Catalogue no. 92-178-G

Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) 2003 Representation Order, Reference Guide

June 2013 postal codes[OM]

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Standard symbols

The following symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p}	preliminary
^{r}	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E}	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published
*	significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

What's new?

- The postal code[OM] reference date for this update is June 2013. This is the same as for the Postal Code[OM] Conversion File (PCCF). The Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) refers to the federal electoral districts (FEDs) based on the 2003 Representation Order.
- The 'unique link' variable indicates if the postal code[OM] is linked to one or more FEDs.
- The 'weight' variable estimates the proportion of the population of a postal code[OM] that resides within each FED.

OM. Postal code is an official mark of Canada Post Corporation.

Table of Contents

1. About this guide

This reference guide is intended for users of the Postal Codes^{OM} by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF). The guide provides an overview of the file, the general methodology used in its creation and important technical information.

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2. Overview

The Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) is a digital file which provides a link between the six-character postal code[OM] and Canada's federal electoral districts (which are also known as federal ridings). The current version of the PCFRF links 848,257 active postal code[OM] records, existing as of June 2013, to the 308 federal electoral districts.

Elections Canada defines a federal electoral district (FED) as any place or territorial area entitled to return a Member of Parliament (MP) to serve in the House of Commons. Federal electoral district legal limits and descriptions are the responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer, and are usually revised every ten years after the results of the decennial census. There are 308 FEDs in the 2003 Representation Order, the most recent revision of the federal electoral districts limits. The FEDs are based on the 2001 Census population data.

How to cite this guide

Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF), Reference Guide, 2013. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-178-G.

How to cite this product

Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF), 2013. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-178-X.

Acknowledgements

3. About this product

Purpose of the product

The Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) was conceived as a tool to provide a linkage between postal codes[OM] and federal electoral districts (FEDs).

Definitions and concepts

Geographic terms and concepts are briefly defined in the glossary (Appendix A). More details can be found in the *2011 Census Dictionary* (Catalogue no. 98-301-X) and the 2011 Illustrated Glossary (Catalogue no. 92-195-X).

Content

The PCFRF contains a total of 843,345 postal codes[OM]. The number of postal codes[OM] by FED, and whether those postal codes[OM] are linked to other FEDs, is provided in Table 3.1.

Each record of the file contains the following:

- six-character postal code[OM]
- federal electoral district code – 2003 Representation Order
- federal electoral district name – English
- federal electoral district name – French
- unique link: an indicator of whether the postal code[OM] is linked to more than one federal electoral district
- weight: for use in proportional allocation

Please see section 4, Technical specifications for the data descriptions and definitions.

General methodology

Not applicable

Limitations

Some postal codes[OM] straddle one or more FED boundaries. The 'unique link' variable indicates if the postal code[OM] is linked to one or more FEDs.

Users often link the postal code[OM] in their data set to the FED in the PCFRF. When performing this link, users should be aware that the postal code[OM] in their data set may represent a mailing address used by a person, not necessarily where the person actually resides. Similarly, a postal code[OM] in a business-based mailing address may not necessarily indicate where the business activity took place.

Before using the Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) with administrative files containing postal codes[OM], users should be aware of some characteristics of postal codes[OM] that may affect their linkage to federal electoral districts on the PCFRF.

Postal delivery areas do not respect federal electoral district boundaries

A postal delivery area (as represented by the six-character postal code[OM]) may straddle one or more federal electoral district boundaries. This means that, in the Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File, the same postal code[OM] may be linked to two or more (adjacent) federal electoral districts. Most federal electoral districts are affected in this way in both population centres and rural areas. Refer to Logical consistency in the Data quality section for further details.

Postal codes[OM] may be associated with post office boxes at a postal station that is not in the same federal electoral district as the client using the post office box

The postal code[OM] associated with a lock box (post office box) may be geocoded to the physical location of the associated postal installation (post office). This could be located in a federal electoral district that is different from the ultimate destination of the mail delivery – the residential, industrial, or commercial location of the client renting the lock box.

Canada Post Corporation (CPC) regularly retires postal codes[OM] and may also reactivate retired postal codes[OM] for use again

Users of the PCFRF must keep in mind that the file contains only the postal codes[OM] from CPC that are active as of June 2013.

If the addresses of postal codes[OM] in a user's administrative file are not updated to June 2013, there may be non-matches with the PCFRF because some of the postal codes[OM] in the user's file may have been retired, or may even have been reactivated and re-assigned by CPC to another range of addresses outside the riding where they had previously been used.

Statistics Canada maintains an audit trail of the birth dates and retirement dates of postal codes[OM] in the PCCF. Users may wish to consult the *Postal Code[OM] Conversion File (PCCF), Reference Guide* (Catalogue no. 92-154-G), available on the Statistics Canada website. An updated version of the PCCF including June 2013 postal codes[OM] is released concurrently with this version of the PCFRF.

