

APPENDIX I – TECHNICAL NOTES

Confidentiality and Random Rounding

With regards to Statistics Canada's dissemination rules for census data, to ensure that the statistics do not reveal sensitive information, they may be less precise (random rounding) or suppressed.

Census data tables are subjected to a confidentiality technique known as "random rounding" which provides strong protection against direct, residual or negative disclosure, without adding significant error. This method, based on established probabilities, involves rounding every figure on a table (including totals) randomly up or down to the nearest multiple of 5, or in some cases, 10. Since totals are rounded independently, differences between these and the sum of rounded cell data may exist. Similarly, minor differences can be expected in corresponding totals and cell values among various census tabulations. In addition, small cell counts may suffer a loss of precision as a result of random rounding.

A data table is always associated with a geographic area, viewed from the standpoint of the "place of residence", "place of work", or a combination of both. Area suppression is employed to remove all characteristic data for geographic areas with populations (the number of people who live and/or work in the area) below specified threshold levels.

Sampling and Weighting

The 2006 Census data was collected either from 100% of the households or on a sample basis (i.e. from a random sample of one in five households) with the data weighted up to provide estimates for the entire population. (Note that, on Indian reserves and in remote areas, all data was collected on a 100% basis.)

The information contained in this report is based on a 20% weighted sample, thus the population, household, dwelling or family totals or subtotals shown here may differ from those in reports containing data collected on a 100% basis.

Population Universe

The Census enumerates the entire Canadian population, which consists of:

- Canadian citizens (by birth and naturalization) and landed immigrants who have a usual place of residence in Canada, are abroad (either on a military base or attached to a diplomatic mission), or are at sea or in port aboard merchant vessels under Canadian registry; and
- non-permanent residents (persons from another country living in Canada who have a Minister's permit, a student or employment authorization, or are claiming refugee status), together with family members who live with them.

The population universe does not include foreign residents:

- persons who are government representatives or members of Armed Forces of another country (and members of their families living with them); or
- residents of another country visiting Canada temporarily (e.g. a foreign visitor here on vacation or business, with or without a visitor's permit).

Population Counts Based on Usual Residence

In most cases, enumerating Canada's population at their usual place of residence (regardless of where they happened to be on Census day) is straightforward and, in most areas, there is little difference between the number of usual residents and the number of people staying in the area on Census Day. Problems can arise, however, when a person cannot be associated with a dwelling that fits the concept of usual place of residence or when a person is associated with more than one dwelling in Canada (see the specific rules for these cases under "Usual Place of Residence" in "Appendix II – Definitions"). For certain places such as tourist or vacation areas, or those containing large work camps or populations of post-secondary students, the number of people staying in the area at any particular time could significantly exceed the number of usual residents.

Incompletely Enumerated Indian Reserves and Settlements

On some Indian reserves and Indian settlements in the 2006 Census, enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before it could be completed. Data are therefore not available for the incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements and are not included in tabulations. While for higher-level geographic areas (Canada, provinces, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations) the impact of the missing data is very small, it can be significant for smaller areas containing a larger proportion of the affected reserves and settlements. For Alberta specifically, three Indian reserves/settlements (Little Buffalo, Saddle Lake 125, and Tsuu T'ina Nation 145 (Sacree 145)) were incompletely enumerated for the 2006 Census.

Source: Derived from *Statistics Canada's 2006 Census Handbook* and *2006 Census Dictionary*.

Appendix II – Definitions

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Population

Institutional Resident

Person, other than a staff member and his or her family, who lives in an institution, such as a hospital, a nursing home or a jail.

'Institutional' collective dwellings are general hospitals and hospitals with emergency, other hospitals and related institutions, nursing homes, facilities for persons with a disability, establishments for delinquents and young offenders, establishments for children and minors, penal and correctional institutions, jails, shelters for persons lacking a fixed address, other shelters and lodging and rooming with assistance services.

Sex

Refers to the gender of the respondent.

Age

Refers to the age at last birthday (as of the census reference date, May 16, 2006). This variable is derived from Date of birth.

Legal Marital Status

Refers to the legal conjugal status of a person.

