RRSP Contribution Limits (Room)

- User's Guide -

Statistics Canada product number 17C0011

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November 1999

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INTRODUCTION

The Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) Room databank was created to provide information on the RRSP contribution limit (RRSP Room) available. This product can be used in conjunction with the RRSP databank which concentrates on the RRSP contributors.

In 1989, the legislation dictated that contribution limits for persons not contributing to a registered pension plan (RPP) or a Deferred Profit Sharing Plan (DPSP) was 20% of earned income to a maximum of \$7,500. The limit for RPP and DPSP members was 20% of earned income to a maximum of \$3,500 less the amount contributed by the employee to the RPP or DPSP.

Further amendments to the Income Tax Act relative to RRSPs, taking effect January 1, 1991, were intended to make RRSP contribution limits more equitable. The RRSP contribution limit was set at 18% of earned income for the previous tax year, to a maximum of \$11,500 minus the Pension Adjustment (PA). The PA represents the calculated value of the pension accrued through an RPP or a DPSP in the previous tax year.

A summary of the variables utilized in the databank will be explained.

Total RRSP Room represents the "deduction limit" that Canadians can claim with respect to contributions made to RRSPs. It does not include income eligible for transfers, such as retiring allowances and severance pay that may be rolled over into RRSPs. The sum of the "deduction limit" and rollovers represents the maximum amount that can be claimed as a deduction on line 208 of the income tax return.

TAX YEAR	EARNED INCOME	UNUSED ROOM	NEW ROOM	TOTAL ROOM (for tax year+1)
1991	1990	pre1991 = 0	for 1992	New room only
1992	1991	1991 + 1992	for 1993	Unused room + new room
1993	1992	1991 + 1992 + 1993	for 1994	Unused room + new room
1994	1993	1991 + 1992 + 1993 + 1994	for 1995	Unused room + new room
1995	1994	1991 + 1992 + 1993 + 1994 + 1995	for 1996	Unused room + new room
1996	1995	1991 + 1992 + 1993 + 1994 + 1995 + 1996	for 1997	Unused room + new room
1997	1996	1991 + 1992 + 1993 + 1994 + 1995 + 1996 + 1997	for 1998	Unused room + new room
1998	1997	1991 + 1992 + 1993 + 1994 + 1995 + 1996 + 1997 + 1998	for 1999	Unused room + new room

Calculation of Contribution Limits

For 1990, maximum contributions are:

- for non-participants in RPPs and DPSPs, the lesser of 20% of earned income and $\$7{,}500$
- for participants in RPPs and DPSPs, 20% of earned income to a maximum of \$3,500; the maximum is reduced according to employee contributions to RPPs/DPSPs.

For 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999:

new room = 18% of earned income - PA - PSPA

Percentage of earned income to a maximum of

\$11,500 for 1991

\$12,500 for 1992 and 1993

\$13,500 for 1994

\$14,500 for 1995

\$13,500 for 1996

\$13,500 for 1997

\$13,500 for 1998

\$13,500 for 1999

where PA = Pension Adjustment, and PSPA = Past Service Pension Adjustment

Reiteration: Total Room (for tax year+1) = Unused Room (from 1991 forward) + New Room

DATA SOURCE

The RRSP ROOM data were derived from a file received annually from Revenue Canada. Revenue Canada generated the data from an administrative system designed in response to changes to the Income Tax Act with respect to Registered Retirement Savings Plans, changes that took effect January 1, 1991.

The system records information for each taxfiler with "earned income" (the income that is used to determine the RRSP deduction limit). The information includes each year's earned income, new room amounts and unused room amounts carried forward.

This is the seventh annual release of the RRSP Room data. The information is based on 1998 income tax returns. Contributions towards these limits can be made up to February 2000, to be reported on the 1999 tax returns. The mailing address at the time of filing is the basis for the geographic information in the tables.

DATA QUALITY

The data are direct counts from an RRSP room file from Revenue Canada.

