

Guide on Ethnic, Racial, and Indigenous variables in the Census of Canada

1870 – 2021

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Introduction

First conducted in 1871, the Census of Canada provides a snapshot of the people living in Canada, collecting socioeconomic data to help inform public policy, decide parliamentary representation, and direct funding to resources across the country. Initially run every ten years, the quinquennial Census was introduced in 1956. Throughout its history, the Census has continued to evolve and change reflecting Canada's political and social transformations.

In this guide, variables related to finding ethnic origins, race, culture, or where a respondent is born, are listed. Also included are links to variable column definitions, individual census records (for historical censuses), publications with tables, and data files.

Additional censuses include the 1870 Census of Manitoba, 1906 Census of the Northwest Provinces, and the Census of the Prairie Provinces for 1916, 1926, 1936, and 1946.

Census Resources:

Statistics Canada

- [Census Program](#) – publications, reference materials, and data files from the 1996 census to the current census.
- [Census questionnaire content and derived variables since Confederation](#)
- [Census Dictionary](#)
- [2016 Census Reference materials](#) - includes technician reports, reference guides for each topic, questionnaires, and reporting guides
- Public use microdata files are available through library subscribed resources including [Canadian Census Analyzer](#) (University of Toronto CHASS) and [ODESI](#)

Library and Archives Canada

- [Census records](#) from 1825 to 1926.
- [Historical language advisory](#)

University of Toronto Map and Data Library

- [Census of Canada documentation](#) from 1870 to 2016 (some data may be restricted to University of Toronto users)

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure

- [Census resources from 1852 to 2006](#)

1870 Census of Manitoba

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1870 Census of Manitoba do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 4: Where born
- Column 7: Half-breed (Métis)
- Column 8: White
- Column 9: Indian
- Column 15: Citizen of the United States
- Column 16: French, half-breeds
- Column 17: English, half-breeds
- Column 18: Catholic
- Column 19: Protestant

Column Definitions:

- Library Archives Canada - <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1870/Pages/about-census.aspx#tab3>

Individual census records:

- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents.

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1870/Pages/1870.aspx>

Census Publications with Relevant Tables:

- Canada. Department of Agriculture. Census of Canada: 1865 to 1871. Statistics of Canada. Volume IV, See Volume 4, page 380. Publishes data on place of birth, religion, sex, and age. Origin information not available.

<https://archive.org/details/censusofcana1800cana/page/n5/mode/2up>.

Data Files:

- Data files extracted from the published census data are available via:

<https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/numeric-data/census-canada/1870-manitoba>

1st Census of Canada, 1871

Provinces included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1871 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

Schedule 1:

- Column 11: Country of province of birth
- Column 12: Religion
- Column 13: Origin
- Column 20 to 22: Infirmities

Column definitions:

- Library Archives Canada - Column Heading and Interpretation - Schedule 1: Nominal Return of the Living
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1871/Pages/about-census.aspx#tab3>.
- Canada. Census Branch. 1871. Manual containing "The Census Act," and the instructions to officers employed in the taking of the first census of Canada, (1871)
<https://archive.org/details/1871981871i11871eng>

Individual census records:

- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1871/Pages/about-census.aspx>

Census publications with relevant tables:

Canada. Department of Agriculture. Census of Canada. 1870-71. Recensement du Canada. Volume 1. 1878. <https://archive.org/details/1871981871fv11873engfra/mode/2up>

- Table II: Population by Religion
- Table III: Origin of the People
 - Origin categories stated in the table include African, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Half-Breed, Hindoo, Indian, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Russian/Polish, Scandinavian, Scotch, Spanish/Portuguese, Swiss, Welsh.
- Table IV: Birth Places of the People

Document:

- Canada. Department of Agriculture. Censuses of Canada. 1608 to 1876. Volume 5. [Ratios, comparisons, and deductions from the censuses of 1851, 1861 and 1871]. This document contains ratio (rates) data about religious denominations, birth places, and origins of the population. <https://archive.org/details/censusofcanada05cana/page/n5/mode/2up>

2nd Census of Canada, 1881

Provinces included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick

New to this Census: Manitoba, Northwest Territories

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1881 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

Schedule 1

- Column 11: Country of province of birth
- Column 12: Religion
- Column 13: Origin

Column definitions:

- Library Archives Canada
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1881/Pages/about-census.aspx#tab3>
- Canada. Census Branch. Manual containing "The Census Act," and the instructions to officers employed in the taking of the second census of Canada, (1881).
<https://archive.org/details/1881981881i11882engfra/mode/2up>

Individual census records:

- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1881/Pages/1881.aspx>

Census publications with relevant tables:

Canada. Department of Agriculture. Census of Canada. 1880-81. Recensement du Canada. Volume 1. 1878. http://eco.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.9_08061/2?r=0&s=1

- Table II: Religions of the People
- Table III: Origins of the People
- Table IV: Birth Places of the People

Data Files

<https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/numeric-data/census-canada/1881>

3rd Census of Canada, 1891

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories

New to this Census: British Columbia, Prince Edward Island

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1891 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 11: Country or province of birth
- Column 12: French Canadians (number of French Canadians and French Acadians)
- Column 13: Place of birth of father
- Column 14: Place of birth of mother
- Column 15: Religion

Column definitions:

- Library Archives Canada - <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1891/Pages/about-census.aspx#tab3>. (Column Heading and Interpretation: Schedule 1).
- Canada. Census Branch. Manual containing "The Census Act," and the instructions to officers employed in the taking of the third census of Canada, (1881).
<https://archive.org/details/1891981891i1891engfra>
- Notes: French Canadian is the only Origin category in the 1891 Census. No data about other origins are recorded in this census. Indigenous ancestry or origins are not recorded in this census.