Single (never legally married)

Persons who have never married (including all persons less than 15 years of age) and persons whose marriage has been annulled and who have not remarried.

Legally married (and not separated)

Persons whose husband or wife is living, unless the couple is separated or a divorce has been obtained. Since 1996, Aboriginal people married according to traditional customs were instructed to report themselves as legally married. In 2006, legally married same-sex couples are included in this category.

Separated (but not divorced)

Persons currently married, but who are no longer living with their spouse (for any reason other than illness or work) and have not obtained a divorce.

Divorced

Persons who have obtained a legal divorce and who have not remarried.

Widowed

Persons who have lost their spouse through death and who have not remarried.

Common-law Status

Refers to persons who live together as a couple but who are not legally married to each other. These persons can be of the opposite sex or of the same sex.

Family Structure

Census Families

Refers to a married couple (with or without children of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without children of either or both partners), or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one child living in the same dwelling. A couple living common-law may be of opposite or same sex. Children are included if they are blood, step- or adopted (regardless of age or marital status) who are living in the same dwelling as their parent(s), as well as grandchildren in households where there are no parents present. Sons and daughters who are living with their spouse or common-law partner, or with one or more of their own children, are not considered to be members of the census family of their parent(s), even if they are living in the same dwelling.

Non-Family Persons

Refers to household members who do not belong to a census family.

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Home Language

Refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual at the time of the census.

Knowledge of Official Languages

Refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, in both English and French, or in neither of the official languages of Canada. The official language data are based on the respondent's assessment of his or her ability to speak the two official languages.

Aboriginal Identity

Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo), and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

Citizenship

Refers to the legal citizenship status of the respondent. Persons who are citizens of more than one country were instructed to provide the name of the other country(ies).

Place of Birth

Refers to specific provinces or territories for respondents who were born in Canada, or to specific countries if born outside Canada.

Non-Immigrant Population

Refers to people who are Canadian citizens by birth. Although most were born in Canada, a small number of them were born outside Canada to Canadian parents.

Immigrant Population

Refers to people who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who is not a Canadian citizen by birth, but has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.

Non-Permanent Resident

Refers to people from another country who, at the time of census, had an employment authorization, a student authorization, or a Minister's permit, or who were refugee claimants at the time of the census, and family members living here with them.

Period of Immigration

Refers to ranges of years based on the year of immigration question. Year of immigration refers to the year in which landed immigrant status was first obtained. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.

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Mobility Status - Place of Residence 1 Year Ago

Refers to the relationship between a person's usual place of residence on Census Day and his or her usual place of residence one year earlier. This is reported for the population 1 year of age and over residing in Canada, excluding Canadians (military and government personnel) in households outside Canada. A person is classified as a **non-mover** if no difference exists. Otherwise, a person is classified as a **mover** and this categorization is called Mobility Status (1 Year Ago). Within the category of movers, a further distinction is made between **non-migrants** and **migrants**; this difference is called **migration status**.

Mobility Status - Place of Residence 5 Years Ago

Refers to the relationship between a person's usual place of residence on Census Day and his or her usual place of residence five years earlier. This is reported for the population 5 years of age and over residing in Canada, excluding Canadians (military and government personnel) in households outside Canada.

Non-movers

Persons who, on Census Day, were living at the same address as the one at which they resided one year earlier.

Movers

Persons who, on Census Day, were living at a different address than the one at which they resided one year earlier.

Non-migrants

Movers who, on Census Day, were living at a different address, but in the same census subdivision (CSD) as the one they lived in one year earlier.

Migrants

Movers who, on Census Day, were residing in a different CSD one year earlier (internal migrants) or who were living outside Canada one year earlier (external migrants).

Intraprovincial migrants

Internal migrants who, on Census Day, were living at a different address but in the same province/territory that they occupied one year earlier.

Interprovincial migrants

Internal migrants who, on Census Day, were living in a different province/territory one year earlier.

