LABOUR INCOME

PROFILES

— USER'S GUIDE —

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INTRODUCTION

The Labour Income Profiles contain *counts* and *total income amounts* data for all taxfilers reporting any type of income, as well as *counts* and *sources of income* for taxfilers reporting labour income.

The information in this profile is highly accurate and current, since it is obtained from income tax records and is updated annually.

This profile will be a valuable aid to anyone assessing the sociological and financial status of residents in the geographic area of interest to them.

For simplicity, this documentation has been divided into four sections:

The first section deals with the source of the data, its currency and accuracy and how the data are presented to maintain confidentiality.

The second section on data tables includes notes of explanation and describes the format of the data tables.

The glossary, in the third section, will provide the data user with definitions of the terms used in this documentation.

The fourth section contains an explanation of the geographic levels available, and definitions for postal areas.

SECTION I -- THE DATA

Data Source

The data in this profile are derived from income tax returns. For the most part, tax returns were filed in the spring of the year following the reference year. The mailing address at the time of filing is the basis for the geographic information in the tables.

Data Currency

Since the data are taken from tax records, they are current data from tax returns filed for the year noted on the tables. For example, 2001 income records are taken from 2002 tax returns filed in spring of 2002 with data released in the summer of 2003. Data are always current, since they are updated on an annual basis.

Data Quality

The data used in this profile are direct counts from tax files. In 2001, about 72.8% of Canadians (of all ages) filed tax returns (see figure 1).

Most children do not file because they have low or no income.

Similarly, some elderly Canadians receiving only Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) do not file because they have low or no taxable income. However, with the introduction of the Federal Sales Tax Credit in 1986 and the Goods and Services Tax Credit in 1989, the percentage of the elderly population filing tax returns has increased. In 2001, 98.7% filed tax returns, up from 75% in 1989 (when comparing taxfilers aged 65+ with the population 65+ estimate counts to July 1, 2002, from Statistics Canada catalogue 91-213, *Annual Demographic Statistics).*

FIGURE 1 – COVERAGE

Tax year	Number of Taxfilers ('000)	Date of Population Estimate	Population ('000)	Coverage (%)
1990	18,450	April 1, 1991	27,578	66.9
1991	18,786	April 1, 1992	27,938	67.2
1992	19,267	April 1, 1993	28,273	68.1
1993	19,882	April 1, 1994	28,618	69.5
1994	20,184	April 1, 1995	28,939	69.8
1995	20,536	April 1, 1996	29,261	70.2
1996	20,772	April 1, 1997	29,557	70.2
1997	21,113	April 1, 1998	29,893	70.6
1998	21,431	April 1, 1999	30,168	71.0
1999	21,893	April 1, 2000	30,665	71.4
2000	22,249	April 1, 2001	30,974	71.8
2001	22,804	April 1, 2002	31,315	72.8

Percent coverage is based on a comparison of the number of taxfilers in the Small Area and Administrative Data Division's T1 Family File and the latest population estimates from the Statistics Canada publication *Quarterly Demographic Statistics* (catalogue number 91-002), now available on the Statistics Canada web site *www.statcan.ca*.

Beginning in 1992, Total Income was changed to include income of non-filing spouses reported on the taxfiler's income tax return. This increased the population of lower income individuals, subsequently lowering the median total income of the population. See the following table (figure 2). Starting with the 2001 data, wage and salary income of non-filing spouses can be identified, in some cases, from T4 earnings statements.