CONTENT OF TABLES

The content of the databank is as follows:

Table 1: Persons with Room

- Column 1 City identification number
- Column 2 Postal area
- Column 3 Postal walk number
- Column 4 Level of geography (see Geography section)
- Column 5 Place name
- Column 6 Amount of Room dollars reported (in thousands of \$)
- Column 7 Amount of Unused Room dollars reported (in thousands of \$)
- Column 8 Amount of New room dollars reported (in thousands of \$)
- Column 9 Number of taxfilers with Room
- Column 10 Number of taxfilers with Unused Room
- Column 11 Number of taxfilers with New Room

Table 2: Characteristics of Persons with 1999 New Room

- Column 1 City identification number
- Column 2 Postal area
- Column 3 Postal walk number
- Column 4 Level of geography (see Geography section)
- Column 5 Place name
- Column 6 Number of taxfilers with New Room
- Column 7 Average Age of taxfilers with New Room
- Column 8 Percentage Female taxfilers with New Room
- Column 9 Median Earned Income of taxfilers with New Room
- Column 10 Average New Room
- Column 11 Percentage of taxfilers with New Room greater than \$1,000
- Column 12 Percentage of taxfilers with New Room greater than \$2,500
- Column 13 Percentage of taxfilers with New Room greater than \$4,000
- Column 14 Percentage of taxfilers with New Room greater than \$6,000
- Column 15 Percentage of taxfilers with New Room greater than \$10,000

CONFIDENTIALITY AND ROUNDING

Data cells represent counts greater than 15, and are rounded to the nearest 10. For example, a cell count of 16 would be rounded to 20 and a cell count of 24 would be rounded to 20.

All reported dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand or million dollars.

Suppressed Data

To maintain confidentiality of taxfilers, data are suppressed when

- areas are comprised of less than 100 taxfilers;
- cells represent less than 15 taxfilers;
- income totals are dominated by a single filer.

Suppression of data may occur:

i) within one area:

– if one component of a total is suppressed because of a small count, or due to dominance by one individual; in such cases, another component of that same total will be suppressed to avoid residual disclosure.

In some cases, where postal areas are too small to meet the minimum requirements for number of taxfilers, data may simply not be available.

ii) between areas:

– when a variable amount in one area is suppressed, that variable amount is also suppressed in another area to prevent disclosure by subtraction.

NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

AGE

is calculated as of December 31st of the reference year (i.e., tax year minus year of birth).

DEFERRED PROFIT-SHARING PLAN (DPSP)

An employer-sponsored savings plan registered by Revenue Canada. Contributions to these plans by the employer (employees cannot contribute) are based on profits. The amount accumulated in these plans can be paid out as a lump sum at retirement or termination of employment, transferred to an RRSP, received in instalments over a period not to exceed ten years, or used to purchase an annuity.

EARNED INCOME

The income that is used to determine the RRSP deduction limit. It includes such items as: employment income (less union dues and expenses), net business and rental income, disability payments and alimony received. Alimony paid, current year business and rental losses are deducted from this amount. Most investment income (other than rents) is not considered earned income. In calculating the RRSP deduction limit, earned income from the previous year is used.

NEW ROOM

for 1999 is calculated as 18% of 1998 earned income (from definition above) minus pension adjustment (PA) minus past service pension adjustment (PSPA). Since the focus of these data is for net new room for potential RRSP contributions, PA and/or PSPA details will be omitted.

PAST SERVICE PENSION ADJUSTMENT (PSPA)

Applies only to members of defined benefit RPPs. A PSPA occurs when the pension benefit is upgraded, or additional credits purchased, for service in past years. In the first case, it is called an exempt (from certification) PSPA; in the second case, a certifiable PSPA. Only service after 1989 is considered.

PENSION ADJUSTMENT (PA)

Calculated value of the pension accrued in the year in an RPP or a DPSP. The PA decreases the RRSP deduction limit. To calculate this limit, the PA from the previous year is used.

REGISTERED PENSION PLAN (RPP)

An employer-sponsored plan registered with Revenue Canada and most commonly also with one of the pension regulatory authorities. The purpose of such plans is to provide employees with a regular income at retirement. The two main types of RPPs are called defined benefit (where the benefit formula is specified) and defined contribution (where only the contribution formula is defined).

REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN (RRSP)

is an individual retirement savings plan that is registered by Revenue Canada. It permits limited contributions, and income earned in the RRSP is exempt from tax until payments are received from the plan.

TOTAL ROOM

is the sum of "new room" and "unused room" as defined here.

UNUSED RRSP CONTRIBUTION ROOM (unused room)

The amount of the RRSP deduction limit that is not claimed by the taxfiler, or the amount remaining after subtracting actual contributions claimed on the tax return from that year's contribution room. Unused room can be carried forward indefinitely. The first year of unused room is from 1991 (see table on page 2).

GEOGRAPHY

Geographic levels – postal geography

The various databanks compiled from the taxfile are available for different levels of the postal geography, and for some levels of the Census geography. Coded geographic indicators appearing on the data tables are shown below with a brief description.