Individual census records:

- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1891/Pages/1891.aspx>

Census publications with relevant tables:

Canada. Census of Canada. 1890-91. Recensement du Canada. Volume 1. 1893.

https://www.canadiana.ca/view/ocihm.9_08070/2?r=0&s=1

- Table III: Civil Condition. Indicates the number of French Canadians
- Table IV: Religions
- Table V: Place of Birth of Individual, Mother, and Father

4th Census of Canada, 1901

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island

New to this Census: Yukon

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1901 Census, such as “Colour”, “Racial and Tribal Origin”, do not reflect the current usage when describing a person’s background.

Schedule 1:

- Column 5: Colour
- Column 11: Country or place of birth
- Column 12: Year of immigration to Canada
- Column 13: Year of naturalization
- Column 14: Racial or tribal origin
- Column 15: Nationality
- Column 16: Religion
- Column 29: Can read
- Column 30: Can write
- Column 31: Can speak English
- Column 32: Can speak French
- Column 33: Mother Tongue
- Column 34: Infirmities

Column definitions:

- Library Archives Canada - Column Heading and Interpretation: Schedule 1 – Population
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1901/Pages/about-census.aspx>
- Canada. Census Branch. Fourth Census of Canada. 1901. Instructions to Chief Officer Commissioners and Enumerators.
<https://archive.org/details/190198190111901eng>
- Note: Origin is generally traced through the father. Aboriginal people were to have their racial or tribal origin traced through their mothers, with the specific name of the First Nation.

Individual census records:

- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1901/Pages/1901.aspx>

Census publications with relevant tables:

Canada. Census Office. Fourth Census of Canada, 1901. Volume 1, Population.

<https://archive.org/details/1901981901FV11902engfra>

- Table VIII: Religions of the People by Province
- Table IX: Principal Religions by Census Districts
- Table X: Religions of the People by Sub-districts
- Table XI: Origins of the People
 - The origins table include the following columns: English, Irish, Scotch, Others British origins, French, German, Dutch, Scandinavian, Russian, Austro-Hungarian, Italian, Jewish, Swiss, Belgian, Chinese/Japanese, Indian, Half-Breed, and Negro.
- Table XII: Nationalities
- Table XIII: Birth place by Province
- Table XIV: Birthplace by Census Districts
- Table XV: Birthplace and Citizenship of Immigrants
- Table XVI: Immigrants by Province
- Table XVII: Immigrants by Census Districts
- Table XVIII: Population by Birthplace, 1881, 1891, 1901

Microdata files:

Canadian Families Project 1901 Census Microdata

- Via University of Victoria – <http://web.uvic.ca/hrd/cfp/data/index.html>
- Via [ODESI](#)

Census of the Northwest Provinces, 1906

Provinces included: Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1906 Census of the Prairie Provinces do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 7: Country or place of birth
- Column 8: Year of Immigration to Canada

Column definitions:

- Library Archives Canada – Column Heading and Interpretation
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1906/Pages/about-census.aspx#c>
- Issue of Proclamation for taking the Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta on 24th June 1906
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1906/Documents/Order-in-Council-1906-0887.pdf>

Individual census records:

- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1906/Pages/1906.aspx>

Census publications with relevant tables:

Canada. Census Office. Census of Population and Agriculture of the Northwest Provinces: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, 1906.

- Table IV: Birthplace of the people 1901 and 1906 by provinces
- Table V: Birthplace of the people by districts
- Table VI: Immigrant population by districts
- Table VII Immigrant population by place of birth and year of arrival for period Jan 1, 1901 to June 24, 1906
- Table VIII: Immigrant population by provinces
- Table XII: Immigration by provinces, 1901 and 1906

<https://archive.org/details/1906981906F21907engfra>

5th Census of Canada, 1911

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon

New to this Census: Alberta, Saskatchewan

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1911 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 11. Country or place of birth
- Column 12. Year of immigration to Canada, if an immigrant
- Column 13. Year of naturalization, if formerly an alien
- Column 14. Racial or tribal origin
- Column 15. Nationality
- Column 16. Religion
- Column 36: Language commonly spoken

Column definitions:

- Library Archives Canada – Column Heading and Interpretation - Columns 1 to 41
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/Pages/about-census.aspx#c>
- Note: Origin is generally traced through the father. Aboriginal people were to have their origin traced through their mothers, with the specific name of the First Nation.

Individual census records

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection.
- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/Pages/1911.aspx>

Census publications with relevant tables:

Canada. Census and Statistics Office. "Fifth Census of Canada, 1911. Volume 2: Religions, Origins, Birthplace, Citizenship, Literacy and Infirmities by Provinces, Districts, and Subdistricts.

<https://archive.org/details/fifthcensusofcan02cana>

- See list of tables for volume 2:

<https://archive.org/details/fifthcensusofcan02cana/page/n7/mode/2up>

- Note: The origins tables terminology do not reflect when describing a person's background. The stated variables in the tables are: English, Irish, Scotch, Others British origins, French, German, Austro-Hungarian, Belgian, Bulgarian & Romanian, Chinese, Dutch, Greek, Hindu, Indian, Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Negro, Polish, Russian, Scandinavian, Swiss, and Unspecified.