Dwelling Type

Private Dwelling

Refers to a separate set of living quarters with a private entrance either from outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway inside the building. The entrance to the dwelling must be one that can be used without passing through the living quarters of someone else. The dwelling must meet the two conditions necessary for year-round occupancy:

- (a) a source of heat or power (as evidenced by chimneys, power lines, oil or gas pipes or meters, generators, woodpiles, electric lights, heating pumps, solar heating panels, etc.);
- (b) an enclosed space that provides shelter from the elements (as evidenced by complete and enclosed walls and roof, and by doors and windows that provide protection from wind, rain and snow).

Occupied Private Dwelling

Refers to a private dwelling (a separate set of living quarters which has a private entrance either directly from outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway leading to the outside) in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing. Also included are private dwellings whose usual residents are temporarily absent on Census Day. Unless otherwise specified, all data in housing products are for occupied private dwellings, rather than for unoccupied private dwellings or dwellings occupied solely by foreign and/or temporary residents.

Structural Type of Dwelling

Refers to the structural characteristics and/or dwelling configuration, that is, whether the dwelling is a single-detached house, an apartment in a high-rise building, a row house, a mobile home, etc.

Single-detached house

A single dwelling not attached to any other dwelling or structure (except its own garage or shed). A single-detached house has open space on all sides, and has no dwellings either above it or below.

Semi-detached house

One of two dwellings attached side by side (or back to front) to each other, but not to any other dwelling or structure (except its own garage or shed). A semi-detached dwelling has no dwellings either above it or below it, and the two units together have open space on all sides.

Row house

One of three or more dwellings joined side by side (or occasionally side to back), such as a town house or garden home, but not having any other dwellings either above or below.

Apartment or flat in a duplex

One of two dwellings, located one above the other, may or may not be attached to other dwellings or buildings.

Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys

A dwelling unit in a high-rise apartment building which has five or more storeys.

Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys

A dwelling unit attached to other dwelling units, or other non-residential space in a building that has fewer than five storeys.

Other single-attached house

A single dwelling that is attached to another building and that does not fall into any of the other categories, such as a single dwelling attached to a non-residential structure (e.g., a store or a church) or occasionally to another residential structure (e.g., an apartment building).

Mobile home

A single dwelling, designed and constructed to be transported on its own chassis and capable of being moved to a new location on short notice. It may be placed temporarily on a foundation, such as blocks, posts or a prepared pad (which may be covered by a skirt). Includes mobile homes and other movable dwellings such as houseboats and railroad cars.

Dwelling Tenure

Refers to whether some member of the household owns or rents the dwelling, or whether the dwelling is Band housing (on an Indian reserve or settlement).

Owned

A dwelling is classified as "owned" even if it is not fully paid for, such as one which has a mortgage or some other claim on it. The dwelling may be situated on rented or leased land or be part of a condominium (whether registered or unregistered).

Rented

A dwelling is classified as "rented" even if it is provided without cash rent or at a reduced rent, or if the dwelling is part of a cooperative. For census purposes, in a cooperative, all members jointly own the cooperative and occupy their dwelling units under a lease agreement.

Dwelling Characteristics

Rooms

Refers to the number of rooms in a dwelling. A room is an enclosed area within a dwelling which is finished and suitable for year-round living. Partially divided L-shaped rooms are considered to be separate rooms if they are considered as such by the respondent (e.g. L-shaped dining-room and living room arrangements). Not counted as rooms are bathrooms, halls, vestibules and rooms used solely for business purposes.

Bedrooms

Refers to all rooms designed and furnished as bedrooms and used mainly for sleeping purposes, even though the use may be occasional (e.g. spare bedroom). Rooms used for one purpose during the day and bedrooms at night (for example, a living room used as a bedroom during the night) are not included as bedrooms. By definition, one-room dwellings or bachelor apartments have zero bedrooms.

Dwellings by Need of Repair

Refers to whether, in the judgment of the respondent, the dwelling requires any repairs (excluding desirable remodeling or additions).

Regular maintenance

Refers to painting, furnace cleaning, etc.

Minor repairs

Refer to the repair of missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles, defective steps, railing or siding, etc.

Major repairs

Refer to the repair of defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc.

Dwellings by Period of Construction

Refers to the period in time during which the building or dwelling was originally constructed.