FIGURE 2 – MEDIAN INCOME, INDIVIDUALS

Year	Median Income, Individuals		% ratio
	T1FF	SCF/SLID	
1990	19,100	18,737	101.9
1991	19,300	19,040	101.4
1992	18,600	19,667	94.6
1993	18,000	19,400	92.8
1994	18,500	19,587	94.5
1995	18,900	20,134	93.9
1996	19,000	20,202	94.1
1997	19,400	20,581	94.3
1998	20,100	20,081	100.1
1999	20,800	20,432	101.8
2000	21,600	21,511	100.4
2001	22,600		

Note: SCF (Survey of Consumer Finances) was replaced by the SLID (Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics);medians for 1990-1997 are from Statistics Canada's annual publication 13-207, *Income distributions by size in Canada*. Medians for 1998 and on are from Statistics Canada CD-ROM 13F0022XCB, *Income Trends in Canada*. T1FF medians are from the T1 Family File of the Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

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[1];
- 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.

Suppressed data may also occur if the variable is not applicable to the profile. For example, *Provincial Index* would not apply if the data represent a Canada-only variable.

[1] 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 3 – SUPPRESSION OF INCOME DATA, AN ILLUSTRATION

Amount ($'000)	
Labour Income	*
Employment Income	X
Employment Insurance Benefits	50,000

X Confidential when reported by fewer than 15 taxfilers.
* A second cell or component was suppressed elsewhere in the table to avoid disclosure by subtraction.

FIGURE 4 – SUPPRESSION OF GENDER DATA

Amount ($'000)			
	Male	Female	Total
Labour Income	300,000	200,000	500,000
Employment Income	X	*	450,000
Employment Insurance Benefits	*	X	50,000

X Confidential when reported by fewer than 15 taxfilers
* A second cell or component was suppressed elsewhere in the table to avoid disclosure by subtraction.

Suppressed data may also occur if the variable is not applicable to the profile. For example, *Provincial Index* would not apply if the data represent a Canada-only variable.

SECTION II -- CONTENTS OF TABLES

The Labour Income Profile table is divided into the categories below. A brief description of each category follows. See also the Glossary.

All persons

This represents an estimate of the total population as derived from the taxfile. Included here are taxfilers, their non-filing spouses and their children; the latter can be filing or non-filing children. Spouses and children can be identified by the information on a taxfiler's return and from the Canada Child Tax Benefits (CCTB).

Number

The total number of taxfilers and imputed spouses reporting income for the period represented in the data table.

Amount ($'000)

The total amount of reported and imputed income, expressed in thousands of dollars.

Median ($)

Half of the population reported less than or equal to the median income, and the other half reported more than or equal to the median. See glossary for further explanation.

Provincial Index (Province = 100)

The median income for the area is expressed as a percentage of the median income for the province.

Canadian Index (Canada = 100)

The median income for the area is expressed as a percentage of the median income for Canada.

The following table indicates the types of income that are included in the Labour Income Profile table.

The variables that apply to each type of income are indicated with a "√".

FIGURE 5 – LABOUR INCOME DATA TABLE CONTENTS

	Number Reporting	Amount ($'000)	Median ($)	Prov. Index	Cdn Index
All persons	√				
Number of Taxfilers	√				
Total Income	√	√	√	√	√
Labour Income	√	√			
Employment Income	√	√	√	√	√
Wages/Salaries/ Commissions	√	√			
Self-Employment Income	√	√			
Employment Insurance Benefits	√	√		√	√

Statistical Table - Footnotes and Historical Availability

- Data are available from this databank starting with 1989.

- Postal areas are available starting with 1989 data; census divisions are available since 1990; census metropolitan areas are available since 1991.

- The count of taxfilers and dependents was added to the table with the 1992 data.

- Starting in 1993, the category of "wages, salaries and commissions" is shown separately.

- Five-year comparisons were added to the table with the 1993 data. Since 1993, the profile includes the median employment income from five years prior, as well as percentage changes over the five-year period.

- The categories "wages, salaries and commissions only", "self-employment only" and "wages,salaries and commissions and self-employment" are shown starting with the 1998 data. Previously, this could be calculated from the table.

- Available for census tracts, economic regions and federal electoral districts starting with the 1999 data.

- Available for census agglomerations starting with the 2001 data.