Aggregate data files

- Census divisions and census subdivisions, as well as microdata (5% sample):
<https://search1.odesi.ca/#/details?uri=%2Fodesi%2Fccri-census-G-E-1911.xml>

Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1916

Provinces included: Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1916 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 13. Country or place of birth
- Column 14. Religion
- Column 16. Year of naturalization
- Column 17. Nationality
- Column 18. Racial or tribal origin
- Column 19. Can speak English
- Column 20. Can speak French
- Column 21. Other language spoken as mother tongue.

Column definitions:

- Library Archives Canada – Column Heading and Interpretation - Columns 1 to 41
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1916/Pages/about-census.aspx#c>
- Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta 1916, instructions to commissioners and enumerators.
<http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.832082/publication.html>
- Note: Origin is generally traced through the father. Aboriginal people were to have their origin traced through their mothers, with the specific name of the First Nation.

Individual census records

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection.
- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1916/Pages/1916.aspx>

Census publications with relevant tables:

Canada. Census and Statistics Office. "Census of Prairie Provinces, population and agriculture, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, 1916" <https://archive.org/details/censusofprairiep00cana>

- Tables VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI: Origin
- Tables XIX, XX, XXI: Religion
- Tables XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI: Birthplace
- Tables XXVII, XXVIII, XXVIX, XXX, XXXI, XXXII: Language
- Table XXXIII: Mother Tongue
- Tables XXXIX, XL, XLI: Citizenship
- Table XLII: Immigration
- Note: The origins table includes what the 1916 census describes as "racial or tribal origin". This includes origins such: Scotch, French, German, Jewish, Indian (term used for Indigenous peoples), Chinese, Negro (term used for people of African descent), Russian etc.

6th Census of Canada, 1921

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1921 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 15: Nativity of Person
- Column 16: Nativity of Father
- Column 17: Nativity of Mother
- Column 18: Year of immigration to Canada
- Column 19: Year of Naturalization
- Column 20: Nationality
- Column 21: Racial or Tribal Origin
- Column 22: Can speak English
- Column 23: Can speak French
- Column 24: Language other than English or French spoken as Mother tongue
- Column 25: Religious body

Column definitions:

- Library Archives Canada – Column Heading and Interpretation - Columns 1 to 35
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1921/Pages/introduction.aspx#tab7>
- Census Questionnaire (Schedule)
https://ccri.library.ualberta.ca/assets/scheduleen/1921_form_1a.jpg
- Canada, Census and Statistics Office. Sixth Census of Canada, 1921: Instructions to Commissioners and Enumerators.
<https://archive.org/details/192198192111921engfra>
- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Nationality, birthplace, and origin of Canadians as recorded in the census.
<https://archive.org/details/1921981921M31921eng>

Note: Origin is generally traced through the father. Aboriginal people were to have their origin traced through their mothers, with the specific name of the First Nation

Individual census records

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection.
- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents. Database access: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1921/Pages/search.aspx>

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sixth Census of Canada, 1921 - Volume 1 - Population: Number, Sex and Distribution, Racial Origins, and Religions.
http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/statcan/CS98-1921-1-1924.pdf
- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sixth Census of Canada, 1921 - Volume 2 - Population : age, conjugal condition, birthplace, immigration, citizenship, language, educational status, school attendance, blindness and deaf mutism
http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/statcan/CS98-1921-1-1924.pdf
- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics Origin, birthplace, nationality and language of the Canadian people: a census study based on the census of 1921 and supplementary data.
<https://archive.org/details/1921981921M31921eng>
- Census Schedule:
<http://www.ccri.uottawa.ca/CCRI/Images/1921.Schedule.jpg>

Note: The origins tables include what the 1916 census describes as “racial or tribal origin”. This includes origins such: Scotch, French, German, Jewish, Indian (term used for Indigenous peoples), Chinese, Negro (term used for people of African descent), Russian etc.

Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1926

Provinces included: Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1926 Census of the Prairie Provinces do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 13: Place of birth person
- Column 14: Place of birth father
- Column 15: Place of birth mother
- Column 16: Racial or tribal origin
- Column 17: Year of immigration to Canada
- Column 18: Year of naturalization
- Column 19: Citizenship
- Column 20: Can speak English
- Column 21: Can speak French
- Column 22: Mother tongue

Column definitions:

- Library Archives Canada – Column Heading and Interpretation - Columns 1 to 41
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1926/Pages/default.aspx>
- Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta 1926, instructions to commissioners and enumerators.
https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/statcan/CS98-1926I-eng.pdf
- Note: Origin is generally traced through the father. Aboriginal people were to have their origin traced through their mothers, with the specific name of the First Nation.

Individual census records

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection.
- Library Archives Canada has a database that provides access to individual census records, which can be searched by Name and Place. The database entries are in the original language used in the documents.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1926/Pages/search.aspx>

Census publications with relevant tables:

Canada. Census and Statistics Office. "Census of Prairie Provinces, population and agriculture, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, 1926".

https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/statcan/CS98-1926.pdf

- Tables VIII, XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXV, XLIII, XLIV, CIII, CIV, CV: Origin
- Tables XVII, XIX, XXIII, XXIV, XXXI, XXXII, XXXVI, XXXVII, XLI, XCII, XCIII, CVIII, CIX, CX, CXI: Birthplace
- Tables XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII, XXXIV, XXXVI, XXXVII, CVI, CVII: Immigration
- Note: The origins table includes what the 1926 census describes as "racial or tribal origin". This includes origins such: Scotch, French, German, Jewish, Indian (term used for Indigenous peoples), Chinese, Negro (term used for people of African descent), Russian etc.

