

Glossary

Demographics

Population

The population universe includes variables that provide information about individuals, covering demographic characteristics and language.

The population universe (target population) of the 2016 Census includes the following groups:

- Canadian citizens (by birth or by naturalization) and landed immigrants (permanent residents) with a usual place of residence in Canada.
- Canadian citizens (by birth or by naturalization) and landed immigrants (permanent residents) who are abroad either on a military base or attached to a diplomatic mission.
- Canadian citizens (by birth or by naturalization) and landed immigrants (permanent residents) at sea or in port aboard merchant vessels under Canadian registry or Canadian government vessels.
- Persons with a usual place of residence in Canada who are claiming refugee status and family members living with them.
- Persons with a usual place of residence in Canada who hold study permits and family members living with them.
- Persons with a usual place of residence in Canada who hold work permits and family members living with them.

For census purposes, these last three groups of people are referred to as 'non-permanent residents.' They have been included since 1991. Foreign residents are excluded from the population universe.

Foreign residents are persons who belong to the following groups:

- Government representatives of another country attached to the embassy, high commission or other diplomatic body of that country in Canada, and members of their families living with them.
- Members of the Armed Forces of another country who are stationed in Canada, and family members living with them.
- Residents of another country visiting Canada temporarily (for example, a foreign visitor on vacation or on business, with or without a visitor's permit).

Age

Refers to the age at last birthday before the reference date, that is, before May 10, 2016.

Families

Refers to the classification of census families into:

- **married couples** (with or without children of either and/or both spouses),
- **common-law couples** (with or without children of either and/or both partners), and
- **lone-parent families** by sex of parent.

A couple may be of opposite or same sex. A couple with children may be further classified as either an intact family or stepfamily, and stepfamilies may, in turn, be classified as simple or complex. Children in a census family include grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present.

Education, Employment & Income

Labour Force

Refers to persons who, during the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2016, were either employed or unemployed.

Labour force = Employed + Unemployed

Early enumeration was conducted in remote, isolated parts of the provinces and territories in February, March and April 2016. When enumeration has taken place before May 2016, the reference date used is the date on which the household was enumerated.

Labour Force Status

'Labour force status' refers to whether a person was employed, unemployed or not in the labour force during the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2016.

Employment Rate

Refers to the number of persons employed in the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2016, expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 years and over.

The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the number of employed persons in that group, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that group.

Unemployment Rate

Refers to the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2016.

The unemployment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the unemployed in that group, expressed as a percentage of the labour force in that group.

Participation Rate

Refers to the labour force in the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2016, expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over.

The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, geographic area, etc.) is the total labour force in that group, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that group.

Income

Total Income

Total income refers to monetary receipts from certain sources, before income taxes and deductions, during a calendar year 2015. The monetary receipts included as income are those that tend to be of a regular and recurring nature.

Receipts that are **included** as income are:

- employment income from wages, salaries, tips, commissions and net income from self-employment (for both unincorporated farm and non-farm activities);
- income from investment sources, such as dividends and interest on bonds, accounts, guaranteed investment certificates (GICs) and mutual funds;
- income from employer and personal pension sources, such as private pensions and payments from annuities and registered retirement income funds (RRIFs);
- other regular cash income, such as child support payments received, spousal support payments (alimony) received and scholarships;
- income from government sources, such as social assistance, child benefits, Employment Insurance benefits, Old Age Security benefits, Canada Pension Plan and Québec Pension Plan benefits and disability income.

Receipts **excluded** from this income definition are:

- one-time receipts, such as lottery winnings, gambling winnings, cash inheritances, lump-sum insurance settlements and tax-free savings account (TFSA) or registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) withdrawals;
- capital gains because they are not by their nature regular and recurring. It is further assumed that they are more relevant to the concept of wealth than the concept of income;
- employers' contributions to registered pension plans, Canada Pension Plan, Québec Pension Plan and Employment Insurance;
- voluntary inter-household transfers, imputed rent, goods and services produced for barter and goods produced for own consumption.

Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT)

In simple terms, the Low-income measure after tax (LIM-AT) is a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted after-tax income of households observed at the person level, where 'adjusted' indicates that a household's needs are taken into account. Adjustment for household sizes reflects the fact that a household's needs increase as the number of members increase, although not necessarily by the same proportion per additional member.

The LIMs derivation begins by calculating the 'adjusted household income' for each household by dividing household income by the square root of the number of persons in the household, otherwise known as the 'equivalence scale.' This adjusted household income is assigned to each individual in the private household, and the median of the adjusted household income (where half of all individuals will be above it and half below) is determined over the population. The LIM for a household of one person is 50% of this median, and the LIMs for other sizes of households are equal to this value multiplied by their equivalence scale.

Unlike other low income lines, LIMs do not vary by size of area of residence.

