

An Overview

In response to growing demand for data on small geographic areas, Statistics Canada has developed the Small Area Business and Labour Database (SABAL). SABAL combines a wide variety of economic and social statistics, and provides coverage of approximately 140 urban areas and 72 economic regions, in addition to Canada, the Provinces and Territories. Some data are not available at all geographic levels as can be seen from the *GRID*.

SABAL also includes metadata on each of these data sources and a promotion advertising the other products and services offered by the contributing STC subject-matter Divisions.

The *business sources* included are:

- Business Small Area File (based on Revenue Canada administrative data)
- Retail Trade
- Building Permits
- Housing Starts from CMHC
- Survey of Manufacturing
- Motor Vehicle Registrations
- Business Counts
- Consumer Price Index
- Tourism

The *social sources* included are:

- Census of Population
- Small Area Administrative Data (Taxfiler Data)
- Labour Force Survey
- Household Facilities and Equipment Survey
- Education
- Training
- Justice
- Population Projections
- Family Expenditures
- Consumer Finances Survey

Analytical Caveats:

- SABAL is a compendium of the above independent data sources and not a fully integrated database.
- Some of these sources utilize sampling techniques with differing levels of quality between different areas and over time.
- Other sources are compiled from administrative records covering the complete universe.
- Several of these sources provide separate measures of the same item, for example, employment. These employment statistics will typically differ because of the various differences in the methodologies employed by each of the surveys or how they are compiled from administrative sources.
- Some of these sources use STC standard geographic boundaries, while others attempt to proxy these as closely as possible through use of postal code conversions or other estimating techniques.
- As well, geographic boundaries change over time making time analysis more difficult. Efforts have been made to reorganize the data into consistent geographic boundaries, where possible.

SABAL Platform

SABAL uses IVISION software which is a user-friendly Windows-based viewer. Because it has pivoting and on-the-fly mapping and graphical capabilities, it is ideally suited to allow users to look across different geographic areas for a class of data and, by exporting the data to a spreadsheet, one can look down within a specific area at all the data. It can also present context sensitive related metadata. The IVISION browser is becoming widely used within STC and the federal government in general.

The SABAL database:

- assembles data from many areas within Statistics Canada and a few selected non-Statscan sources into one package. These data sources will be expanded in future editions.
- is in machine-readable form so it can be readily analyzed and/or exported.
- uses Statistics Canada's standards (GEO and SIC) to make data as comparable as possible for analysis.
- provides multi-year data as consistently as possible which allows for time analysis.
- provides a quick analysis capability e.g. pivoting spreadsheet, context sensitive metadata, on-the-fly graphing, mapping and exporting.

For more information about SABAL

Contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre (* see below) or call our National Inquiries Line at 1-800-263-1136.

* Halifax (902) 426-5331 / Montreal (514) 283-5725 / Ottawa (613) 951-8116 / Toronto (416) 973-6586 / Vancouver (604) 666-3691 / Winnipeg (204) 983-4020 / Regina (306) 780-5405 / Calgary (403) 292-6717 / Edmonton (403) 495-3027

DATA SOURCES BY GEOGRAPHIC AVAILABILITY

Source		Type of Data	Level of Geography						Data Years	1980 SIC Digit Level
			Nat.	Prov.	ER*	CMA*	CA*	Other		
Business Sources										
1	Retail Trade	Survey& Admin	y	y		y	Selected		89-93	1,2,3
2	Consumer Price Index	Survey	y	y		Selected			90-95	
3	Building Permits	Admin	y	y		y			90-95	
4	Housing Starts	Admin	y	y		y			90-95	
5	Survey of Manufacturing	Survey	y	y				CD	92,93	2,3,4
6	Motor Vehicles Registrations	Admin	y	y	y				91-94	
7	Business Small Area File	Admin	y	y	y	y	y		89-93	1,2
8	Tourism	Survey	y	y		Selected			90,92,94	
9	Business Counts	Admin	y	y	y	y	y		90-94	1,2,3,4
Social Sources										
10	Census of Population	Survey	y	y		y	y		86, 91	
11	Small Area Administrative Data (Taxfiler data)	Admin	y	y		y			90-93	
12	Labour Force Survey	Survey	y	y	y	y			87-94	
13	Consumer Finance Survey	Survey	y	y	y	y			90-94	
14	Family Expenditures	Survey	y	y	y				86,92	
15	Household Facility& Equipment	Survey	y	y	y	y			90-95	
16	Training	Survey	y	y		Selected			92,94	1
17	Education	Survey	y	y				Institutional	89-93	
18	Justice	Admin	y	y		y		SMA*	85-94	
19	Population Estimates	Admin	y	y		y	y		90-2000	

* SMA-Selected Municipal Areas are based upon Justice reporting districts and approximate Census Sub-divisions and smaller CA's
 ER- Economic Regions are formed by aggregating selected Census Divisions(CD) as defined by the Labour Force Survey
 CMA- Census Metropolitan Areas (Cities with over 100,000 in population)
 CA- Census Agglomerations (Smaller Cities with a population between 10,000 and 100,000)
 SIC- Standard Industrial Classification (1980), Statistics Canada