7th Census of Canada, 1931

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1931 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 15: Place of birth person.
- Column 16: Place of birth father.
- Column 17: Place of birth mother.
- Column 18: Year of immigration to Canada
- Column 19: Year of naturalization.
- Column 20: Nationality
- Column 21: Racial origin.
- Column 22: Can speak English
- Column 23: Can speak French
- Column 24: Mother tongue
- Column 25: Religion

Column definitions:

- Census Questionnaire (Schedule)
https://ccri.library.ualberta.ca/assets/scheduleen/1931_form_1a.jpg
- Instructions to Commissioners and Enumerators
<http://www.ccri.uottawa.ca/CCRI/Images/1931%20Enumerator%20Instructions%20-%20English.pdf>
- Note: Origin is to be traced through the father. In the case of the aboriginal Indian population of Canada, the origin is to be traced through the mother, and the names of their tribes should be given as Chippeawa, Cree, Blackfoot etc. Source: Canadian Census Ethno-Cultural Questions: 1871-1991

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1931 Census records will be released in 2023.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Variables: Birthplace, Year of immigration, Nativity of Parents, Racial Origin, Nationality, The Immigrant Population, and Religion.
- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. "Seventh Census of Canada, 1931".
<https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/numeric-data/census-canada/1931>
- Table of contents for data tables
<https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/sites/default/public/mdlldata/open/canada/national/statcan/census/1931/doc/1931.pdf>
- Census divisions and census subdivisions, as well as microdata (5% sample):
<https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/numeric-data/census-canada/1931>

Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1936

Provinces included: Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1936 Census of the Prairie Provinces do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 14: Birthplace of Person
- Column 15: Year of Immigration to Canada
- Column 16: Year of Naturalization
- Column 17: Nationality
- Column 18: Racial Origin
- Column 19 to 21: Language
- Column 22: Can Read and Write

Column definitions:

- Instructions to Enumerators provide details on how the above columns are defined, especially “racial origin” (which includes ethnic, cultural, racial, and Indigenous origins)
<https://archive.org/details/1936981936I1936eng>

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1936 Census records will be released in 2028.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Canada. Census Branch. Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1936. Volume 1: Population and Agriculture.
<https://archive.org/details/1936981936FV11938engfra>
- Canada. Census Branch. Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1936. Volume 2: Occupations, Unemployment, Earnings and Employment, Households and Families.
<https://archive.org/details/1936981936FV21938engfra>

8th Census of Canada, 1941

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1941 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 18: Place of Birth
- Column 22: Period of immigration to Canada, including returning Canadians
- Column 23: Period of naturalization
- Column 24: Nationality or citizenship (Country to which this person owes allegiance)
- Column 25: Racial Origin
- Column 26 to 28: Languages
- Column 30: Religion

Column definitions:

- The Census Questionnaire (Schedule)
https://ccri.library.ualberta.ca/assets/schedulesen/1941_form1a.jpg
- Instructions to Enumerators provide details on how the above columns are defined, especially “racial origin” (which includes ethnic, cultural, racial, and Indigenous origins)
https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/statcan/CS98-1941I-eng.pdf

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1941 Census records will be released in 2033.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Eighth Census of Canada, 1941 - Volume 1 - Analytical Summary.
<https://archive.org/details/1941981941FV11950engfra>
- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Eighth Census of Canada, 1941 - Volume 2 - Population by local subdivisions.
<https://archive.org/details/1941981941FV21944engfra>
- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Eighth Census of Canada, 1941 - Volume 3 - Age.
<https://archive.org/details/1941981941fv31946engfra>
- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Eighth Census of Canada, 1941 - Volume 4 - Cross-Classifications, Interprovincial Migration, Blind and Deaf-Mutes. Also includes cross-tabulations about “racial origin” and birthplace.
<https://archive.org/details/1941981941FV41946engfra>
- The terms and variables in the published census tables from 1941 do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

Census of the Prairies Provinces, 1946

Provinces included: Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in 1946 Census of the Prairie Provinces do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Column 21: Place of Birth
- Column 22: Nationality
- Column 23: Ethnic Origin
- Column 24: Mother Tongue

Column definitions

- Instructions to Commissioners and Enumerators

<https://archive.org/details/1946981946I21946eng/page/n49/mode/2up>

Note: For details on how the above columns are defined, especially ethnic origin (which includes cultural, racial, and Indigenous origins), consult the Instructions to Enumerators document, located at:

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection.
- The 1946 Census records will be released in 2038.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- The terms and variables in the published census tables from 1946 do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.
- Canada. Census Division. Census of Alberta. 1946. Population.
<https://archive.org/details/1946981946fcalb1946engfra>
- Canada. Census Division. Census of Manitoba. 1946. Population.
<https://archive.org/details/1946981946fcmman1950engfra/>
- Canada. Census Division. Census of Saskatchewan. 1946. Population.
<https://archive.org/details/1946981946fcsask1946ef>

9th Census of Canada, 1951

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan,

New to this Census: Newfoundland and Labrador

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used by the enumerators in the 1951 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Question 11: Can this person speak English? French?
- Question 12: What was the language this person first spoke in childhood and still understands?
- Question 13: Religion
- Question 14: Birthplace - In what province or country was this person born?
- Question 15: Period of Immigration (if born outside of Canada)
- Question 16: Citizenship
- Question 17: Origin.

Column definitions

- Census Schedule – provides the categories for each question listed above.
https://ccri.library.ualberta.ca/assets/schedulesen/1951_schedule.pdf
- Enumeration Manual. 9th Census of Canada. (pages 40 to 45)
<https://archive.org/details/1951981951121951eng/>
- According to the enumerator's guide, a person's origin is traced through their father. In addition, "for persons of mixed and Indian parentage, the origin recorded will be as follows: (a) For those living on Indian reserves, the origin will be recorded as "Native Indian"; (b) For those not on reserves the origin will be determined through the line of the father".
- The categories for "Origin" on the census questionnaire are English, French, Irish, Netherlands, Scottish, Norwegian, Welsh/Manx, Polish, Czech & Slovak, Russian, Finnish, Swedish, German, Ukrainian, Italian, Native Indian, Jewish, Unknown, and write in if not listed.