Comparison to other products/versions

Linkage of postal codes[OM] to more detailed geographic areas, such as dissemination area or dissemination block, is available in the Postal Code[OM] Conversion File (PCCF).

Using with other products

Not applicable

Reference date

The reference date for postal codes[OM] contained in the PCFRF is June 2013. This is the same date as the postal codes[OM] contained in the Postal Code[OM] Conversion File (PCCF) product released concurrently with this version of the PCFRF.

The geographic reference date is a date determined by Statistics Canada to finalize the geographic framework for which the census data are collected, tabulated and reported. The geographic reference date for the 2011 Census is January 1, 2011.

4. Technical specifications

Record layout and data descriptions

Table 4.1 Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) record layout

Position	Size	Type[1]	Description
1	6	C	Postal code[OM]
7	5	C	Federal electoral district code
12	56	C	Federal electoral district name - English
68	56	C	Federal electoral district name - French
124	1	C	Unique link
125	3	C	Weight

1. The field type 'C' refers to both alphabetic and numeric characters.

Postal code[OM]
The postal code[OM] is a six-character alphanumeric code defined and maintained by Canada Post Corporation (CPC) for the sortation and delivery of mail.

The alphanumeric characters are arranged in the form ANA NAN, where 'A' represents a letter of the alphabet and 'N' a numeric digit. The first character of a postal code[OM] (allocated in alphabetic sequence from east to west across Canada) represents a province or territory or a major sector entirely within a province.

The first three characters represent a set of well-defined and stable areas known as the forward sortation area[©] (FSA[©]). Rural FSAs[©] are identifiable by the presence of a '0' in the second position of the FSA[©] code.

The last three characters identify the local delivery unit (LDU). In population centres, the LDU can specify a small and easily defined area within an FSA[©] such as block-face (one side of a city street between consecutive intersections with streets), an apartment building, an office building, or a large firm or organization which does large volume business with the post office. In rural areas, the LDU denotes a service area – the area serviced by rural route delivery from a post office or station (e.g., a rural route, general delivery, or post office box).

Federal electoral district code
A federal electoral district (FED) is any place or territorial area entitled to return a member to serve in the House of Commons. FED legal limits and descriptions are the responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer, and are usually revised every ten years after the results of the decennial census. The 2003 Representation Order is the most current revision, and is based on 2001 Census population data. This code uniquely identifies a federal electoral district – 2003 Representation Order. The first two digits identify the province or territory.

Federal electoral district name – English
This contains the English name of the federal electoral district from the 2003 Representation Order.

Federal electoral district name – French
This contains the French name of the federal electoral district from the 2003 Representation Order.

Unique link
The unique link value given in the file can be either '1,' which indicates the postal code[OM] is linked to one FED, or '2,' which indicates that the postal code[OM] is linked to two or more FEDs.

Weight
The 'weight' estimates the proportion of the population of a postal code[OM] that resides within each FED. If a postal code[OM] is linked to only one FED in the PCFRF, the weight is equal to 1. When a postal code[OM] is linked to more than one FED, the sum of weights for that postal code[OM] equals 1.0.

File specifications

The current version of the Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) is an ASCII file and does not include any software or instructions on how to use the product within specific Geographical Information Systems (GIS) or mapping packages.

Software formats

Not applicable

System requirements

Not applicable

Installation instructions

Not applicable

Geographic representation

Not applicable

File naming convention

The naming convention for PCFRF data files is bilingual and reflects the reference date (June 2013) of the Canada Post Corporation data used in the release. The file name for this release is pcfrfNatFED2003_JUN13_fcpcefNatCEF2003.zip.

5. Data quality

Linkage data quality elements provide information on the fitness-for-use of a spatial database by describing why, when and how the data are created, and how accurate the data are. The quality elements include an overview reporting on lineage, attribute accuracy, logical consistency and completeness. This information is provided to users for all linkage data products.

Lineage

Lineage describes the history of the linkage data, including descriptions of the source material from which the data were derived, and the methods of derivation. It also contains the dates of the source material, and all transformations involved in producing the final digital files.

