29	10
2434	K1B	52	60	71	100
2434	K1B	53	52	20	24
2434	K1B	53	53	60	100
2434	K1B	53	58	20	33
2434	K1B	54	54	93	83
2434	K1B	54	55	7	5
2434	K1B	55	55	100	89
2434	K1B	56	52	30	14
2434	K1B	56	56	70	100
2434	K1B	58	52	12	10
2434	K1B	58	55	12	5

## Geographic Levels - Census Geography

Data are also available for the following levels of the Census geography; the following table shows the coded designators for these geographies, as well as a brief description of each.

Level of Geography	Name	Description
61	Census Tract	<p>Census tracts (CTs) are small geographic units representing urban or rural neighbourhood-like communities in census metropolitan areas (see definition below) or census agglomerations with an urban core population of 50,000 or more at time of 1996 Census. CTs are delineated by a committee of local specialists (such as planners, health and social workers and educators) in conjunction with Statistics Canada.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 4,730 areas coded as level of geography 61, based on 2001 Census.</p>
51	Economic Region	<p>An economic region is a grouping of complete census divisions (see definition below) with one exception in Ontario. Economic regions (ERs) are used to analyse regional economic activity. Within the province of Quebec, ERs are designated by law. In all other provinces, they are created by agreement between Statistics Canada and the provinces concerned. Prince Edward Island and the territories each consist of one economic region.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 76 areas coded as level of geography 51, based on 2001 Census.</p>
42	Census Agglomeration	<p>The general concept of a census agglomeration (CA) is one of a very large urban area, together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that urban area. CAs have an urban core population of at least 10,000, based on the previous census.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 126 areas coded as level of geography 42, based on 2001 Census.</p>

Level of Geography	Name	Description
41	Census Metropolitan Area	<p>The general concept of a census metropolitan area (CMA) is one of a very large urban area, together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that urban area. CMAs have an urban core population of at least 100,000, based on the previous census.</p> <p>There are 28 CMAs in the 2004 databanks, based on 2001 Census:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>001, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador</li> <li>205, Halifax, Nova Scotia</li> <li>310, Saint John, New Brunswick</li> <li>408, Saguenay, Québec</li> <li>421, Québec, Québec</li> <li>433, Sherbrooke, Québec</li> <li>442, Trois-Rivières, Québec</li> <li>462, Montréal, Québec</li> <li>505, Ottawa-Gatineau (Québec part)</li> <li>505, Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part)</li> <li>521, Kingston, Ontario</li> <li>532, Oshawa, Ontario</li> <li>535, Toronto, Ontario</li> <li>537, Hamilton, Ontario</li> <li>539, St-Catharines-Niagara, Ontario</li> <li>541, Kitchener, Ontario</li> <li>555, London, Ontario</li> <li>559, Windsor, Ontario</li> <li>580, Greater Sudbury, Ontario</li> <li>595, Thunder Bay, Ontario</li> <li>602, Winnipeg, Manitoba</li> <li>705, Regina, Saskatchewan</li> <li>725, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan</li> <li>825, Calgary, Alberta</li> <li>835, Edmonton, Alberta</li> <li>932, Abbotsford, British Columbia</li> <li>933, Vancouver, British Columbia</li> <li>935, Victoria, British Columbia</li> </ul>

Level of Geography	Name	Description
31	Federal Electoral District	<p>A federal electoral district (FED) refers to any place or territorial area represented by a member of Parliament elected to the House of Commons. There are 308 FEDs in Canada according to the 2003 Representation Order. The Representation Order is prepared by the Chief Electoral Officer describing, naming and specifying the population of each electoral district established by the Electoral Boundaries Commission and sent to the Governor in Council.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 308 areas coded as level of geography 31.</p>
21	Census Division	<p>A census division (CD) is a group of neighbouring municipalities joined together for the purposes of regional planning and managing common services (such as police or ambulance services). A CD might correspond to a county, a regional municipality or a regional district.</p> <p>CDs are established under laws in effect in certain provinces and territories of Canada. In other provinces and territories where laws do not provide for such areas (Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta), Statistics Canada defines equivalent areas for statistical reporting purposes in cooperation with these provinces and territories.</p> <p>The 2004 databanks contain 288 areas coded as level of geography 21, based on 2001 Census.</p>

## Geographic Levels - Special Geography

Clients may select geographical areas of their own definition; areas that are not part of the standard areas listed here (for example, bank service areas, retail store catchment areas). For this, clients must submit a list of the postal codes that make up their special area, and we will aggregate the micro data to correspond to that area of interest. Information ordered for special, or "user-defined" areas will be coded according to the following:

<b>Level of Geography</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
93	Total for all user-defined areas	This level represents the sum total of all user-defined areas, and is the total of levels 91 and 92 described below.
92	Other user-defined areas	This level of geography represents all user-defined areas that were too small, in terms of population; to have information compiled on those areas individually (i.e. fewer than 100 taxfilers). Such areas are grouped into this "other" category.
91	Special user-defined area	Any area showing a level of "91" is an area defined by a specific user according to that user's needs (for example, school catchment areas, health districts, etc.)