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1951 Census records will be released in 2043.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Ninth Census of Canada, 1951 - Volume 1 - Population: General Characteristics.
<https://archive.org/details/1951981951FV11953engfra>
- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Ninth Census of Canada, 1951 - Volume 2 - Cross-classifications of Characteristics.
<https://archive.org/details/1951981951FV21953engfra>
- Canada. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Ninth Census of Canada, 1951 - Volume 3 - Housing and Families.
<https://archive.org/details/1951981951FV31953engfra>

10th Census of Canada, 1956

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

There were no questions related to birthplace, citizenship, ethnic/cultural groups, religion, or language in the 1956 Census.

General documentation – <https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/numeric-data/census-canada/1956>

Individual census records:

An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection.

The 1956 Census records will be released in 2048.

11th Census of Canada, 1961

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used in the questionnaire and published statistics for the 1961 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Question 7: Birthplace
- Question 8: Period of Immigration
- Question 9: Citizenship
- Question 10: Ethnic or Cultural Group
- Question 11: Religion
- Question 12: Mother Tongue
- Question 13: Official Language

Column definitions

- Census Questionnaire (schedule)
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220125145636/http://www.ccri.uottawa.ca/CCRI/Images/1961%20Schedule.pdf>
- Enumeration Manual
<https://archive.org/details/1961981961121961eng>

Notes:

- On the census schedule (questionnaire), the question regarding ethnicity/cultural group states,
 - “To what ethnic or cultural group did you or your ancestor (on the male side) belong on coming to this continent? The categories on the form include: Austrian, Belgian, Czech, Danish, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Lithuanian, Negro, Netherlands, Norwegian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Scottish, Slovak, Swedish, Ukrainian, Welsh, Yugoslavia, Native Indian - Band Member, Native Indian Non-Band, and fill in the response.”
- According to the enumerators guide, Indigenous persons are defined as:
 - “If a person reports “Native Indian” ask an additional question: Is your name on any Indian Band membership in Canada” If the answer is “Yes”, mark the space for “Band member”. If “No” mark “Non-Band”. Note that “Treaty Indians” should be marked “Band member”; If a person is of mixed white and Indian parentage: a) Consider those living on Indian reserves as “Indian” and determine Band status [as outlined above] b) For those not on reserves, determine the ethnic or cultural group through the line of the father”
- For details on how the questions on the census form are defined consult the Ninth Census of Canada Training Manual (pages 31 to 35)

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1961 Census records will be released in 2053.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Browse for topics and subjects using keywords such as emigration and immigration, citizenship, languages, religion, ethnology, native languages
 - 1961 Census publications
<https://archive.org/search.php?query=%28census%20canada%201961%29>.
 - 1961 Publication Catalogue
<https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/sites/default/public/mdldata/open/canada/national/statcan/census/1961/doc/listc61.pdf>

12th Census of Canada, 1966

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

There were no questions related to birthplace, citizenship, ethnic/cultural groups, religion, or language in the 1966 Census.

General documentation – <https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/numeric-data/census-canada/1966>

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1961 Census records will be released in 2058.

13th Census of Canada, 1971

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used in the questionnaire and published statistics for the 1971 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Question 5: Mother Tongue - Language first spoken and still understood
- Question 11: Where were you born?
- Question 12: If outside Canada, in what period did you first immigrate to Canada
- Question 13: Where your parents born in Canada
- Question 14: Of what country are you a citizen?
- Question 15: To what ethnic or cultural group did you or your ancestor (on the male side) belong on coming to this continent?
- Question 16: What is your religion?
- Question 17: What language do you most often speak at home?
- Question 18: Can you speak English or French well enough to conduct conversations?

Column definitions

- The Census Questionnaire (page 39, Population, Introduction to Volume 1)
<https://archive.org/details/1971927011974engfra/page/n40/mode/1up>
- Dictionary of the 1971 Census Terms.
https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/statcan/CS12-540-1972.pdf

Notes

- On the census schedule (questionnaire), the listed categories for ethnic or cultural group are: English, French, German, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Native Indian - Band, Native Indian - Non-Band, Netherlands, Norwegian, Polish, Scottish, Ukrainian, and Other (written in).
- According to the 1971 Census Dictionary, Ethnic Group:
“Refers to ethnic or cultural background traced through the father’s side. This question should not be confused with citizenship which refers to the country to which the person owes allegiance. Language spoken by the person or by his paternal ancestor on first coming to this continent was a guide to the determination of ethnic or cultural group in some cases”.

It also states the following “Remarks”: “Strictly speaking, only Native Indians and Eskimos are indigenous to this continent. For this reason, the terms “Canadian” and “American” were not recognized as true indicators of a person’s ethnic or cultural background, although they have been accepted where the person has insisted on being so designated. The entry “Unknown” was accepted as valid for persons who, due to mixed ancestry or for other reasons, did not know the ethnic group from which they were descended.”

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1971 Census records will be released in 2063.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Browse for topics and subjects using keywords such as emigration and immigration, citizenship, languages, religion, ethnology, native languages.
 - 1971 Census publications
<https://archive.org/search.php?query=1971%20census%20canada>
 - 1971 Publication Catalogue
<https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/sites/default/public/mdlldata/open/canada/national/statcan/census/1971/doc/cen71pub.pdf>

14th Census of Canada, 1976

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

There were no questions asked about ethnic/cultural origin, religion, immigration, citizenship. The only relevant question asked was mother tongue.