Sources

The sources used to derive the Postal Codes[OM] by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) are as follows:

- The June 2013 Postal Code[OM] Conversion File (PCCF) links postal codes[OM] (provided by Canada Post Corporation [CPC] on the Address Lookup File updated to June 2013) to geographic codes for all 2011 Census geographic areas, including province and federal electoral district 2003 Representative Order codes. The June 2013 PCCF contains over 1.7 million postal code[OM] records linked to the geographic areas used in the 2011 Census. These geographical areas have a reference date of January 1, 2011, except for the Federal electoral district – 2003 Representation Order.
- The PCFRF contains postal code[OM] data under license from Canada Post Corporation. The most recent Canada Post Corporation file from which this data is copied is dated June 2013.
- Federal electoral district (FED) names are derived from Geography Division's Spatial Data Infrastructure. The source of the geographic names and codes of federal electoral districts is the 2003 Representation Order of the Chief Electoral Office, Elections Canada. The Spatial Data Infrastructure contains a table with the name of each federal electoral district and its associated identification code. This table is updated based on name changes provided by Elections Canada. Where changes to the electoral boundaries have been provided by Elections Canada, the correspondence between the federal electoral district and postal codes[OM] is updated.
- The 2011 Census of Population is used as a source for deriving the weights. When a postal code[OM] is linked in the PCFRF to more than one FED, the number of persons reporting the postal code[OM] in the census may be used to derive the weights.

Method of derivation

The PCFRF is created by extracting the active postal codes[OM] and the related FED codes included in the June 2013 PCCF, containing June 2013 postal codes[OM]. Each FED code in this file is linked to the list of federal electoral districts – 2003 Representation Order codes and names. The linkage to the FED on the June 2013 PCCF is based on the dissemination block or dissemination area geocoded in the PCCF.

The resulting PCFRF file contains 848,257 active postal code[OM] records of which 838,842 are unique links to one federal electoral district. In total, 4,503 active postal codes[OM] (9,415 records) are linked to more than one federal electoral district (further details are provided in Logical consistency later in this section). The number of postal code[OM] records by federal electoral district and whether those postal codes[OM] are linked to other FEDs is provided in Table 3.1.

The unique link variable is derived based on the postal code[OM] and FED codes in the PCFRF. If the postal code[OM] is linked to only one FED, the unique link is assigned a value of 1, otherwise it is assigned a value of 2.

The 'weight' estimates the proportion of the population of a postal code[OM] that resides within each FED. If a postal code[OM] is linked to only one FED in the PCFRF, the weight is equal to 1. If the postal code[OM] is linked to more than one FED and is reported in the 2011 Census, the weight is equal to the proportion of the population that reported the postal code[OM] in each of the FEDs. If the postal code[OM] was not reported in the census, the weight is estimated using the address ranges in the service area of the postal code[OM] as found in the Address Lookup File from Canada Post Corporation. If necessary, the weights for a postal code[OM] are normalised and adjusted using the single link indicator variable in the PCCF so that the sum of weights equals 1.0.

Positional accuracy

Not applicable

Attribute accuracy

Attribute accuracy refers to the accuracy of the quantitative and qualitative information attached to each feature (such as population for a population centre, street name, census subdivision name and code).

The attribute accuracy of the PCFRF is dependent on the accuracy of the geocodes for the dissemination blocks and dissemination areas in the PCCF. The linkage of the dissemination blocks or dissemination areas to the FEDs is based on the boundaries of the FEDs as found in the Spatial Data Infrastructure.

The accuracy of the weight variable is based on the linkage to the FED in the PCFRF, the population reporting the postal code[OM] in the census as well as address range data in Canada Post's Address Lookup File.

The population on which the weight variable in the PCFRF is based was derived from the total population data of the 2011 Census. Population counts are determined according to the 'de jure' method. This means that people are enumerated at their usual place of residence, regardless of where they may have been on Census Day, May 10, 2011. For more information on the quality of 2011 Census data, see Appendix C in the *2011 Census Dictionary*.

If a postal code[OM] is linked to more than one FED in the PCFRF and was not reported in the census, address range data from the Address Lookup File is used to estimate the weight. This is the case for about 1% of the postal codes[OM] in the PCFRF. Because large populations residing in apartments or collective dwelling units may be represented by only one address, this method can underestimate the weight associated with these populations.

Logical consistency

Logical consistency describes the fidelity of relationships encoded in the data structure of the digital linkage data.

Of the 848,257 active postal code[OM] records found on this file, there are 838,842 active postal codes[OM] uniquely linked to one federal electoral district and 4,503 active postal codes[OM] that are linked to two or more federal electoral districts. The following table summarizes them.

Table 5.1 Count of postal codes[OM] linked to federal electoral districts

Number of federal electoral districts	Active postal codes[OM]	Number of records
1	838,842	838,842
2	4,155	8,310
3	304	912
4	34	136
5	3	15
6	7	42
Total	**843,345**	**848,257**

Consistency with other products

Data contained in the PCFRF are consistent with all 2011 Census related geographic products with the exception of the 2011 Census Forward Sortation Area Boundary File (Catalogue no. 92-179-X), which represents only the forward sortation areas© reported in the 2011 Census. The PCFRF is derived from the Postal Code[OM] Conversion File (PCCF), and is consistent with that file.