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Dwelling Costs by Tenure

Gross Rent

Average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by tenant households. It includes the monthly rent and costs of electricity, heat and municipal services. These data are not available for Band housing on Indian reserves, since this variable does not apply to this type of dwelling. A dwelling is classified as “rented” even if it is provided without cash rent, or at a reduced rent, or if the dwelling is part of a cooperative.

Owner’s Major Payments

Average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that own their dwelling (non-farm). It includes monthly mortgage payments, electricity, fuel, water, other municipal services, property taxes (municipal and school) and condominium fees. These data are not available for Band housing on Indian reserves, since this variable does not apply to this type of dwelling.

Percentage of Household Income Spent on Shelter Costs

Refers to the proportion of average monthly 2005 total household income which is spent on owner's major payments (in the case of owner-occupied dwellings) or on gross rent (in the case of tenant-occupied dwellings).

Ethnic Origin

Refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the respondent's ancestors belong. An ancestor is someone from whom a person is descended and is usually more distant than a grandparent. Ancestry should not be confused with citizenship, nationality, or language.

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Highest Level of Schooling

Refers to the highest grade or year of elementary or secondary (high) school attended, or to the highest year of university or college education completed for those 15 years of age and over. University education is considered to be a higher level of schooling than college education. Also, the attainment of a degree, certificate or diploma is considered to be at a higher level than years completed or attended without an educational qualification.

Note that, even though this variable implies a hierarchy of educational attainment, in a number of instances, the levels are not entirely hierarchical. For example, not all persons whose highest level of schooling is “Trades certificate or diploma” have obtained their secondary (high) school graduation certificate. Another example in which the hierarchical element of this variable would be slightly askew is in the cases of persons who have attended both university and college, but possess no degrees, certificate or diplomas, but would nonetheless be situated at a “higher” level than a person who has a college education only, but with a certificate or diploma.

High School Certificate or Equivalent

Includes persons who have graduated from a secondary school or equivalent. Excludes persons with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree. Examples of postsecondary institutions include community colleges, institutes of technology, CEGEPs, private trade schools, private business colleges, schools of nursing and universities.

College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma

This category includes accreditation by non-degree-granting institutions such as community colleges, CEGEPs, private business colleges and technical institutes.

Field of Study

'Field of study' is defined as the main discipline or subject of learning. It is collected for the highest certificate, diploma or degree above the high school or secondary school level.

Labour Force Activity

Refers to the labour market activity of the population 15 years of age and over in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006).

Participating in labour force

Refers to persons who were either employed or unemployed during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006). **Labour force** = Employed + Unemployed

Employed

Persons who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day:

- (c) did any work at all for pay or in self-employment or without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice;
- (d) were absent from their job or business, with or without pay, for the entire week because of a vacation, an illness, a labour dispute at their place of work, or any other reasons.

Unemployed

Persons who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, were without paid work or without self-employment work and were available for work and either:

- (a) had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks; or
- (b) were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or
- (c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.

Not in the labour force

Refers to persons who, in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, were neither employed nor unemployed. It includes students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers in an 'off' season who were not looking for work, and persons who could not work because of a long term illness or disability.

Participation rate

Refers to the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over, (excluding institutional residents).

$$\text{Participation rate} = \frac{\text{Labour force}}{\text{Population 15 years of age and over}} \times 100$$

Employment rate

Refers to the number of persons employed in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over, (excluding institutional residents).

$$\text{Employment Rate} = \frac{\text{Employed}}{\text{Population 15 years of age and over}} \times 100$$

Unemployment Rate

Refers to the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day.

$$\text{Unemployment Rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed}}{\text{Labour force}} \times 100$$

Labour Force by Place of Work

Refers to the place of work of non-institutional residents 15 years of age and over who worked at some time since January 1, 2005. The variable usually relates to the individual's job held in the week prior to enumeration. However, if the person did not work during that week but had worked at some time since January 1, 2005, the information relates to the job held longest during that period.

Worked outside home, within Canada

Persons who report to the same (usual) workplace location at the beginning of each shift.

Worked at home

Persons whose job is located in the same building as their place of residence, persons who live and work on the same farm, building superintendents and teleworkers who spend most of their work week working at home.