Census Questionnaire (Schedule 2B)

https://gsg.uottawa.ca/data/census/archive-ref/1976_census_questionnaire_2b_long-en.pdf

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1971 Census records will be released in 2068.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Browse for topics and subjects using keywords language.
1976 Census Publications

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=%28census%20canada%201976%29>

15th Census of Canada, 1981

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used in the questionnaire and published statistics for the 1981 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Question 6: What is the language you first learned in childhood and still understand?
- Question 23: Where were you born?
- Question 24: Of what country are you a citizen?
- Question 25: In what year did you first immigrate to Canada
- Question 26: To which ethnic or cultural group did you or your ancestors belong on first coming to this continent?
- Question 27: What is your religion?
- Question 28: What language do you yourself speak at home now?
- Question 29: Can you speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation?

Column definitions

- The Census Questionnaire (Schedule 2B)
https://gsg.uottawa.ca/data/census/archive-ref/1981_census_questionnaire_2b_long-en.pdf
- 1981 Census Dictionary https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/statcan/CS99-901-1981-eng.pdf
- On the census schedule (questionnaire), the listed ethnic or cultural groups are: French, English, Irish, Scottish, German, Italian, Ukranian, Dutch, Polish, Jewish, Chinese, Native Peoples (Inuit, Status or registered Indian, Non-Status Indian, Métis), and other (as written/specified by the individual).
- In addition, for Native Peoples, the phrase “on first coming to this continent” in the question was to be ignored by the respondent”. Furthermore, Métis are defined as “descendants of people of mixed Indian and European ancestry who formed a distinct socio-cultural entity in the 19th Century. The Metis have gone on to absorb the mixed offspring of Native Indian people and groups from all over the world.”

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1981 Census records will be released in 2073.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- It is important to note that data about the black population in Canada was not published for the 1981 census.
- Browse for topics and subjects using keywords such as ethnology, minorities, immigrants, ethnic relations, religion, language, Indians of north America, Inuit, métis, native language.
- 1981 Census Publications
<https://archive.org/search.php?query=%281981%20census%20canada%29>
- Boxhill, Walton O. A users guide to 1981 census data on ethnic origin. Statistics Canada. Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.
<https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.838948/publication.html>

16th Census of Canada, 1986

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used in the questionnaire and published statistics for the 1986 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Question 6: What is the language you first learned in childhood and still understand?
- Question 7: Do you consider yourself an aboriginal person or a native Indian of North America, that is Inuit, North American Indian, or Metis?
- Question 14: Where were you born?
- Question 15: Of what country are you a citizen?
- Question 16: In what year did you first immigrate to Canada
- Question 17: To which ethnic or cultural group(s) do you or did your ancestors belong? Mark or specify as many as possible. Groups include: French, English, Irish, Scottish, German, Italian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Chinese, Jewish, Polish, Black, Inuit, North American Indian, Metis. Other groups were written in by the individual and/or census taker
- Question 18: What language do you yourself speak at home now?
- Question 19: Can you speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation?

Column definitions

- For definitions for the questions in the census form and the variables used in the Census Publications, consult the Dictionary.Census Recensement: Canada 1986.
https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/statcan/rh-hc/CS99-101-1987-eng.pdf
- Questionnaire
https://gsg.uottawa.ca/data/census/archive-ref/1986_census_questionnaire_2b_long-en.pdf

Notes:

- On the census schedule, Indigenous identity is divided into four groups: Inuit; Status or registered Indian; non-status Indian; Métis.
- On the census schedule (questionnaire), the listed ethnic or cultural groups are: French, English, Irish, Scottish, German, Italian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Chinese, Jewish, Polish, Black, Inuit, North American Indian, Metis. Other groups were written in by the individual and/or census taker.
- According to the Census dictionary, "A new mark-in box for "Black" was added to the 1986 questionnaire. In previous censuses respondents wrote "Black" in the space provided."

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1986 Census records will be released in 2078.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Browse for topics and subjects such as: Aboriginal peoples, citizenship, ethnology, ethnicity, immigrants, Indians of North American, Inuit, language, Métis, native languages.
 - 1986 Census publications
<https://archive.org/search.php?query=%281986%20census%20canada%29>
- For details on how to interpret ethnic origin data (includes racialized origins) consult:
White, Pamela M. *A user's guide to 1986 census data on ethnic origin*. Statistics Canada.
https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/statcan/rh-hc/CS99-108-1990-eng.pdf

17th Census of Canada, 1991

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used in the questionnaire and published statistics for the 1991 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Question 7 to 10: Language questions
- Question 11: Place of Birth. Where was this person born?
- Question 12: Citizenship. Of what country is this person a citizen?
- Question 13: Immigration. Is this person now, or has this person ever been a landed immigrant?
- Question 14: Immigration. In what year did this person first become a landed immigrant?
- Question 15: Ethnic Origin. To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong? Mark or specify as many as applicable. Groups in the questionnaire: French, English, German, Scottish, Italian, Irish, Ukranian, Chinese, Dutch, Jewish, Polish, Black, North American Indian, Metis. Inuit/Eskimo. Other groups were written in by the individual and/or census taker
- Question 16: Is this person a registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada? If yes, indicate the Band or First Nation.
- Question 17: Religion. What is this person's religion?