Completeness

Completeness refers to the degree to which geographic features, their attributes and their relationships are included or omitted in a dataset. It also includes information on selection criteria, definitions used, and other relevant mapping rules.

Completeness in the context of the PCFRF is the degree to which all valid postal codes[OM] are accounted for. Almost all postal codes[OM], valid and active as of June 2013 according to Canada Post Corporation, have been linked to census geography.

There are 308 FEDs in the 2003 Representation Order of the Chief Electoral Office, Elections Canada. All of these FEDs are included in the PCFRF.

Appendix A Glossary

Adjusted counts
'Adjusted counts' refer to previous census population and dwelling counts that were adjusted (i.e., recompiled) to reflect current census boundaries, when a boundary change occurs between the two censuses.

Block-face
A block-face is one side of a street between two consecutive features intersecting that street. The features can be other streets or boundaries of standard geographic areas.

Block-faces are used for generating block-face representative points, which in turn are used for geocoding and census data extraction when the street and address information are available.

Census agricultural region
Census agricultural regions (CARs) are composed of groups of adjacent census divisions. In Saskatchewan, census agricultural regions are made up of groups of adjacent census consolidated subdivisions, but these groups do not necessarily respect census division boundaries.

Census consolidated subdivision
A census consolidated subdivision (CCS) is a group of adjacent census subdivisions. Generally, the smaller, more densely-populated census subdivisions (towns, villages, etc.) are combined with the surrounding, larger, more rural census subdivision, in order to create a geographic level between the census subdivision and the census division.

Census division
Census division (CD) is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as county, *municipalité régionale de comté* and regional district) or their equivalents. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province/territory level and the municipality (census subdivision).

Census metropolitan area and census agglomeration
A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census place of work data.

If the population of the core of a CA declines below 10,000, the CA is retired. However, once an area becomes a CMA, it is retained as a CMA even if its total population declines below 100,000 or the population of its core falls below 50,000. Small population centres with a population count of less than 10,000 are called fringe. All areas inside the CMA or CA that are not population centres are rural areas.

When a CA has a core of at least 50,000, it is subdivided into census tracts. Census tracts are maintained for the CA even if the population of the core subsequently falls below 50,000. All CMAs are subdivided into census tracts.

Census metropolitan influenced zone
The census **m**etropolitan **i**nfluenced **z**one (MIZ) is a concept that geographically differentiates the area of Canada outside census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs). Census subdivisions (CSDs) within provinces that are outside CMAs and CAs are assigned to one of four categories according to the degree of influence (strong, moderate, weak or no influence) that the

CMAs or CAs have on them. CSDs within the territories that are outside CAs are assigned to a separate category.

Census subdivisions within provinces are assigned to a MIZ category based on the percentage of their resident employed labour force that commutes to work in the core(s) of CMAs or CAs. CSDs with the same degree of influence tend to be clustered. They form zones around CMAs and CAs that progress through the categories from 'strong' to 'no' influence as distance from the CMAs and CAs increases. As many CSDs in the territories are very large and sparsely populated, the commuting flow of the resident employed labour force is unstable. For this reason, CSDs in the territories that are outside CAs are assigned to a separate category that is not based on their commuting flows.

Census subdivision
Census subdivision (CSD) is the general term for municipalities (as determined by provincial/territorial legislation) or areas treated as municipal equivalents for statistical purposes (e.g., Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories).

Census tract
Census tracts (CTs) are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population between 2,500 and 8,000 persons. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in census agglomerations that had a core population of 50,000 or more in the previous census.

A committee of local specialists (for example, planners, health and social workers, and educators) initially delineates census tracts in conjunction with Statistics Canada. Once a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA) has been subdivided into census tracts, the census tracts are maintained even if the core population subsequently declines below 50,000.

Coordinate system
A coordinate system is a reference system based on mathematical rules for specifying positions (locations) on the surface of the earth. The coordinate values can be spherical (latitude and longitude) using angular units of measure such as degrees, minutes and seconds or planar (Lambert conformal conic) using linear units such as metres.

Cartographic boundary files, digital boundary files, representative points and road network files are disseminated in Lambert conformal conic projection.

Core, fringe and rural area
The terms 'core,' 'fringe' and 'rural area' replace the terms 'urban core,' 'urban fringe' and 'rural fringe' for the 2011 Census. These terms distinguish between population centres (POPCTRs) and rural areas (RAs) within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA).

A CMA or CA can have two types of cores: the core and the secondary core. The core is the population centre with the highest population, around which a CMA or a CA is delineated. The core must have a population (based on the previous census) of at least 50,000 persons in the case of a CMA, or at least 10,000 persons in the case of a CA.

The secondary core is a population centre within a CMA that has at least 10,000 persons and was the core of a CA that has been merged with an adjacent CMA.

The term 'fringe' includes all population centres within a CMA or CA that have less than 10,000 persons and are not contiguous with the core or secondary core.

