

Aboriginal Population, 2001

Abstract

In the 2001 census, people who identified themselves as Aboriginal accounted for 3.3% of the nation's total population, compared with 2.8% five years earlier. This represents a total of 976 305 persons whom identified themselves with one of these groups - North American Indian, Métis or Inuit. This count was 22.2% higher than the 1996 figure of 799 010. In contrast, the non-Aboriginal population grew only 3.4% between 1996 and 2001.

In 2001, almost one-half (49%) of the population who identified themselves as Aboriginal lived in urban areas, up from 47% in 1996. A total of 245 000 Aboriginal people, or 25% of all Aboriginal people, lived in 10 of the nation's 27 census metropolitan areas in 2001. At the same time, the proportion of Aboriginal people who lived on Indian reserves and settlements declined from 33% to 31%. The overall proportion of the population that lived in rural non-reserve areas declined slightly from 20.4% to 19.5%.

Map Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada, Profile of citizenship, immigration, birthplace, generation status, ethnic origin, visible minorities and Aboriginal peoples, for Canada, provinces, territories, census divisions and census subdivisions - 20% sample data, 2001 Census, Catalogue no 95F0489XCB2001001.

Aboriginal Identity refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group - North American Indian, Métis or Inuit. Also included are individuals who did not report an Aboriginal identity, but did report themselves as a Registered or Treaty Indian, and/or Band or First Nation membership.

The Daily is Statistics Canada's official release bulletin. The Daily for January 21, 2003 (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/030121/tdq030121-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: Aboriginal Peoples of Canada: Highlight Tables, 2001 Census (<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/highlight/Aboriginal/Index.cfm?Lang=E>). Technical notes for this variable can be found at 2001 Census Technical Reports and User Guides (http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Reference/tech_rep/index.cfm).

The text was adapted from Statistics Canada, Aboriginal peoples of Canada: A demographic profile, Catalogue number 96F0030XIE2001007. 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 Statistics Canada's Regional Offices, its World Wide Web site at: www.statcan.ca, and its toll-free access number 1-800-263-1136.

Data and Mapping Notes

The maps in this series showing 2001 Census variables are published in collaboration with Statistics Canada. The Atlas of Canada with Statistics Canada, have worked jointly to produce a series of maps about Canada, which utilize the mapping and geographic expertise domain to the Atlas of Canada and the subject matter expertise of Statistics Canada scientists.

Map Visualization

The Atlas of Canada uses a dynamic mapping interface to show geographic information. By using the tools provided, users can zoom in and out, and query the map for more information on specific areas of interest (using Get Info from Map located above the map), and read about the maps in the associated text.

The majority of maps in this series use the following scales to show information, which are associated to the four levels of zooming in onto the map. Two levels of data aggregation are presented, census division data and census subdivision data, which usually require different class intervals, mapped at appropriate zoom levels as shown below in Table 1.

Table 1. Map Scales

Zoom	Representation Scale	Geostatistical Area	Compilation Scale
Zoom 0 (initial map view)	1 : 42 000 000	census division ecumene	1 : 7 500 000
Zoom 1	1 : 15 000 000	census division ecumene	1 : 7 500 000
Zoom 2	1 : 5 000 000	census subdivision ecumene	1: 1 000 000 census subdivision ecumene on 1 : 7 500 000
Zoom 3	1 : 1 300 000	census subdivision ecumene	1: 1 000 000
Zoom 4	1: 600 000	census subdivision ecumene	1: 1 000 000

Source: Natural Resources Canada. GeoAccess Division.

The population ecumene is used to show in most of the maps in this series areas within the census divisions and census subdivisions, which have population densities greater than or equal to 0.4 persons per square kilometre (1 person per square

mile). The non-ecumene or sparsely populated areas appear as white patches within the census divisions and census subdivisions for which no thematic data are shown.

Geography

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 Statistics Canada's Regional Offices, its World Wide Web site at: www.statcan.ca, and its toll-free access number 1-800-263-1136.

The geographical areas to which the data have been georeferenced, are based on one or more of the following Statistics Canada's geostatistical areas. In most cases, the population census division ecumene and the population census subdivision ecumene are used in the same map, for viewing at different map zoom levels.

Census Division (CD)

Census division is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as county, regional municipality and regional district) or their equivalents. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province level and the municipality (census subdivision). 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, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, provincial/territorial law does not provide for these administrative geographic areas. Therefore, Statistics Canada, in co-operation with these provinces and territories, has created equivalent areas called census divisions for disseminating statistical data.

Census Subdivision (CSD)

A census subdivision is an area that is a municipality or an area that is deemed to be equivalent to a municipality for statistical reporting purposes (for example, as an Indian reserve or an unorganized territory). Municipal status is defined by laws in effect in each province and territory in Canada. Census subdivisions are classified into 46 types (<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Reference/dict/geo012.htm>) according to official designations adopted by provincial or federal authorities.