Thresholds for specific household sizes are presented in [Table 4.2 Low-income measures thresholds \(LIM-AT and LIM-BT\) for private households of Canada, 2015](#).

Housing

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.

Classification of Residential Dwelling Structure Type:

- **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 it. A mobile home fixed permanently to a foundation is also classified as a single-detached house.
- **Semi-detached house** – One of two dwellings attached side by side (or back to back) to each other, but not attached 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 townhouse or garden home, but not having any other dwellings either above or below. Townhouses attached to a high-rise building are also classified as row houses.
- **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, commercial 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 pad and may be covered by a skirt.
- **Other movable dwelling** – A single dwelling, other than a mobile home, used as a place of residence, but capable of being moved on short notice, such as a tent, recreational vehicle, travel trailer, houseboat or floating home.

Shelter-cost-to-income ratio

Percentage of a household's average total monthly income which is spent on shelter-related expenses.

Those expenses include the monthly rent (for tenants) or the mortgage payment, property taxes and condominium fees (for owners) and the costs of electricity, heat, municipal services, etc. The percentage is calculated by dividing the total shelter-related expenses by the household's total monthly income and multiplying the result by 100.

Average Monthly Shelter Costs

The term shelter cost refers to the average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that own or rent their dwelling.

- **Owner costs** include average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that own their dwelling. The owner's major payments include, where applicable, the mortgage payment, the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services, property taxes and condominium fees.
- **Tenant costs** include average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that rent their dwelling. Gross rent includes, where applicable, the monthly rent and the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services.

Ethnicity & Immigration

Immigrant Status

Immigrant status refers to whether the respondent is a non-immigrant, an immigrant or a non-permanent resident.

- **Non-immigrant** refers to a person who is a Canadian citizen by birth.
- **Immigrant** refers to a person who is or has ever been a landed immigrant/permanent resident. This person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Some immigrants have resided in Canada for a number of years, while others have arrived recently. Some immigrants are Canadian citizens, while others are not. Most immigrants are born outside Canada, but a small number are born in Canada. In the 2016 Census, 'Immigrants' includes immigrants who landed in Canada prior to May 10, 2016.
- **Non-permanent resident** refers to a person from another country who has a work or study permit or who is a refugee claimant, and any non-Canadian-born family member living in Canada with them.

Place of Birth of Respondent

Place of birth refers to the name of the province, territory or country in which the person was born. It may refer to a province or territory if the person was born in Canada. It refers to a country if the person was born outside Canada.

The geographic location is specified according to boundaries current at the time the data are collected, not the boundaries at the time of birth.

Recent Immigrant

Recent immigrants are classified as those who entered the country between the 2011 and 2016 Census.

Admission Category

Admission category refers to the name of the immigration program or group of programs under which an immigrant has been granted for the first time the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.

In the 2016 Census of Population, data on admission category are available for immigrants who landed in Canada between January 1st, 1980 and May 10th, 2016.

- **Economic Immigrant** – this category includes immigrants who have been selected for their ability to contribute to Canada's economy through their ability to meet labour market needs, to own and manage or to build a business, to make a substantial investment, to create their own employment or to meet specific provincial or territorial labour market needs.
- **Immigrant sponsored by family** – this category includes immigrants who were sponsored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and were granted permanent resident status on the basis of their relationship either as the spouse, partner, parent, grand-parent, child or other relative of this sponsor. The terms "family class" or "family reunification" are sometime used to refer to this category.
- **Refugee** – this category includes immigrants who were granted permanent resident status on the basis of a well-founded fear of returning to their home country. This category includes persons who had a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in particular social group or for political opinion (Geneva Convention refugees) as well as persons who had been seriously and personally affected by civil war or armed conflict, or have suffered a massive violation of human rights. Some refugees were in Canada when they applied for refugee protection for themselves and their family members (either with them in Canada or abroad). Others were abroad and were referred for resettlement to Canada by the United Nations Refugee Agency, another designated referral organization or private sponsors.
- **Other immigrant** – this category includes immigrants who were granted permanent resident status under a program that does not fall in neither the economic immigrants, the immigrants sponsored by family or the refugee categories.

Language

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 English nor French.

The official language data are based on the respondent's assessment of his or her ability to speak the two official languages.

This is the same question as in 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996 and 1991.

On the French version of all census forms, for all questions in the language module where there is a choice of response available, the order in which the choices appear was modified since 1996 in order to give precedence to the category 'French.' The questions on knowledge of official languages and non-official languages also reflect this change in the actual wording of the questions.

Home Language

Refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual on May 10, 2016.

Further Information

For further information on the terms used in the 2016 Census, as well as more detailed definitions, notes, and documentation, please see the [Dictionary, Census of Population, 2016](#) on the Statistics Canada website.