All territory within a CMA or CA that is not classified as a core or fringe is classified as rural area.

Datum
A datum is a geodetic reference system which includes an ellipsoid and an origin against which the latitude and longitude of all other points on the earth's surface are referenced. A datum may often be associated with a particular ellipsoid (mathematical reference model of the earth).

Designated place
A designated place (DPL) is normally a small community or settlement that does not meet the criteria established by Statistics Canada to be a census subdivision (an area with municipal status) or a population centre.

Designated places are created by provinces and territories, in cooperation with Statistics Canada, to provide data for submunicipal areas.

Dissemination area
A dissemination area (DA) is a small, relatively stable geographic unit composed of one or more adjacent dissemination blocks. It is the smallest standard geographic area for which all census data are disseminated. DAs cover all the territory of Canada.

Dissemination block
A dissemination block (DB) is an area bounded on all sides by roads and/or boundaries of standard geographic areas. The dissemination block is the smallest geographic area for which population and dwelling counts are disseminated. Dissemination blocks cover all the territory of Canada.

Economic region
An economic region (ER) is a grouping of complete census divisions (CDs) (with one exception in Ontario) created as a standard geographic unit for analysis of regional economic activity.

Ecumene
Ecumene is a term used by geographers to mean inhabited land. It generally refers to land where people have made their permanent home, and to all work areas that are considered occupied and used for agricultural or any other economic purpose. Thus, there can be various types of ecumenes, each having its own unique characteristics (population ecumene, agricultural ecumene, industrial ecumene, etc.).

Federal electoral district
A federal electoral district (FED) is an area represented by a member of the House of Commons. The federal electoral district boundaries used for the 2011 Census are based on the 2003 Representation Order.

Geocoding
Geocoding is the process of assigning geographic identifiers (codes or x,y coordinates) to map features and data records. The resulting geocodes permit data to be linked geographically to a place on the earth.

Households, postal codes[OM] and place of work data are linked to block-face representative points (coordinates) when the street and address information is available; otherwise, they are linked to dissemination block (DB) representative points. In some cases, postal codes[OM] and place of work data are linked to dissemination area (DA) representative points when they cannot be linked to DBs. As well, place of work data are linked to census subdivision representative points when the data cannot be linked to DAs.

OM: Postal code is an official mark of Canada Post Corporation.

Geographic code
A geographic code is a numerical identifier assigned to a geographic area. The code is used to identify and access standard geographic areas for the purposes of data storage, retrieval and display.

Geographic reference date
The geographic reference date is a date determined by Statistics Canada for the purpose of finalizing the geographic framework for which census data will be collected, tabulated and reported. For the 2011 Census, the geographic reference date is January 1, 2011.

Geographical region of Canada
The geographical regions of Canada are groupings of provinces and territories established for the purpose of statistical reporting. The six geographical regions of Canada are: Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, British Columbia and Territories.

Land area
Land area is the area in square kilometres of the land-based portions of standard geographic areas. Land area data are unofficial and are provided for the sole purpose of calculating population density.

Map projection
A map projection is the process of transforming and representing positions from the earth's three-dimensional curved surface to a two-dimensional (flat) surface. The process is accomplished by a direct geometric projection or by a mathematically derived transformation.

The Lambert conformal conic map projection is widely used for general maps of Canada at small scales and is the most common map projection used at Statistics Canada.

National Geographic Database
The National Geographic Database (NGD) is a shared database between Statistics Canada and Elections Canada. The database contains roads, road names and address ranges. It also includes separate reference layers containing physical and cultural features, such as hydrography and hydrographic names, railroads and power transmission lines.

Place name
'Place name' refers to selected names of active and retired geographic areas as well as names from the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base. Place names include names of census subdivisions (municipalities), designated places and population centres, as well as the names of some local places.

Population centre
A population centre (POPCTR) has a population of at least 1,000 and a population density of 400 persons or more per square kilometre, based on the current census population count. All areas outside population centres are classified as rural areas. Taken together, population centres and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Population centres are classified into three groups, depending on the size of their population:

- small population centres, with a population between 1,000 and 29,999
- medium population centres, with a population between 30,000 and 99,999
- large urban population centres, with a population of 100,000 or more

Population centre population includes all population living in the cores, secondary cores and fringes of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as the population living in population centres outside CMAs and CAs.

Population density
Population density is the number of persons per square kilometre.

Postal code[OM]
The postal code[OM] is a six-character code defined and maintained by Canada Post Corporation for the purpose of sorting and delivering mail.

Province or territory
'Province' and 'territory' refer to the major political units of Canada. From a statistical point of view, province and territory are basic areas for which data are tabulated. Canada is divided into 10 provinces and 3 territories.