SECTION III -- GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CityID

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

Counts

indicate the number of persons or items represented in a variable (e.g., the number of taxfilers reporting income in the year in question). Counts are rounded to the nearest ten.

Dependency ratio

is the number of transfer payment dollars received as benefits in a given area, compared to every $100 of employment income for that same area. For example, where a table shows an Employment Insurance (EI) dependency ratio of 4.69, it means that $4.69 in EI benefits were received for every $100 of employment income for the area.

Dependants

For the purpose of these databanks, dependants 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.

Employment income

includes wages and salaries, commissions from employment, training allowances, tips and gratuities, and self-employment income (net income from business, profession, farming, fishing and commissions).

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.

Income aggregates

Are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. *See also* "Total income" and the various sources of income.

Index

Is a comparison of the variable for the given area with either the province (province = 100) or with Canada (Canada = 100).

Labour income

Includes employment income (wages, salaries, commissions and net self-employment income) and Employment Insurance benefits.

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.

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.

Ratio

Is the relationship of one variable to another where both are different, as the ratio of males to females, for example.

Self-employment income

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

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
- Employment Insurance (EI) benefits

Pension income
- Old Age Security/Net Federal Supplements (the latter including guaranteed income supplements and spouses' allowances since 1994)
- Canada/Quebec Pension Plan
- 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)
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 Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba (since 1990), British Columbia and the Northwest Territories (since 1993), Newfoundland and Nunavut (since 1997).

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. This would apply only to areas which are not "standard areas" and could include any one or a combination of areas that comprised, for example, half of a letter carrier walk in one FSA and a portion of a walk in another FSA. In other words, the area whose boundaries are a portion of, or a combination of portions of standard areas. 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. Since 1999, the total of wages, salaries and commissions 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".

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 taxfile 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	This level of data is an aggregation of the following geographies within a province: City Totals..... Code 08 Rural Postal Codes..... Code 09 Other Provincial Totals ..... Code 10 These totals are identified by a provincial/territorial postal letter, then a "990" followed by the province/territory code, as follows: 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 Y99060

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
10	Other Provincial Total ("P" Pot)	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: 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 Y89060
09	Rural Postal Code (Not in City)	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. The 2001 databanks contain 4,144 areas coded as level of geography 09.

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
08	City Total	This level of data is an aggregation of the following geographies for unique place names within a province/territory: Urban FSA (Residential)..... Code 03 Rural Route ..... Code 04 Suburban Services ..... Code 05 Rural Postal Code (within city) ..... Code 06 Other Urban Area ..... Code 07 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"). In general, postal cities do not coincide with census subdivisions. The 2001 databanks contain 954 areas coded as level of geography 08.
07	Other Urban Area (Non-residential within city - "E" Pot)	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). The 2001 databanks contain 486 areas coded as level of geography 07.
06	Rural Postal Code (Within City)	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. The 2001 databanks contain 368 areas coded as level of geography 06.

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
05	Suburban Service	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). The 2001 databanks contain 21 areas coded as level of geography 05.
04	Rural Route	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. The 2001 databanks contain 874 areas coded as level of geography 04.
03	Urban FSA (Residential Area)	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 levels 04 and 05). Only residential FSAs are considered for these databanks. This level of data is an aggregation of: Postal Walk..... Code 01 Other Postal Walk..... Code 02 An Urban FSA of this type can be identified by the FSA followed by three blanks. The 2001 databanks contain 1,857 areas coded as level of geography 03.

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
02	Other Postal Walk	This level of data 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". The 2001databanks contain 207 areas coded as level of geography 02.
01	Postal Walk	This is the finest level of data 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. The 2001 databanks contain 20,209 areas coded as level of geography 01. The total population of these postal walks is 22,777,520 (with an average population of 1,127). The walks range in size from 100 to 6,750.

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.

