

Population Density, 2001

Abstract

Canada, with 3.3 people per square kilometre, has one of the lowest population densities in the world. In 2001, most of Canada's population of 30 million lived within 200 kilometres of the United States. In fact, the inhabitants of our three biggest cities — Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver — can drive to the border in less than two hours. Thousands of kilometres to the north, our polar region — the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut — is relatively empty, embracing 41% of our land mass but only 0.3% of our population. Human habitation in the solitary north clings largely to scattered settlements: villages among vast expanses of virgin ice, snow, tundra and taiga.

Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada, Population and Dwelling Counts, for Census Divisions, Census Subdivisions (Municipalities) and Designated Places, 2001 and 1996 Censuses — 100% data, Catalogue number 93F0050XDB01003.

The Daily is Statistics Canada's official release bulletin. The Daily for March 12, 2002 (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/020312/tdq020312-eng.htm>) , marked the public release of this census variable. Highlight tables allowing users to perform simple rank and sort functions with the data at various levels of geography are available for this variable here: Population and Dwelling Counts: Highlight Tables, 2001 Census (<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/standard/popdwell/tables.cfm>) . Technical notes for this variable can be found at 2001 Census Technical Reports and User Guides.

The text was adapted from Statistics Canada, A profile of the Canadian Population: where we live, Catalogue number 96F00030XIE2001001. Statistics Canada information is used with the permission of Statistics Canada. Information on the availability of the wide range of data from Statistics Canada can be obtained from the Statistic Canada's Regional Offices, its World Wide Web site at: www.statcan.ca, and its toll-free access number 1-800-263-1136.

Data and Mapping Notes

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

Map Visualization

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

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

Table 1. Map Scales

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

Source: Natural Resources Canada. GeoAccess Division.

The population ecumene is used to show in most of the maps in this series areas within the census divisions and census subdivisions, which have population densities greater than or equal to 0.4 persons per square kilometre (1 person per square mile). The non-ecumene or sparsely populated areas appear as white patches within the census divisions and census subdivisions for which no thematic data are shown.

Geography

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The geographical areas to which the data have been georeferenced, are based on one or more of the following Statistics Canada's geostatistical areas. In most cases,



the population census division ecumene and the population census subdivision ecumene are used in the same map, for viewing at different map zoom levels.

Census Division (CD)

Census division is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as county, regional municipality and regional district) or their equivalents. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province level and the municipality (census subdivision). Census divisions have been established in provincial law to facilitate regional planning, as well as the provision of services that can be more effectively delivered on a scale larger than a municipality. In Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, provincial/territorial law does not provide for these administrative geographic areas. Therefore, Statistics Canada, in co-operation with these provinces and territories, has created equivalent areas called census divisions for disseminating statistical data.

Census Subdivision (CSD)

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

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

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

Population Ecumene

Ecumene is a term used by geographers to mean inhabited land. The population ecumene is based on blocks with a minimum population density of 0.4 persons per square kilometre. Blocks are the smallest unit of geography to which census data is

associated. Two ecumenes are utilized in this project: population census division ecumene and population census subdivision ecumene.

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

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

Map Notes

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Both census division and census subdivision data are shown on this map, each requiring different class intervals. Due to the small area of many of the census subdivisions, circles are used to represent (using the same census subdivision class intervals) census subdivisions with an area less than 3.79 kilometres square (approximately the size of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan).

Map Sources

2001 Population

Statistics Canada, Population and Dwelling Counts, for Census Divisions, Census Subdivisions (Municipalities) and Designated Places, 2001 and 1996 Censuses - 100% data, Catalogue number 93F0050XDB01003.

References

Statistics Canada. A profile of the Canadian Population: where we live, Catalogue number 96F00030XIE2001001
http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Highlights/Highlights_e.cfm

Statistics Canada. 2001. Canada e-Book
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?lang=eng&catno=11-404-X>

Statistics Canada. Historical Statistics of Canada



<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-516-x/sectiona/4057748-eng.htm>

Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)

Federal Government

Statistics Canada. 2001 Census of Population

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/home/index.cfm>

Statistics Canada. 2001 Community Profiles

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/CP01/Index.cfm?Lang=E>

Statistics Canada. Analysis Series

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Analytic/Index.cfm>

Statistics Canada. Highlight Tables. Population and Dwelling Counts

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/standard/popdwell/tables.cfm>

Statistics Canada. The Daily

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

The Daily is Statistics Canada's official release bulletin, the Agency's first line of communication with the media and the public. The Daily issues news releases on current social and economic conditions and announces new products. It provides a comprehensive one-stop overview of new information available from Statistics Canada.

Other

Canadian Council on Social Development. Stats & Facts

<http://www.ccsd.ca/factsheets/index.htm>