Reference map
A reference map shows the location of the geographic areas for which census data are tabulated and disseminated. The maps display the boundaries, names and unique identifiers of standard geographic areas, as well as major cultural and physical features, such as roads, railroads, coastlines, rivers and lakes.

Representative point
A representative point is a coordinate point that represents a line or a polygon. The point is centrally located along the line, and centrally located or population weighted in the polygon.

Representative points are generated for block-faces, as well as for selected geographic areas – province/territory (PR), federal electoral district (FED), economic region (ER), census division (CD), census metropolitan area/census agglomeration (CMA/CA), census subdivision (CSD), population centre (POPCTR), designated place (DPL), census tract (CT), dissemination area (DA) and dissemination block (DB).

Households, postal codes[OM] and place of work data are linked to block-face representative points (coordinates) when the street and address information is available; otherwise, they are linked to dissemination block (DB) representative points. In some cases, postal codes[OM] and place of work data are linked to dissemination area (DA) representative points when they cannot be linked to DBs. As well, place of work data are linked to census subdivision (CSD) representative points when the data cannot be linked to DAs.

Rural area
Rural areas (RAs) include all territory lying outside population centres (POPCTRs). Taken together, population centres and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Rural population includes all population living in rural areas of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as population living in rural areas outside CMAs and CAs.

Spatial Data Infrastructure
The Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is an internal maintenance database that is not disseminated outside of Statistics Canada. It contains roads, road names and address ranges from the National Geographic Database (NGD), as well as boundary arcs of standard geographic areas that do not follow roads, all in one integrated line layer. The database also includes a related polygon layer consisting of basic blocks (BB; basic blocks are the smallest polygon units in the database, and are formed by the intersection of all roads and the arcs of geographic areas that do not follow roads), boundary layers of standard geographic areas, and derived attribute tables, as well as reference layers containing physical and cultural features (such as hydrography, railroads and power transmission lines) from the NGD.

The SDI supports a wide range of census operations, such as the maintenance and delineation of the boundaries of standard geographic areas (including the automated delineation of dissemination blocks and population centres) and geocoding. The SDI is also the source for generating many geography products for the 2011 Census, such as cartographic boundary files and road network files.

Spatial data quality elements
Spatial data quality elements provide information on the fitness for use of a spatial database by describing why, when and how the data are created, and how accurate the data are. The elements include an overview describing the purpose and usage, as well as specific quality elementsreporting on the lineage, positional accuracy, attribute accuracy, logical consistency and completeness. This information is provided to users for all spatial data products disseminated for the census.

Standard Geographical Classification
The Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2011 is Statistics Canada's main classification of geographic areas in Canada. It is designed to classify statistical information by geographic areas. The classification consists of four levels: geographical regions of Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions (such as counties and regional municipalities) and census subdivisions (such as municipalities). The four geographic levels are hierarchically related; a seven-digit code is used to show this relationship.

Statistical Area Classification
The Statistical Area Classification (SAC) groups census subdivisions according to whether they are a component of a census metropolitan area, a census agglomeration or a census **m**etropolitan **i**nfluenced **z**one (MIZ). The MIZ classifies all CSDs in provinces and territories that are outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations.

The Statistical Area Classification is a variant of the Standard Geographical Classification (SGC). Census subdivisions (CSDs) form the lowest level of the classification variant. The next level consists of individual census metropolitan areas (CMAs), census agglomerations (CAs) and census metropolitan influenced zones (MIZs). The highest level consists of three categories that cover all of the land mass of Canada:

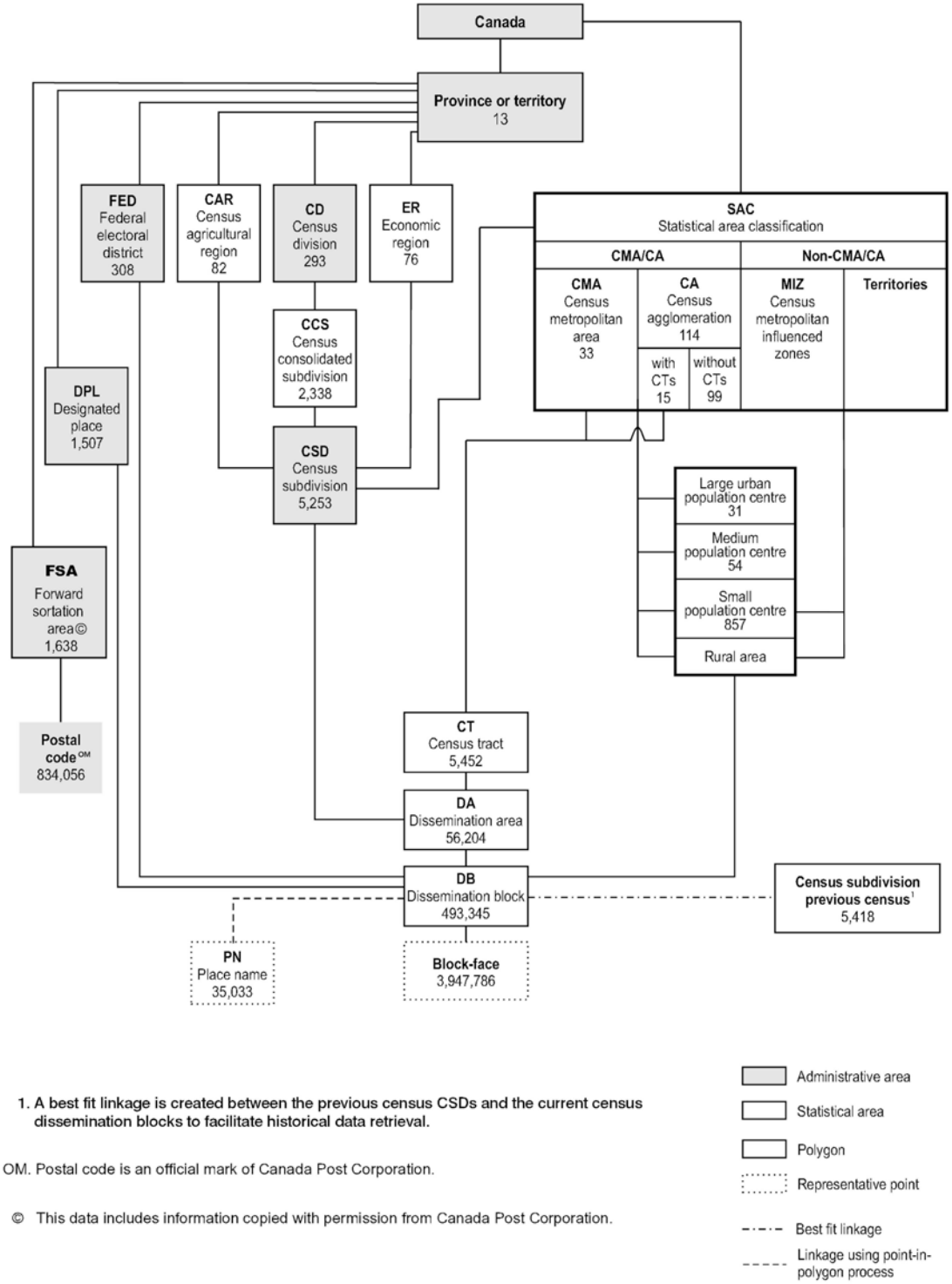
- census metropolitan areas
- census agglomerations
- outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations.

The SAC provides unique numeric identification (codes) for these hierarchically-related geographic areas. It was established for the purpose of reporting statistics.

Thematic map
A thematic map shows the spatial distribution of one or more specific data themes for selected geographic areas. The map may be qualitative in nature (e.g., predominant farm types) or quantitative (e.g., percentage population change).

Appendix B Hierarchy of standard geographic units for dissemination, 2011 Census

Figure B.1 Hierarchy of standard geographic units for dissemination, 2011 Census



Sources: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population; Canada Post Corporation, May 2011.