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area		Description
12	Canada	This level of data is an aggregation of the provincial/territorial totals (code 11). The national total is identified by the region code Z99099.	
11	Province or Territory Total	This level of data is an agg within a province:	regation of the following geographies
		City Totals	Code 08
		Rural Postal Codes	Code 09
		Other Provincial Totals	
		These totals are identified by a provincial/territorial postal letter, then a "990" followed by the province/territory code, as follows:	
		Newfoundland	A99010
		Nova Scotia	B99012
		Prince Edward Island	C99011
		New Brunswick	E99013
		Quebec	J99024
		Ontario	P99035
		Manitoba	R99046
		Saskatchewan	S99047
		Alberta	T99048
		British Columbia	V99059
		Northwest Territories	X99061
		Nunavut	X99062
		Yukon	Y99060

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area		Description	
10	Other Provincial Total ("P" Pot)	This level of data is an aggregation of small communities in the province that had less than 100 taxfilers, where these communities are combined into a "pot". Before 1992, it was identified by the same codes as the provincial/territorial totals, and only the "Delivery Mode" codes 2 and 3 distinguished between the two. To avoid this problem, starting with the 1992 data, an "8" appears after the provincial/territorial letter instead of a "9". The "9" will be reserved for the provincial/territorial total, as explained in 11 above. These "pot" codes are as follows:		
		Newfoundland Nova Scotia Prince Edward Island New Brunswick Quebec Ontario Manitoba Saskatchewan Alberta British Columbia Northwest Territories Nunavut Yukon	A89010 B89012 C89011 E89013 J89024 P89035 R89046 S89047 T89048 V89059 X89061 X89062 Y89060	
09	Rural Postal Code (Not in City)	This level of geography pertains to rural communities that have one and only one rural postal code. These stand-alone rural postal codes can be identified by a "zero" in the second position of the postal code and a level of geography code 09. The 1999 databanks contain 4,296 areas coded as level of geography 09.		

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description	
08	City Total	This level of data is an aggregation of the following geographies for unique place names within a province/territory: Urban FSA (Residential) Code 03 Rural Route Code 04 Suburban Services Code 05 Rural Postal Code (within city) Code 06 Other Urban Area Code 07 They have the following format: e.g., Edmonton = T95479; Regina = S94876. The pattern is the postal letter of the city plus "9" in the second position (indicating a total), followed by a 4 digit numeric code for the community (often called "CityID"). The 1999 databanks contain 769 areas coded as level of geography 08.	
07	Other Urban Area (Non- residential within city - "E" Pot)	This aggregation of data (or "pot") covers non-residential addresses within an urban centre and all other data not otherwise displayed. Commercial addresses, post office boxes and general delivery are included, as are residential addresses with too few taxfilers to report separately. They can be recognized by codes that are similar to the city totals, with a distinguishing difference: an "8" will follow the city postal letter rather than the "9" of the city total (e.g., Edmonton = T85479; Regina = S84876). The 1999 databanks contain 462 areas coded as level of geography 07.	
06	Rural Postal Code (Within City)	These data pertain to rural postal codes that belong to communities with more than one rural postal code. These occur in areas that were formerly serviced by rural delivery service and changed by Canada Post to urban delivery service or in communities served by more than one rural postal code. Rural postal codes of this type can be identified by a "zero" in the second position of the postal code and a level of geography code 06. The 1999 databanks contain 307 areas coded as level of geography 06.	

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
05	Suburban Service	Sparsely populated fringe areas of urban centres may receive their postal service from an urban post office by delivery designated as "suburban service". Their region code retains all six characters of the postal code. Suburban Services are located inside an urban FSA, usually adjacent to more highly populated areas, and mail is delivered by a contractor to group boxes, community mail boxes and/or external delivery sites (e.g., kiosks, miniparks). The 1999 databanks contain 39 areas coded as level of geography 05.
04	Rural Route	Reasonably well settled rural areas may receive their postal service from an urban post office by delivery designated as "rural route", where mail is delivered by a contractor using a motorized vehicle to a group of boxes or to gate boxes. Their region code retains all six characters of the postal code. Rural routes are located outside an urban FSA. The 1999 databanks contain 941 areas coded as level of geography 04.
03	Urban FSA (Residential Area)	The urban Forward Sortation Area (FSA, identified by the first three characters of the postal code) includes all residential addresses covered by the first three characters of a postal code in a particular urban area (not including levels 04 and 05). Only residential FSAs are considered for these databanks. This level of data is an aggregation of: Postal Walk Code 01 Other Postal Walk Code 02 An Urban FSA of this type can be identified by the FSA followed by three blanks. The 1999 databanks contain 1,601 areas coded as level of geography 03.