Column definitions

- 1991 Census Dictionary
<https://archive.org/details/199192301XPE1992eng>
- Questionnaire
https://gsg.uottawa.ca/data/census/archive-ref/1991_census_questionnaire_2b_long-en.pdf

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1991 Census records will be released in 2083.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Browse for topics and subject category such as: citizenship, ethnology, ethnic groups, immigrants, languages, minority groups, native peoples, native languages, race or religion.
- 1991 Census publications
<https://archive.org/search.php?query=%281991%20census%20canada%29>.

18th Census of Canada, 1996

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

Relevant column headings in the census form

The terms used in the questionnaire and published statistics for the 1996 Census do not reflect the current usage when describing a person's background.

- Question 13: Where was this person born?
- Question 14: Of what country is this person a citizen?
- Question 15: Is this person now, or has this person ever been, a landed immigrant? A "landed immigrant" (permanent resident) is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.
- Question 16: In what year did this person first become a landed immigrant?
- Question 17: To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong? (specify as many groups as applicable).
- Question 18: Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is, North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit (Eskimo)?
- Question 19: [Visible Minority] Question: Is this person (mark or specify more than one, if applicable): White, Chinese, South Asian, Black, Arab/West Asian, Filipino, Southeast Asian, Latin American, Japanese, Korean, Other
- Question 20: Is this person a member of an Indian Band/First Nation?
- Question 21: Is this person a Treaty Indian or Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada?

Census definition

- Census Dictionary:
<https://archive.org/details/199692351UPE1999eng/mode/2up>
- Questionnaire (Long form 2B)
http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/statistical-programs/instrument/3901_Q2_V1-eng.pdf
- Reporting Guide
http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/statistical-programs/document/3901_D3_T1_V1-eng.pdf

Individual census records:

An amendment to the Statistics Act in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 1996 Census records will be released in 2088.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- Browse for topics and subject categories such as: Aboriginal Peoples, American Indian Languages, citizenship, ethnology, ethnic origin, ethnicity, immigrants, languages, minority groups, Native Peoples, visible minorities.
- 1996 Census publications (scanned copies of print publications)
<https://archive.org/search.php?query=%281996%20census%20canada%29>
- 1996 Census at Statistics Canada
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/english/census01/info/census96.cfm>

19th Census of Canada, 2001

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador

New to this Census: Nunavut

Relevant column headings in the census form

- Question 9: Where was this person born?
- Question 10: Of what country is this person a citizen?
- Question 11: Is this person now, or has this person ever been, a landed immigrant?
- Question 12: In what year did this person become a landed immigrant?
- Question 13 to 16: Language questions
- Question 17: To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong? For example: Canadian, French, English, Chinese, Italian, German, Scottish, Irish, Cree, Micmac, Métis, Inuit (Eskimo), East Indian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Filipino, Jewish, Greek, Jamaican, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chilean, Somali etc.
- Question 18: Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo).
- Question 19: Is this person (mark than one or specify, if applicable): White, Chinese, South Asian, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Southeast Asian, Arab, West Asian, Japanese, Korean, Other (specify)
- Question 20: Is this person a member of an Indian Band/First Nation?
- Question 21: Is this person a Treaty Indian or Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada?
- Question 22: What is this person's religion?

Column definitions

- Questionnaire 2B (Long form)
http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/statistical-programs/instrument/3901_Q2_V2-eng.pdf
- User Guides & Dictionaries
 - 2001 Census Dictionary
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/92-378-X>
 - 2001 Census: Visible Minority and Population Group User Guide
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/92-401-G>
 - 2001 Census: Religion User Guide
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/92-402-G>
 - 2001 Census: Ethnic Origin User Guide
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/92-403-G>

Individual census records:

- The Statistics Act amended in 2005 allows for the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001, 92 years after the census collection. The 2001 Census records will be released in 2093.

Census publications with relevant tables:

- 2001 Census publications, reference materials, and data
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/english/census01/home/index.cfm>

20th Census of Canada, 2006

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut

Relevant column headings in the census form

- Question 9: Where was this person born?
- Question 10: Of what country is this person a citizen?
- Question 11: Is this person now, or has this person ever been, a landed immigrant?
- Question 12: In what year did this person become a landed immigrant?
- Question 13 to 16: Language questions
- Question 17: What were the ethnic or cultural origins of this person's ancestors? For example: Canadian, French, English, Chinese, Italian, German, Scottish, East Indian, Irish, Cree, Mi'kmaq (Micmac), Métis, Inuit (Eskimo), Ukrainian, Dutch, Filipino, Polish, Portuguese, Jewish, Greek, Jamaican, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chilean, Salvadorean, Somali etc.
- Question 18: Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo).
- Question 19: Is this person (mark than one or specify, if applicable): White, Chinese, South Asian, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Southeast Asian, Arab, West Asian, Japanese, Korean, Other (specify)
- Question 20: Is this person a member of an Indian Band/First Nation?
- Question 21: Is this person a Treaty Indian or Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada?

Column definitions

- Questionnaire 2B (Long Form)
https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/instrument/3901_Q2_V3-eng.pdf
- Questionnaire Guide
https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/document/3901_D15_T1_V1-eng.pdf
- Census Dictionary 2006
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf>

Individual census records

- An amendment to the Statistics Act in 2005 required that each person consent to having their personal information released after 92 years. This requirement was in place for the 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census. The 2006 Census will be released in 2098.

Census publications with relevant tables

- 2006 Census publications, reference materials, and data
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/index-eng.cfm>

21st Census of Canada, 2011

Previous to the 2011 Census, the census consisted of 2 types of questionnaires – the short form, collecting basic information (name, age, sex, marital status and language) and the long form which collected more detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing information. In 2011 the Census consisted only of the short form version of the questionnaire and was mandatory for Canadians to fill out. The previous long form questionnaire was changed to the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) and was not mandatory for Canadians to fill out.