Appendix C Geographic units by province and territory, 2011 Census

Table C.1 Geographic units by province and territory, 2011 Census

Geographic unit	Canada 2006	Canada 2011	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
Federal electoral district (2003 Representation Order)	308	308	7	4	11	10	75	106	14	14	28	36	1	1	1
Economic region	76	76	4	1	5	5	17	11	8	6	8	8	1	1	1
Census agricultural region	82	82	3	3	5	4	14	5	12	20	8	8	0	0	0
Census division	288	293	11	3	18	15	98	49	23	18	19	29	1	6	3
Census consolidated subdivision	2,341	2,338	89	68	43	151	1,005	316	126	300	77	153	1	6	3
Census subdivision (CSD)	5,418	5,253	376	113	99	273	1,285	574	287	959	435	743	37	41	31
CSD dissolutions (Jan. 2, 2006 to Jan. 1, 2011)	221	...	3	0	1	6	13	13	13	26	19	126	0	1	0
CSD incorporations (Jan. 2, 2006 to Jan. 1, 2011)	...	56	2	0	0	3	4	2	3	1	1	33	2	5	0
Designated place	1,289	1,507	183	0	65	167	106	114	97	194	261	319	1	0	0
Census metropolitan area	33	33	1	0	1	2	6[1]	15[1]	1	2	2	4	0	0	0
Census agglomeration (CA)	111	114	3	2	4	5[1]	25[1]	28[1]	4	7[1]	16[1]	21	1	1	0
CA with census tracts	15	15	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	3	4	0	0	0
CA without census tracts	96	99	3	2	4	4[1]	22[1]	24[1]	4	7[1]	13[1]	17	1	1	0
Census tract	5,076	5,452	47	0	93	102	1,371	2,273	173	109	573	711	0	0	0
Small population centre (1,000 to 29,999)	811	857	29	6	35	30[1]	224[1]	237[1]	42[1]	59[1]	101[1]	87	1	3	7
Medium population centre (30,000 to 99,999)	54	54	0	1	1	2	13	19	1	2	6	9	0	0	0
Large urban population centre (100,000 or more)	29	31	1	0	1	1	6[1]	14[1]	1	2	2	4	0	0	0
Place name	21,411	35,033	1,836	709	3,138	2,679	6,985	8,091	1,839	2,687	3,117	3,528	195	153	76
Dissemination area	54,626	56,204	1,071	293	1,645	1,454	13,622	19,964	2,179	2,467	5,711	7,582	68	98	50
Dissemination block	478,831	493,345	8,732	3,573	15,842	15,415	109,455	132,777	30,471	51,610	66,332	55,529	1,359	1,492	758
Block-face	3,739,041	3,947,786	81,868	27,050	155,484	135,411	842,992	1,003,813	201,005	362,238	525,180	577,975	13,036	15,612	6,122
Forward sortation area©	1,625	1,638	35	7	77	111	418	526	64	48	153	190	3	3	3
Postal code[OM]	805,640	834,056	10,878	3,316	27,852	58,617	212,162	276,844	24,568	21,923	80,948	115,435	968	516	29

… not applicable

1. Census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations, large urban population centres and small population centres crossing provincial boundaries are counted in both provinces, and, therefore, do not add up to the national total.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population; Canada Post Corporation, May 2011.

Appendix D Census subdivision types by province and territory, 2011 Census

Table D.1 Census subdivision types by province and territory, 2011 Census

Census subdivision type		Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
		5,253	376	113	99	273	1,285	574	287	959	435	743	37	41	31
C	City / Cité	6	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CC	Chartered community	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
CG	Community government	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
CN	Crown colony / Colonie de la couronne	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
COM	Community	33	...	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CT	Canton (municipalité de)	45	...	...	...	...	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CU	Cantons unis (municipalité de)	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CV	City / Ville	2	...	...	...	...	…	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CY	City	149	3	2	...	4	...	46	9	16	17	49	1	1	1
DM	District municipality	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	...	...	...
HAM	Hamlet	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	24
ID	Improvement district	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...
IGD	Indian government district	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
IM	Island municipality	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
IRI	Indian reserve / Réserve indienne	961	3	4	25	18	27	139	75	168	81	419	…	2	...
LGD	Local government district	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
LOT	Township and royalty	67	...	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
M	Municipality / Municipalité	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MD	Municipal district	76	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	64	...	...	...	...
MÉ	Municipalité	619	...	...	...	...	619	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MU	Municipality	54	...	...	...	...	...	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NH	Northern hamlet	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...
NL	Nisga'a land	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
NO	Unorganized / Non organisé	137	...	...	...	...	96	16	10	2	...	...	4	6	3
NV	Northern village	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...
P	Parish / Paroisse (municipalité de)	150	...	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PE	Paroisse (municipalité de)	179	...	...	...	...	179	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RCR	Rural community / Communauté rurale	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RDA	Regional district electoral area	158	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	158	...	...	...
RG	Region	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table D.1 Census subdivision types by province and territory, 2011 Census (continued)

Census subdivision type		Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
RGM	Regional municipality	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	…	1	...	...	...
RM	Rural municipality	413	...	...	...	...	...	...	117	296	...	...	...	...	...
RV	Resort village	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...
S-É	Indian settlement / Établissement indien	28	...	...	...	...	6	5	4	1	4	3	5	...	...
SA	Special area	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
SC	Subdivision of county municipality / Subdivision municipalité de comté	28	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SÉ	Settlement / Établissement	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...
SET	Settlement	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3
SG	Self-government / Autonomie gouvernementale	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	…	...	4	...	...
SM	Specialized municipality	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
SNO	Subdivision of unorganized / Subdivision non organisée	92	92	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SV	Summer village	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	...	...	...	...
T	Town	743	277	7	31	13	...	88	51	147	108	14	3	4	…
TC	Terres réservées aux Cris	8	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TI	Terre inuite	12	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TK	Terres réservées aux Naskapis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TL	Teslin land	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
TP	Township	207	...	...	...	...	...	207	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TV	Town / Ville	15	...	...	...	14	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
V	Ville	222	...	...	...	...	222	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
VC	Village cri	8	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
VK	Village naskapi	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
VL	Village	550	...	...	...	66	45	11	19	266	95	43	4	1	...
VN	Village nordique	14	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

… not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population.