Worked outside Canada

Persons who work at a location outside Canada. This can include diplomats, Armed Forces personnel and other persons enumerated abroad. This category also includes recent immigrants who may not currently be employed, but whose job of longest duration since January 1, 2000 was held outside Canada.

No Usual Place of Work (No fixed workplace address)

Persons who do not go from home to the same workplace location at the beginning of each shift. Such persons include building and landscape contractors, traveling salespersons, independent truck drivers, etc.

Census Division (CD)

The general term applied to areas that represent groupings of counties, regional districts, regional municipalities and other types of provincially legislated areas. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the municipality (census subdivision) and the province level. Currently, there are 19 census divisions in Alberta.

Census Subdivision (CSD)

The general term for municipalities (as determined by provincial legislation) or areas treated as municipal equivalents for statistical purposes (for example, Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories). Census subdivisions (CSDs) aggregate to census divisions (CDs) which, in turn, aggregate to province/territory.

Labour Force by Mode of Transportation

Refers to the mode of transportation to work of non-institutional residents 15 years of age and over who worked at some time since January 1, 2005. Persons who indicate in the place of work question that they either had no fixed workplace address, or specified a usual workplace address, are asked to identify the mode of transportation they usually use to commute from home to work. The variable usually relates to the individual's job in the week prior to enumeration. However, if the person did not work during that week but had worked at some time since January 1, 2005, the information relates to the job held longest during that period.

Labour Force by Industry

Refers to the general nature of the business carried out in the establishment where the person worked. If the person did not have a job during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to enumeration (May 16, 2006), the data relate to the job of longest duration since January 1, 2005. Persons with two or more jobs were required to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours.

The 2006 Census industry data are produced according to the NAICS 2002. The NAICS provides enhanced industry comparability among the three North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) trading partners (Canada, United States and Mexico). This classification consists of a systematic and comprehensive arrangement of industries structured into 20 sectors, 103 subsectors and 328 industry groups.

Experienced Labour Force

Persons who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006), were employed and the unemployed who had last worked for pay or in self-employment in either 2005 or 2006.

Experienced labour force = Employed + (Unemployed who last worked in 2005)
+ (Unemployed who last worked in 2006)

The experienced labour force can also be derived by excluding from the labour force those unemployed persons 15 years of age and over who have never worked or who had last worked prior to January 1, 2005 only.

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Labour Force by Major Occupation Groups

Kind of work done by persons aged 15 and over. Occupation is based on the type of job the person holds and the description of his or her duties. The 2006 Census data on occupation are classified according to the National Occupational Classification for Statistics 2006 (NOC-S 2006).

Labour Force by Class of Worker

This variable classifies persons who reported a job into the following categories:

Paid Workers

Persons who worked mainly for wages, salaries, commissions, tips, piece-rates, or payments 'in kind' (payments in goods or services rather than money);

Self-employed

persons who worked mainly for themselves, with or without paid help, operating a business, farm or professional practice, alone or in partnership;

Unpaid family workers

persons who worked without pay in a family business, farm or professional practice owned or operated by a related household member; unpaid family work does not include unpaid housework, unpaid childcare, unpaid care to seniors and volunteer work.

The job reported was the one held in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to enumeration (May 16, 2006) if the person was employed, or the job of longest duration since January 1, 2005, if the person was not employed during the reference week. Persons with two or more jobs in the reference week were asked to provide information for the job at which they worked the most hours.

Employment Income by Work Activity

Employment Income

Refers to total income received by persons 15 years of age and over during calendar year 2005 as wages and salaries, net income from a non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice, and/or net farm self-employment income.

Work activity

Refers to the number of weeks in which a person worked for pay or in self-employment in the reference year at all jobs held, even if only for a few hours, and whether these weeks were mostly:

Full time

30 hours or more per week

Part time

1 to 29 hours per week

Full-year full-time

Refers to persons 15 years of age and over who worked 49 to 52 weeks (mostly full time) in the reference year for pay or in self-employment.

Persons with a part-time job for part of the year and a full-time job for another part of the year were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most weeks.