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

A census metropolitan area (or a census agglomeration) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (known as the urban core).

The census population count of the urban core is at least 10 000 to form a census agglomeration and at least 100 000 to form a census metropolitan area. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data.

Population Ecumene

Ecumene is a term used by geographers to mean inhabited land. The population ecumene is based on blocks with a minimum population density of 0.4 persons per square kilometre. Blocks are the smallest unit of geography to which census data is associated. Two ecumenes are utilized in this project: population census division ecumene and population census subdivision ecumene.

The population census division ecumene is derived from the Statistics Canada Population Ecumene Census Division Boundary File (Catalogue number 92F0159GIE) and from their Census Division Boundary File (Catalogue number 92F0159XIE). Using these two boundary files, The Atlas of Canada census division ecumene is derived using census divisions with a population density of 0.4 persons per square kilometre, matched to the population ecumene census division boundary file (from Statistic Canada) to remove known areas of sparse population within census divisions in southern areas of Canada, or where the topography and climate inhibits settlement.

The population census subdivision ecumene has been produced jointly with Statistics Canada and the Atlas of Canada.

Map Notes

Aboriginal Population, 2001 Aboriginal Identity

There are many ways of defining the Aboriginal population, which can result in different estimates of its size. There is no single or "correct" definition of the Aboriginal population and the choice of a definition depends on the purpose for which it is to be used. Different definitions/counts are used depending on the focus and requirements of the user.

The 2001 Census provides data that are based on the definitions of ethnic origin (ancestry), Aboriginal Identity, Registered Indian, and Band membership. The January 21, 2003 release uses mostly the Aboriginal Identity concept to provide a demographic profile of the Aboriginal population. Subsequent releases will provide additional data on the Aboriginal peoples of Canada and their socio-economic characteristics.

Aboriginal Ancestry/Origin refers to those persons who reported at least one Aboriginal origin (North American Indian, Métis or Inuit) on the ethnic origin question in the Census. The question asks about the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the respondent's ancestors belong.

Aboriginal Identity refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit. Also included are individuals who did not report an Aboriginal identity, but did report themselves as a Registered or Treaty Indian, and/or Band or First Nation membership.

Undercoverage of the Aboriginal population

The objective of every Census is to provide detailed information at a single point in time on the demographic, social and economic conditions of the population. One of its goals is to enumerate the entire population on Census Day. Inevitably, however, some people are not counted, for example, if their household did not receive a Census questionnaire. Some individuals may be missed because they have no usual residence, or because they did not spend census night in any dwelling. This is termed undercoverage.

Undercoverage in the 2001 Census was considerably higher among Aboriginal people than among other segments of the population due to the fact that enumeration was not permitted, or was interrupted before it could be completed, on 30 Indian reserves and settlements. These geographic areas are called incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and settlements (<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Meta/appendix02.cfm>).

Data are not available for incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements, and these reserves and settlements are not included in tabulations. While the impact of the missing data tends to be small for national-level and most provincial-level statistics, it can be significant for some smaller areas.

In 2001, a preliminary estimate of 30 000 to 35 000 people were living on reserves and settlements that were incompletely enumerated. Most of these people were registered Indians. Consequently, the impact of incomplete enumeration will be greatest on data for North American Indians and for persons registered under the Indian Act.

Incomplete enumeration and undercoverage account for most of the difference between the 2001 Census count of persons registered under the Indian Act (about 558 000) and that produced by the Indian Register maintained by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (about 681 000). Methodological differences, as well as differences in concepts and definitions between the two sources, also account for a smaller part of the difference. The two sources have very different purposes and, given the coverage and other differences, are not directly comparable.

Map Sources

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Statistics Canada. Profile of citizenship, immigration, birthplace, generation status, ethnic origin, visible minorities and Aboriginal peoples, for Canada, provinces, territories, census divisions and census subdivisions - 20% sample data, 2001 Census, Catalogue no 95F0489XCB2001001.

References

Statistics Canada. Aboriginal peoples of Canada: A demographic profile, Catalogue 96F0030XIE2001007
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Analytic/companion/abor/contents.cfm>

Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)

Federal Government

Statistics Canada. 2001 Census Dictionary
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Reference/dict/index.htm#dictionary>

Statistics Canada. 2001 Census of Population
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/home/index.cfm>

Statistics Canada. 2001 Census Technical Reports and User Guides
http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Reference/tech_rep/index.cfm

Statistics Canada. Aboriginal Peoples of Canada: Highlight Tables, 2001 Census
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/highlight/Aboriginal/Index.cfm?Lang=E>

Statistics Canada. Analysis Series
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Analytic/Index.cfm>

Other

Canadian Council on Social Development. Stats & Facts
<http://www.ccsd.ca/factsheets/index.htm>