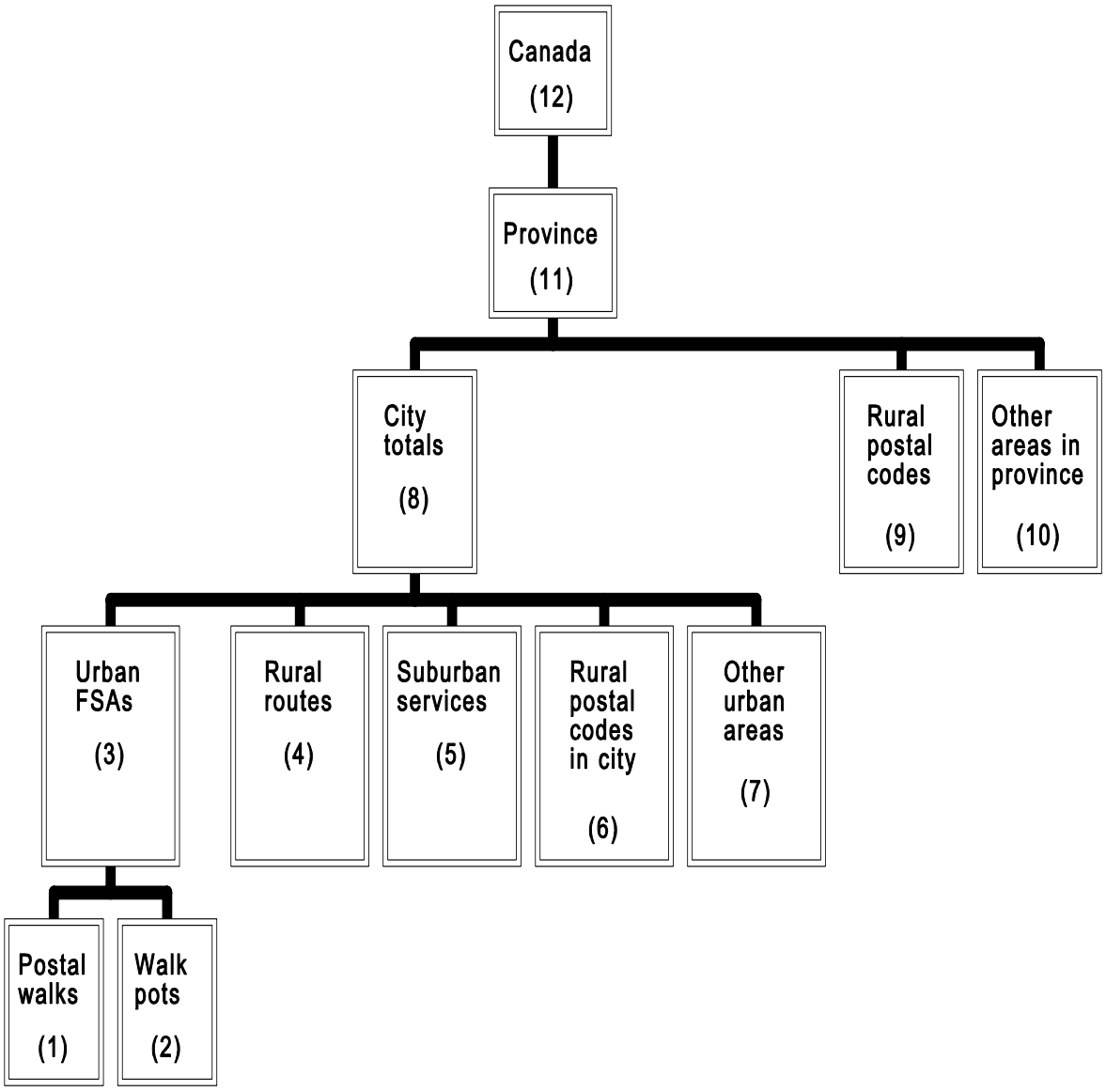
Postal walks (Level of Geography, or LOG 1) and walk pots (LOG 2) add up to urban Forward Sortation Areas (FSAs, LOG 3).

