

Geobase Level 0 Standard Geographical Classification- Release notes

Version 1.0 March 12, 2002

This document is released with the **Geobase Level 0 Standard Geographical Classification** to provide commonly required information to the user. It does not contain all the detail that may be required. For full information please consult the following references:

- the Statistics Canada Web site (www.statcan.ca)
- *2001 Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) Manual, Volumes I and II* (Catalogue Nos. 12-571-XPB and 12-572-XPB), published by Statistics Canada.
- *Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Influenced Zones (MIZ): A Description of the Methodology*, Catalogue No. 92F0138MIE. published by Statistics Canada.

The dataset is accompanied by FGDC-style metadata which contains the most basic information about the data. This document provides supplementary information on several topics that was too detailed to fit in the metadata itself.

The basic geographic unit in this dataset is the **Census Subdivision (CSD)**. Two hierarchical classifications are provided in this dataset, the **Standard Geographical Classification (SGC)** and the **Statistical Area Classification (SAC)**. The SGC allows grouping of the CSDs into **Census Divisions (CD)** and **Provinces and Territories**. The SAC allows grouping of the CSDs into **Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA)**, **Census Agglomerations (CA)** and **Metropolitan Influence Zones (MIZ)**.

This dataset has been fit to and is intended for use with the Geobase Level 0 Version 4.

Standard Geographical Classification (SGC)

Detailed Definition

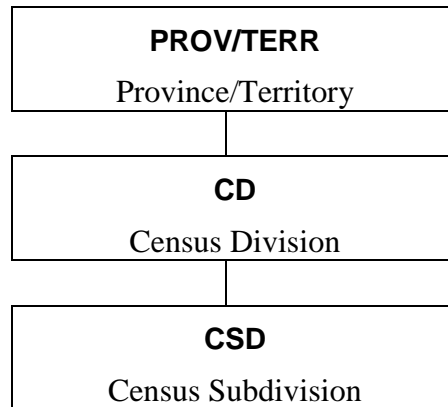
The Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) is Statistics Canada's official classification for three types of geographic areas: **provinces and territories**, **census divisions (CDs)** and **census subdivisions (CSDs)**. The SGC provides unique numeric identification (codes) for these hierarchically related geographic areas.

Censuses: 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976, 1971, 1966, 1961

Remarks:

Census subdivisions (CSDs) aggregate to census divisions (CDs) which, in turn, aggregate to province and territory (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) Hierarchy



The hierarchical relationship is reflected in the seven-digit SGC code, for example:

PR-CD-CSD Code	Description
12 06 008	Province 12 : Nova Scotia CD 06 : Lunenburg County CSD 008 : Mahone Bay
35 06 008	Province 35 : Ontario CD 06 : Ottawa Division CSD 008 : Ottawa

Refer to the related definition of Census Subdivision (CSD) and to the *2001 Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) Manual, Volumes I and II* (Catalogue Nos. 12-571-XPB and 12-572-XPB), published by Statistics Canada.

Census Subdivision (CSD)

Plain Language Definition

Area that is a municipality or an area that is deemed to be equivalent to a municipality for statistical reporting purposes (e.g., as an Indian reserve or an unorganized territory). Municipal status is defined by laws in effect in each province and territory in Canada.

Census Subdivision Type

Census subdivisions (CSDs) are classified into 46 types according to official designations adopted by provincial or federal authorities. Two exceptions are “Subdivision of Unorganized” in Newfoundland and Labrador, and “Subdivision of County Municipality”

in Nova Scotia, which are geographic areas created as equivalents for municipalities by Statistics Canada, in cooperation with those provinces, for the purpose of disseminating statistical data.

The **census subdivision type** accompanies the census subdivision name in order to distinguish CSDs from each other, for example, Granby, V (for the *ville* of Granby) and Granby, CT (for the *municipalité de canton* of Granby).

