

Population Density, 2006

Abstract

With 3.5 persons per square kilometre, Canada is one of the countries with the lowest population densities in the world. Census metropolitan areas (CMAs) with the highest population densities—Toronto (866), Montréal (854), Vancouver (735), Kitchener (546), Hamilton (505), and Victoria (475)—were located close to United States border.

Canada is one of the countries with the lowest population densities in the world. According to the 2006 Census, its population density was 3.5 persons per square kilometre. This compares with a population density of 3.3 persons per square kilometre in 2001.

In 2006, most of Canada's population lived within 200 kilometres of the United States. Canada's largest urban centres are also located in the southern part of the country with densities averaging 245 people per square kilometre. Census metropolitan areas (CMAs) with the highest population densities—Toronto (866), Montréal (854), Vancouver (735), Kitchener (546), Hamilton (505), and Victoria (475)—are located close to the United States. The southern portion of Ontario encompassing the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the Ottawa region plus the south-west corner of Quebec close to the CMA of Montréal showed the densest population at between 50 and 150 persons per square kilometre at the census division level. Some of the cities (CAs) with very high densities were also close to this belt (Stratford, 1,205, Ingersoll, 912, Woodstock, 810, Cobourg, 814, and Hawkesbury, 1,000).

By contrast, thousands of kilometres to the north, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are sparsely populated. These territories embrace 40% of the Canadian land mass but only 0.3% of the population. Human habitation in the north clings largely to scattered settlements: villages among vast expanses of tundra and taiga. The census agglomeration (CA) of Whitehorse is the largest city in the territories with about 23 000 people in 2006 and a population density of 2.7 persons per square kilometre.

The Daily is Statistics Canada's official release bulletin. The Daily for March 13, 2007 (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/070313/dq070313a-eng.htm>) marked the public release of this census variable. Highlight tables allowing users to perform simple rank and sort functions with the data at various levels of geography are available for this variable here: Population and Dwelling Count Highlight Tables, 2006 Census (<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/hlt/97-550/Index.cfm?Page=INDX&LANG=Eng>).

The text was adapted from Statistics Canada, Portrait of the Canadian Population in 2006, 2006 Census (<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/as-sa/97-550/index-eng.cfm>), Catalogue number 97-550-XWE2006001. Statistics Canada information is used with the permission of Statistics Canada. Information on the availability of the wide range of data from Statistics Canada can be obtained from the Statistic Canada's regional offices, its World Wide Web site at www.statcan.gc.ca, and its toll-free access number 1-800-263-1136.

Definition of underlined term

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA): A census metropolitan area (CMA) is a very large urban area (known as the urban core) together with the adjacent urban and rural areas (known as urban and rural fringes) that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. A CMA has an urban core population of at least 100 000, based on the previous census. Once an area becomes a CMA, it is retained as a CMA even if the population of its urban core declines below 100 000. All CMAs are subdivided into census tracts. A CMA may be consolidated with adjacent census agglomerations (CA) if they are socially and economically integrated. This new grouping is known as a consolidated CMA and the component CMA and CA are known as the primary census metropolitan area (PCMA) and primary census agglomeration(s) (PCA). A CMA may not be consolidated with another CMA. (Source: 1996 Census Dictionary, Statistics Canada)

Map Sources

Population Density, 2006

Adapted from Statistics Canada, Population and Dwelling Count Highlight Tables, 2006 Census, Catalogue number 97-550-XWE2006002.

References

Reference material is designed to help users make the most of census data. They cover various aspects of the census and are intended to support the use of census data. Statistics Canada. Census 2006. Reference material (<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/index-eng.cfm>)

Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Census Dictionary. (<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>)



Weiss, Carolyn; Cillis, Patricia; Rothwell, Neil. 2008. The Population Ecumene of Canada: Exploring the Past and Present. Geography Working Paper Series. Catalogue no. 92F0138M, No. 2008003. Geography Division, Statistics Canada.
(<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/92f0138m/92f0138m2008003-eng.pdf>)

Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)

Federal Government

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census Aboriginal Population Profiles

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-594/index.cfm?Lang=E>

These profiles contain free information on the Aboriginal identity population for various communities in Canada where the Aboriginal identity population is above 250. Communities, include; cities, towns, villages, Indian reserves and Indian settlements, counties or their equivalents and metropolitan areas.

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census. Analysis Series

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/as-sa/index-eng.cfm>

This series, launched via The Daily for each of the eight major releases, includes a number of comprehensive analytical articles which will supplement day of release information. These catalogued articles provide an analytical perspective on 2006 Census topics.

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census Highlight Tables

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/highlights/index.cfm>

This page provides tables for population and dwelling counts; age and sex; families and households; languages, immigration and citizenship; Aboriginal peoples; labour, language used at work, place of work, commuting to work, education; ethnic origin and visible minorities; income, and earnings, and shelter costs. Available on each official day of release, the tables will present information highlights by topic via key indicators for various levels of geography.

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census Trends

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/92-596/index.cfm?Lang=eng>

This product presents a series of summary data trends spanning three censuses: 2006, 2001 and 1996. The product is designed to facilitate the analysis and comparison of the changing demographic and socio-economic composition of selected geographic areas across Canada.

Statistics Canada. 2006 Community Profiles

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>

These profiles present community-level information from the 2006 Census of Population. Users can search for an area of interest using the search engine provided in this site. Users can access data on population and dwellings, age, marital status, families, income, languages, immigration, education, labour force, income, and more.

Statistics Canada. Census Tract (CT) Profiles, 2006 Census

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-597/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Census tracts are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population of 2,500 to 8,000. They are identified using seven-character numeric 'names' (e.g., 0005.00) and are located in census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and larger census agglomerations (CAs). From this page you can visualize each census tract via a map and/or retrieve profile data for the census tract.

Statistics Canada. Learning Resources

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/index-eng.htm>

This page gives support material, such as data, reference material and lesson plans, for teaching and learning in schools at elementary, secondary and postsecondary levels.