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Total Income

'Total income' refers to the total money income received during calendar year 2005 by persons 15 years of age and over.

There are three components of total income: "**employment income**", which includes wages and salaries, and self employment income through net farm and net non-farm (unincorporated business and/or professional practice); "**government transfer payments**", which includes all transfers or payments received from any level of government and covered as a separate income source (Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance benefits, Canada Child Tax benefits, etc.); and "**other income**", which includes investment income, retirement pensions and other money income.

The income concept *excludes* gambling gains and losses, lottery prizes, money inherited during the year in a lump sum, capital gains or losses, receipts from the sale of property, income tax refunds, loan payments received, lump sum settlements of insurance policies, rebates received on property taxes, refunds of pension contributions as well as all income 'in kind,' such as free meals and living accommodations, or agricultural products produced and consumed on the farm.

Average income

Refers to the weighted mean total income of individuals 15 years of age and over who reported income for 2005. Average income is calculated from unrounded data by dividing the aggregate income of a specified group of individuals (e.g., males 45 to 54 years of age) by the number of individuals with income in that group.

Median income

The median income of a specified group of income recipients is that amount which divides their income size distribution into two halves, i.e., the incomes of the first half of individuals are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median. Median income is calculated from the unrounded number of individuals (e.g., males 45 to 54 years of age) with income in that group.

Household Income

The total income of a household is the sum of the total incomes of all members of that household.

Household

Refers to a person or a group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. It may consist of a family group (census family) with or without other non-family persons, of two or more families sharing a dwelling, of a group of unrelated persons, or of one person living alone. Household members who are temporarily absent on Census Day (e.g., temporary residents elsewhere) are considered as part of their usual household. For census purposes, every person is a member of one and only one household. Unless otherwise specified, all data in household reports are for private households only.

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Economic Family Income

The total income of an economic family is the sum of the total incomes of all members of that family.

Economic family

Refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.

The economic family concept requires only that family members be related by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.

For 2006, foster children are considered economic family members.

For 2006, married spouses may be of opposite or same sex.

Note that as of 2001, same-sex partners are considered to be common-law partners. Thus they are considered related and members of the same economic family.

Couple families

Are those in which a member of either a married or common-law couple is the economic family reference person.

Lone-parent families

Are those in which either a male or female lone parent is the economic family reference person.

Average income of families

Refers to the weighted mean total income of families (census/economic). Average income is calculated from unrounded data by dividing the aggregate income of a specified group of families (for example, husband-wife families with working wives) by the number of families, whether or not they reported income.

Median income of families

The median income of a specified group of families (census/economic), is that amount which divides their income size distribution, ranked by size of income, into two halves. That is, the incomes of the first half of the families, while those of the second half are above the median. Median incomes of families are normally calculated for all units in the specified group, whether or not they reported income.

Incidence of Low Income (2000)

Low income before tax cut-offs (LICOs) - Income levels at which families or persons not in economic families spend 20% more than average of their before tax income on food, shelter and clothing. A family unit or individual with income below the cut-off is considered "low income".

LICOs are not measures of poverty. Rather, these statistics reflect a consistent and well-defined methodology that identifies those who are substantially worse-off than average. Being significantly worse off than the average does not necessarily mean that one is poor. They are only relative measures (you are poor if your means are small compared to others in your population), in contrast to absolute measures (you are poor if you lack the means to buy a specified basket of goods and services designated as essential). In the absence of an accepted definition of poverty and a generally accepted alternative methodology (given the absence of an international consensus of what poverty is and how it should be measured), LICOs have been used to study the characteristics of the relatively worse off families in Canada and measure important trends such as the changing composition of this group over time.

For the purposes of low income statistics, economic families and unattached individuals on Indian reserves are excluded, as low income cut-offs were based on certain expenditure-income patterns which were not available from survey data for the entire population.

Prevalence of low income rates

Are calculated from rounded counts of low income families and the total number of families. These counts have been rounded independently of the rounded counts shown in the table; thus, there may be a small difference between the rate shown and the one derived from the counts shown. Users are advised to interpret prevalence of low income rates based upon small counts with caution.

Source:

Derived from:

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