Changes to CSD types for 2001 include the following:

1. CSD types added
 - **island municipality (IM)** in British Columbia
 - **Nisga’a Land (NL)** in British Columbia
 - **Nisga’a Village (NVL)** in British Columbia
 - **regional district electoral area (RDA)** in British Columbia
 - **region (RG)** in Newfoundland and Labrador
 - **Teslin Land (TL)** in the Yukon Territory
2. CSD types deleted
 - **borough (BOR)** in Ontario (the unique Borough of East York was dissolved and amalgamated with the City of Toronto on January 1, 1998)
 - **northern town (NT)** in Saskatchewan (the only two northern towns were changed to towns)
 - **subdivision of regional district (SRD)** in British Columbia (this type was replaced by the regional district electoral area)
3. Other changes
 - In Newfoundland and Labrador, the CSD type “**community (COM)**” was changed to the CSD type “town (T)”.
 - In Ontario, the CSD type “**improvement district (ID)**” was changed to the CSD type “township (TP)”.

Table 1 shows CSD types, their abbreviated forms, and their distribution by province and territory.

Table 1. Census Subdivision Types by Province and Territory, 2001 Census

Census Subdivision Type		Total	Nfld. Lab.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
		5,600	381	113	98	275	1,476	586	298	1,002	452	816	35	37	31
C	City – Cité	148	3	2	–	7	2	51	8	14	15	44	1	1	–
CC	Chartered Community	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–
CM	County (Municipality)	28	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	28	–	–	–	–
COM	Community	33	–	33	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CT	Canton (Municipalité de)	66	–	–	–	–	66	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CU	Cantons unis (Municipalité de)	7	–	–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
DM	District Municipality	53	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	53	–	–	–
HAM	Hamlet	36	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	10	24
ID	Improvement District	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–
IGD	Indian Government District	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
IM	Island Municipality	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
LGD	Local Government District	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
LOT	Township and Royalty	67	–	67	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
M	Municipalité	590	–	–	–	–	590	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
MD	Municipal District	48	–	–	12	–	–	–	–	–	36	–	–	–	–
NH	Northern Hamlet	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	–	–	–	–
NL	Nisga'a Land	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
NV	Northern Village	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	–	–	–	–	–
NVL	Nisga'a Village	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–
P	Paroisse (Municipalité de)	265	–	–	–	–	265	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
PAR	Parish	152	–	–	–	152	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R	Indian Reserve – Réserve indienne	1,047	1	4	24	19	31	145	78	169	88	487	4	2	–

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Census Division (CD)

Plain Language Definition

Group of neighbouring municipalities joined together for the purposes of regional planning and managing common services (such as police or ambulance services). These groupings are established under laws in effect in certain provinces and territories of Canada. For example, a **census division** might correspond to a county, a regional municipality or a regional district. In other provinces and territories where laws do not provide for such areas, Statistics Canada defines equivalent areas for statistical reporting purposes in cooperation with these provinces and territories.

Remarks:

Census divisions have been established in provincial law to facilitate regional planning, as well as the provision of services that can be more effectively delivered on a scale larger than a municipality. In Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, provincial/territorial law does not provide for these administrative geographic areas. Therefore, Statistics Canada, in cooperation with these provinces and territories, has created equivalent areas called census divisions for the purpose of disseminating statistical data. In the Yukon Territory, the census division is equivalent to the entire territory.

In New Brunswick, six municipalities (census subdivisions) straddle the legal county boundaries. In order to maintain the integrity of component municipalities, Statistics Canada modified the census division boundaries. Specifically, the following six municipalities straddle county boundaries; the county underlined indicates the CD in which these municipalities are completely located:

- Belledune (Restigouche/Gloucester)
- Fredericton (York/Sunbury)
- Grand Falls (Victoria/Madawaska)
- Meductic (Carleton/York)
- Minto (Sunbury/Queens)
- Rogersville (Kent/Northumberland)

Next to provinces, census divisions are the most stable administrative geographic areas, and are therefore often used in longitudinal analysis.