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut

Relevant column headings in the census form

- Question 7: Can this person speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation
- Question 8: What language does this person speak most often at home? Does this person speak any other languages on a regular basis at home?
- Question 9: What is the language that this person first learned at home in childhood and still understands?

Census definitions

- Census Questionnaire
https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/instrument/3901_Q1_V4-eng.pdf
- Census Dictionary
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act in 2005 required that each person consent to having their personal information released after 92 years. This requirement was in place for the 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census. The 2011 Census will be released in 2103.

Census publications with relevant tables

- 2011 Census publications, reference materials, and data
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/index-eng.cfm>

2011 National Household Survey (NHS)

Previous to the 2011 Census, the census consisted of 2 types of questionnaires – the short form, collecting basic information (name, age, sex, marital status and language) and the long form which collected more detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing information. In 2011 the Census consisted only of the short form version of the questionnaire and was mandatory for Canadians to fill out. The previous long form questionnaire was changed to the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) and was not mandatory for Canadians to fill out.

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut

Relevant column headings in the NHS form

- Question 9: Where was this person born?
- Question 10: Of what country is this person a citizen?
- Question 11: Is this person now, or has this person ever been, a landed immigrant?
- Question 12: In what year did this person first become a landed immigrant?
- Question 17: what were the ethnic or cultural origins of this person's ancestors?
- Question 18: Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is First Nations (North American Indian), Métis, or Inuk (Inuit)?
- Question 19: Is this person: White, Chinese, South Asian, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Southeast Asian, Arab, West Asian, Japanese, Korean, Other (specify)
- Question 20: Is this person a Status Indian (Registered or Treaty Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada)?
- Question 21: Is this person a member of a First Nation/Indian band?
- Question 22: What is this person's religion?

Column definitions for the NHS

- National Household Survey Questionnaire
https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/ref/about-apropos/ques_guide-eng.cfm
- National Household Survey Dictionary
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>

Individual NHS Records:

- In accordance with the 2011 Census, the 2011 National Household Survey will release personal information 92 years after it is collected provided an individual has consented to having the information released. The 2011 NHS will be released in 2103.

NHS publications with relevant tables

- 2011 NHS publications, reference materials, and data
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/surveys/5178>

22nd Census of Canada, 2016

In 2016, the Census consisted of both the mandatory long form and short form questionnaires.

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut

Relevant column headings in the census form

- Questions 7 to 9: Language questions
- Question 12: Where was this person born?
- Question 13: Of what country is this person a citizen?
- Question 14: Is this person no, or has this person ever been a landed immigrant?
- Question 15: In what year did this person first become a landed immigrant?
- Question 17: What were the ethnic or cultural origins of this person's ancestors? For example, Canadian, English, Chinese, French, East Indian, Italian, German, Scottish, Cree, Mi'kmaq, Salish, Métis, Inuit, Filipino, Irish, Dutch, Ukrainian, Polish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Korean, Jamaican, Greek, Iranian, Lebanese, Mexican, Somali, Colombian etc.
- Question 18: Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis, or Inuk (Inuit)? Note, First Nations includes Status and Non-Status Indians
- Question 19: Is this person: White, South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, Other (specify)
- Question 20: Is this person a Status Indian (Registered or Treaty Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada)?
- Question 21: Is this person a member of a First Nation/Indian band?

Census definitions

- Dictionary, Census of Population, 2016
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>
- Questionnaire
http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/statistical-programs/instrument/3901_Q2_V4-eng.pdf

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act in 2005 required that each person consent to having their personal information released after 92 years. This requirement was in place for the 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census. The 2016 Census will be released in 2108.

Census publications with relevant tables

- Analytical products, 2016 Census
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/index-eng.cfm>
- Census Topic: Aboriginal peoples
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/rt-td/ap-pa-eng.cfm>
- Census Topic: Immigration and ethnocultural diversity
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/rt-td/imm-eng.cfm>
- Highlight tables, 2016 Census
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/hlt-fst/index-eng.cfm>

23rd Census of Census, 2021

Provinces and territories included: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut

Relevant column headings in the census form

- Questions 8 to 10: Language questions
- Question 19: Where was this person born?
- Question 20: Where were this person's parents born?
- Question 21: Is this person a Canadian citizen? Is this person a citizen of a country other than Canada?
- Question 23: What were the ethnic or cultural origins of this person's ancestors?
- Question 24: Is this person First Nations, Métis or Inuk? Note, First Nations includes Status and Non-Status Indians
- Question 25: Is this person: White, South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, Other (specify)
- Question 26: Is this person a Status Indian (Registered or Treaty Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada)?
- Question 27: Is this person a member of a First Nation or Indian band?
- Question 28: Is this person a registered member of a Métis organization or Settlement?
- Question 29: Is this person enrolled under, or a beneficiary of, an Inuit land claims agreement?
- Question 30: What is this person's religion?

Census definitions

- Questionnaire
https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/statistical-programs/instrument/3901_Q2_V6

Individual census records:

- An amendment to the Statistics Act in 2017 allows for the release of personal information 92 years after the census collection. The consent question asked in 2006, 2011, 2016, and the 2011 NHS was removed from the Census. The 2021 Census will be released in 2113.

Census publications with relevant tables

- Publications, reference materials, and data files will be available in 2022.
- Release schedule
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/prodser/rel-diffusion-eng.cfm>