## Conversion files

When a client is interested in purchasing data for areas that are considered non-standard geography by Small Area and Administrative Data Division, a conversion file is usually necessary. A combination of postal codes making up one or more special area(s) is commonly referred to as a conversion file – an electronic file used by our staff to aggregate the different postal codes that make up the user-defined area. Simply provide us with the postal codes related to the area and we will compile the data (subject to our confidentiality restrictions). This list should include all postal codes for each area.

This would apply only to an area that is not a standard area. It could include any one or a combination of areas whose boundaries are a combination of standard areas or a combination of postal codes. User-defined areas may be branch service or school catchment areas, neighbourhoods or almost any other region.

Each postal code on a conversion file is linked to a corresponding area code. The postal code is used as the basis for the tabulation of economic and demographic data for each area. Refer to the example below for a typical conversion file received by the Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

<b>Postal code</b>	<b>User Area</b>
A1A1A1	0001
A1A1A2	0001
A1A1A3	0001
A1A1A4	0001
A1A1A5	0001
A1A1A6	0001
A1A1A7	0002
A1A1A8	0002
A1A1A9	0002
A1A1B1	0002
A1A1B2	0002
A1A1B3	0003
A1A1B4	0003
A1A1B5	0003
A1A1B6	0003
A1A1B7	0003
A1A1B8	0004
A1A1B9	0004
A1A1C1	0004
A1A1C2	0004
A1A1C3	0004

Note:

- 1) The conversion file should have a record length of 10 bytes. The first six bytes should represent the postal code and the following four bytes should represent the user-defined area.
- 2) The postal code does not have a space between the third and fourth characters.
- 3) The user-defined area code is only four characters in length.
- 4) A postal code must be linked to one area only. Our system does not accommodate user-defined areas with hierarchical levels. In the previous example, areas 0001 and 0002 could not add up to their own total, with areas 0003 and 0004 adding up to their own separate total. Generating this type of hierarchical information means submitting this conversion file to our programs several times and increasing costs.

## **WE INVITE YOUR COMMENTS!**

We are always working on ways to improve our products. The comments we receive concerning quality and presentation are essential to meet this objective. If you have any suggestions in this regard, we encourage you, the user, to provide us with your comments.

### **Data in many forms**

Statistics Canada disseminates data in a variety of forms. In addition to publications, both standard and special tabulations are offered. Data are available on the Internet, compact disk, diskette, computer printouts, microfiche and microfilm and magnetic tape. Maps and other geographic reference materials are available for some types of data. Direct online access to aggregated information is possible through CANSIM, Statistics Canada's machine-readable database and retrieval system.

### **How to obtain more information**

Inquiries about these data and related statistics or services should be directed to:

Client Services  
Small Area and Administrative Data Division  
Statistics Canada  
Room 1306, Main Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6

Telephone: (613) 951-9720  
Toll-Free (866) 652-8443  
Fax: (613) 951-4745  
Toll-Free (866) 652-8444  
[saadinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:saadinfo@statcan.ca)

Advisory Services provides a wide range of services: identification of your needs, establishing sources or availability of data, consolidation and integration of data coming from different sources and development of profiles, analysis of highlights or tendencies and, finally, training on products, services, Statistics Canada concepts and also the use of statistical data.

You can also visit us on the web: <http://www.statcan.ca>.

<b>National enquiries line</b>	<b>1-800-263-1136</b>
<b>National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired</b>	<b>1-800-363-7629</b>
<b>Order-only line (Canada and the United States)</b>	<b>1-800-267-6677</b>
<b>National Toll-free Fax line</b>	<b>1-877-287-4369</b>

### **Standards of service to the public**

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner and in the official language of their choice. To this end, the agency has developed standards of service which its employees observe in serving its clients. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll free at 1-800-263-1136. The standards are also published on [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca) under About Statistics Canada > Providing services to Canadians.



## LIST OF DATA PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

The Small Area and Administrative Data Division of Statistics Canada tabulates statistical data derived from administrative records - most notably, the tax file. The resulting demographic and socio-economic databanks available are listed in the table below, along with their identifying product number and the usual release dates.

<b>Product name</b>	<b>Product number</b>	<b>Release date</b>
RRSP Contributors	17C0006	Fall
RRSP Contribution Limits (Room)	17C0011	Fall
Canadian Savers	17C0009	Fall
Canadian Investors	17C0007	Fall
Canadian Investment Income	17C0008	Fall
Canadian Taxfilers	17C0010	Fall
Canadian Capital Gains	17C0012	Fall
Charitable Donors	13C0014	Fall
Neighbourhood Income and Demographics	13C0015	Spring
Economic Dependency Profiles	13C0017	Spring
Labour Income Profiles	71C0018	Spring
Families	13C0016	Spring
Seniors	89C0022	Spring
Migration Estimates	91C0025	Fall