Census Division Type

The type indicates the legal status of the census division according to official designations adopted by provincial authorities. The exception is the CD type “census division”, which describes those units created as equivalents by Statistics Canada in cooperation with the provinces.

Table 2 shows CD types, their abbreviated forms, and their distribution by province and territory.

Table 2. Census Division Types by Province and Territory, 2001 Census

CD Type		Canada	Nfld. Lab.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
CTY	County	57	–	3	18	15	–	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CU	Communauté urbaine	3	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
DIS	District	10	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
DIV	Census Division	80	10	–	–	–	3	7	23	18	19	–	–	–	–
DM	District Municipality	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
MRC	Municipalité régionale de comté	93	–	–	–	–	93	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
RD	Regional District	27	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	27	–	–	–
REG	Region	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	3
RM	Regional Municipality	7	–	–	–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TER	Territory	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
UC	United Counties	3	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL		288	10	3	18	15	99	49	23	18	19	28	1	2	3

Province or Territory

Plain Language Definition

Portion of Canada's land area governed by a political authority. Canada's land area is divided into ten provinces and three territories.

Table 3. Abbreviations and Codes for Provinces and Territories, 2001 Census

Province/Territory	Standard Abbreviations English/French	Internationally Approved Alpha Code (Source: Canada Post)	Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) Code	Region Name
Newfoundland and Labrador	Nfld.Lab./ T.-N.-L.	NF	10	Atlantic
Prince Edward Island	P.E.I./Î.-P.-É.	PE	11	Atlantic
Nova Scotia	N.S./N.-É.	NS	12	Atlantic
New Brunswick	N.B./N.-B.	NB	13	Atlantic
Quebec	Que./Qc	QC	24	Quebec
Ontario	Ont./Ont.	ON	35	Ontario
Manitoba	Man./Man.	MB	46	Prairies
Saskatchewan	Sask./Sask.	SK	47	Prairies

Alberta	Alta./Alb.	AB	48	Prairies
British Columbia	B.C./C.-B.	BC	59	British Columbia
Yukon Territory	Y.T./Yn	YT	60	Territories
Northwest Territories	N.W.T./T.N.-O.	NT	61	Territories
Nunavut	Nvt./Nt	NU	62	Territories

Statistical Area Classification

The **Statistical Area Classification (SAC)** groups census subdivisions according to whether they are a component of a census metropolitan area, a census agglomeration, a census metropolitan area and census agglomeration influenced zone (strong MIZ, moderate MIZ, weak MIZ or no MIZ), or the territories (Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory and Nunavut). The SAC is used for data dissemination purposes.

A SAC code is assigned to each CSD.

SACtype Codes

- 1 CMA
- 2 Tracted CA
- 3 Non-tracted CA
- 4 Strongly Influenced (zone)
- 5 Moderately Influenced (zone)
- 6 Weakly Influenced (zone)
- 7 Not Influenced (zone)
- 8 Territories

For background information, consult the Statistics Canada Web site (www.statcan.ca) to download a free copy of the Geography Working Paper entitled *Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Influenced Zones (MIZ): A Description of the Methodology*, Catalogue No. 92F0138MIE.

Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Influenced Zones (MIZ)

Plain Language Definition

Category assigned to a municipality **not included** in either a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). (A CMA or CA is an area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a CMA, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000. To form a CA, the urban core must have a population of at least 10,000.) A municipality is assigned to one of four categories

depending on the percentage of its residents who commute to work in the urban core of any census metropolitan area or census agglomeration.

Categories:

1. Strong MIZ: more than 30% of the municipality's residents commute to work in any CMA or CA.
2. Moderate MIZ: from 5% to 30% of the municipality's residents commute to work in any CMA or CA.
3. Weak MIZ: from 0% to 5% of the municipality's residents commute to work in any CMA or CA.
4. No MIZ: fewer than 40 or none of the municipality's residents commute to work in any CMA or CA.

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and Census Agglomeration (CA)

Plain Language Definition

Area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a census metropolitan area, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000. To form a census agglomeration, the urban core must have a population of at least 10,000.