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

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

Provincial/territorial totals (LOG 11) add up to the Canada total (LOG 12).

Thus, using the Level of geography codes:
1 + 2 = 3
3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 = 8
8 + 9 + 10 = 11


Canada
(12)
Province
(11)
City totals
(8)
Rural postal codes
(9)
Other areas in province
(10)
Urban FSAs
(3)
Rural routes
(4)
Suburban services
(5)
Rural postal codes in city
(6)
Other urban areas
(7)
Postal walks
(1)
Walk pots
(2)

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 2001 databanks were coded from a May 2003 Canada Post Corporation file with a November 2002 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 XXXX) and New Walks (Month YYYY)					
CityID	**FSA**	**Old walk #**	**New walk #**	**% of old included in new**	**% of new derived from old**
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	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. The 2001 data banks contain 4,730 areas coded as level of geography 61.
51	Economic Region	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. The 2001 databanks contain 76 areas coded as level of geography 51.
42	Census Agglomeration	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. The 2001 databanks contain 109 areas coded as level of geography 42.

Level of Geography	Name	Description
41	Census Metropolitan Area	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. There are 28 CMAs in the 2001 databanks: 001, St. John's, Newfoundland 205, Halifax, Nova Scotia 310, Saint John, New Brunswick 408, Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Québec 421, Québec, Québec 433, Sherbrooke, Québec 442, Trois-Rivières, Québec 462, Montréal, Québec 505, Ottawa-Gatineau (Québec part) 505, Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part) 521, Kingston, Ontario 532, Oshawa, Ontario 535, Toronto, Ontario 537, Hamilton, Ontario 539, St-Catharines-Niagara, Ontario 541, Kitchener, Ontario 555, London, Ontario 559, Windsor, Ontario 580, Sudbury, Ontario 595, Thunder Bay, Ontario 602, Winnipeg, Manitoba 705, Regina, Saskatchewan 725, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan 825, Calgary, Alberta 835, Edmonton, Alberta 932, Abbotsford, British Columbia 933, Vancouver, British Columbia 935, Victoria, British Columbia

Level of Geography	Name	Description
31	Federal Electoral District	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 301 FEDs in Canada according to the 1996 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. The 2001 data banks contain 301 areas coded as level of geography 31.
21	Census Division	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. 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, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta), Statistics Canada defines equivalent areas for statistical reporting purposes in cooperation with these provinces and territories. The 2001 data banks contain 288 areas coded as level of geography 21.

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:

Level of Geography	Name	Description
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 code "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.

Postal code	User Area
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.

Our system cannot 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

The Advisory Services Division of Statistics Canada provides an information dissemination network across the country through nine regional Reference Centres. Each Reference Centre has a collection of current publications and reference documents that can be consulted or purchased, along with microcomputer diskettes, CD-ROMs, maps, and other products. Copying facilities for printed materials are available on site.

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.

Local reference centres are listed on the last page.
You can also visit us on the web: http://www.statcan.ca.

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

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 your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

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 taxfile. 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.

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

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2nd Floor, Box 11
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B3J 3X8

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Guy Favreau Complex
4th Floor, East Tower
MONTREAL, Quebec
H2Z 1X4

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(National Capital Region)
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Holland Avenue
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0T6

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TORONTO, Ontario
M4T 1M4

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Statistics Canada
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Via Rail Building, Suite 200
123 Main Street
WINNIPEG, Manitoba
R3C 4V9

Serving the province of Saskatchewan:

Statistics Canada
Advisory Services
Park Plaza, Suite 440
2365 Albert Street
REGINA, Saskatchewan
S4P 4K1

Serving Alberta and the Northwest Territories:

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Pacific Plaza, Suite 900
10909 Jasper Avenue N.W.
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5J 4J3

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Statistics Canada
Advisory Services
Library Square Office Tower
600-300 West Georgia Street
VANCOUVER, British Columbia
V6B 6C7