Level of Geography (L.O.G.)	Postal Area	Description
02	Other Postal Walk	This level of data is an aggregation of urban residential postal codes unallocated to a letter carrier route and postal walks with less than 100 taxfilers. A postal walk record of this type can be identified by a region code which is the FSA followed by three blanks, and the postal walk number "XXXX". The 1999 databanks contain 177 areas coded as level of geography 02.
01	Postal Walk	This is the finest level of data and is an aggregation of urban residential postal codes allocated to a letter carrier route. A postal walk of this type can be identified by a region code which is the FSA followed by three blanks, and the postal walk number. The 1999 databanks contain 18,405 areas coded as level of geography 01.

"Vintage" of the postal walks

The postal walks represented in the 1999 databanks were coded from a Canada Post Corporation file with a October 1999 reference date.

Geographic levels – Census geography

Data are also available for the following levels of the Census geography; the following table shows the coded designators for these geographies, as well as a brief description of each.

Level of	Name	Description
Geography		
41	Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	The general concept of a CMA is one of a very large urban area, together with adjacent urban and rural areas which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that urban area. CMAs have a population of at least 100,000, based on the previous census. There are 26 CMAs in the 1999 databanks: 001, St. John's, Newfoundland 205, Halifax, Nova Scotia 310, Saint John, New Brunswick 408, Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Québec 421, Québec, Québec 433, Sherbrooke, Québec 442, Trois-Rivières, Québec 462, Montréal, Québec 505, Ottawa-Hull (Québec part) 505, Ottawa-Hull (Québec part) 532, Oshawa, Ontario 537, Hamilton, Ontario 539, St-Catharines-Niagara, Ontario 541, Kitchener, Ontario 559, Windsor, Ontario 580, Sudbury, Ontario 580, Sudbury, Ontario 595, Thunder Bay, Ontario 602, Winnipeg, Manitoba 705, Regina, Saskatchewan 725, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan 825, Calgary, Alberta 835, Edmonton, Alberta 933, Vancouver, British Columbia

21	Census Divisions (CDs)	General term applying to geographic areas established by provincial law, and intermediate between census subdivisions and the province (e.g., counties, regional districts, regional municipalities, etc.)
		In Newfoundland, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, census divisions have been created by Statistics Canada in co-operation with those provinces.
		There are 288 CDs in the 1999 databanks, based on the 1996 Census boundaries.

Geographic levels – special geography

Clients may select geographical areas of their own definition, areas that are not part of the standard areas listed here (for example, bank service areas, retail store catchment areas). For this, clients must submit a list of the postal codes that make up their special area, and we will aggregate the micro data to correspond to that area of interest. Information ordered for special, or "user-defined" areas will be coded according to the following:

Level of Geography	Name	Description
93	Total for all user-defined areas	This level represents the sum total of all user-defined areas, and is the total of levels 91 and 92 described below.
92	Other user-defined areas	This level of geography represents all user-defined areas that were too small, in terms of population, to have information compiled on those areas individually (i.e. fewer than 100 taxfilers). Such areas are grouped into this "other" category.
91	Special user-defined area	Any area showing a code "91" is an area defined by a specific user according to that user's needs (for example, school catchment areas, health districts, etc.)

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How to obtain more information

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LIST OF DATA PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

The Small Area and Administrative Data Division of Statistics Canada tabulates statistical data derived from administrative records - most notably, the taxfile. The resulting demographic and socio-economic databanks available are listed in the table below, along with their identifying product number and the usual release dates.

Product name	Product number	Release date
RRSP Contributors	17C0006	November
RRSP Contribution Limits (Room)	17C0011	December
Canadian Savers	17C0009	November
Canadian Investors	17C0007	November
Canadian Investment Income	17C0008	November
Canadian Taxfilers	17C0010	November
Charitable Donors	13C0014	December
Neighbourhood Income and Demographics	13C0015	July
Economic Dependency Profiles	13C0017	July
Labour Force Income Profiles	71C0018	July
Families	13C0016	July
Seniors	89C0022	August
Migration Estimates	91C0025	August
Postal Area Profiles	89C0021	September

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