



Statistics
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1986 CENSUS

PUBLIC USE MICRODATA FILE
ON INDIVIDUALS

Documentation and User's Guide
(Final Version)

June 1990

La version française est disponible sur demande
(Fichier de microdonnées à grande diffusion sur les
particuliers).

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Introduction

The Public Use Microdata File on Individuals is a product of the 1986 Census of Population and contains a wide range of statistical data on the population of Canada, the provinces and selected metropolitan areas.

These data are based on a sample of 500,000 individuals, that is, approximately 2% of the Canadian population. Extensive demographic, social and economic information such as age, income, schooling and ethno-cultural characteristics are provided.

This file is unique among census products since it allows the users to return to the base unit of the census, enabling them to group data to suit their own requirements. As a result, it is a powerful analytical and research tool.

Because it is imperative for Statistics Canada to preserve the confidentiality of the data, some of the information collected during the census are not available in this file.

This document informs users of the content of the file and how to use the computer tape. The reader will also find information on the characteristics of the sample, along with notes on the reliability of the estimates it provides.

Two other microdata files from the 1986 Census are also available, one of households and housing, and the other on families. Similar files may be obtained for the 1971, 1976 and 1981 Censuses. Chapter 3 provides additional information on these and other products and how to order them.

Chapter 1 - Content

This chapter lists and describes the 84 variables contained in the Public Use Microdata File on Individuals. The record layout of the file is contained in Appendix A.

Overview of the Contents

The index lists each variable by order of appearance in the file (page 9) and by alphabetical order (page 13).

Description of Variables

The reader will also find in this chapter detailed information on each variable. In particular, a description of:

- the concept
- the universe (the group covered as well as all exclusions)
- the categories of a variable.

Confidentiality of Data

It is imperative that Statistics Canada preserve the confidentiality of the information collected. Considering the nature of the microdata file, special measures must be taken to meet this objective:

- (i) **Reduced Level of Detail:** Data for small geographic areas are not given. It is also not possible to provide as detailed information on characteristics of individuals as in other census products. Some data have been aggregated, providing the maximum detail without disclosure, while maintaining the analytical value of the data. For example, the variable "Occupation" would not indicate "Physician", but rather the more general classification "Medical and Health Occupations". This category would include other medical occupations, such as "Nurse".
- (ii) **Data Suppression:** To further protect the confidentiality of responses, categories which contain few persons must occasionally be suppressed. In these cases, the label "Not Available" is included in the description of the variable. In addition to suppression, other special techniques are applied. Income data are rounded to respect pre-established high and low revenue limits. Further information on income data is provided in Chapter 2.

List of Variables by Order in Which They Appear in File

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Industry (1970 Standard Industrial Classification)	55
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