

A descriptive overview of dissemination projects regarding
historical Canadian Census microdata

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Census years	Completion date	Time-harmonized variables & geography	Extent	Sample	Responsible	Public deliverables	Notes
1831	2019 ⁱ	✓	QC (at household level?)	100%	PRDH ⁱⁱ , Université de Montréal	Email contact provided via PRDH's registration form	
1851	2005 ⁱⁱⁱ	Unconfirmed	Canada East and Canada West	20% 259,000 ^{iv} (to be expanded to 100%) ^v , ^{vi}	PRDH, Université de Montréal	PRDH registration form – for automatic access link e.g., SPSS download link	
1851-1911	2017 ^{vii}	✓ ^{viii}	QC ^{ix}	100%	BALSAC, PRDH, and CIEQ.	IMPQ - French-language public portal ^x	
1851-1921	2024 (anticipated)	✓	Canada	100%	The Canadian Peoples	To be confirmed at a future date	
1871^{xi}	1979 ^{xii}	Unconfirmed	QC, ON, NS, NB	0.7 – 1.7 % ^{xiii}	Canadian Historical Mobility Project (York) (who did geospatial work?)	Odesi permalink for microdata + user guide (codebook)	

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1871	1991 ^{xiv}	In 2014, with 1881 ^{xv}	QC, ON, NS, NB	100% ^{xvi}	1871 Census Project (University of Guelph in partnership with Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) ^{xvii}	Unconfirmed	
1871-1881	2014 ^{xviii}	✓	As per 1871 (?)	100%	University of Guelph	Unconfirmed	
1881	2004 ^{xix}	In 2014, with 1871 ^{xv}	East*, QC, ON, West and Territories** * NS, PE, NB ** MN, BC, Territories	100% ^{xx}	1881 Canadian Census Project: (University of Ottawa in partnership with Church of Latter-day Saints (LDS)) ^{xxi}	PRDH registration form – for automatic access link + Name searching via PRDH e.g., .sav download link codebook link and SPSS command file link ^{xxii} OR Odesi (4 microdata files) , ^{xxiii,xxiv} (EN, no codebook)	
1891	2010 ^{xxv}	Unconfirmed	NS, NB, PE, QC, ON, MN, NT, BC	5% ^{xxvi, xxvii}	University of Guelph	Odesi permalink (EN) ^{xxviii, xxix}	
1901	2003 ^{xxx}	Unconfirmed (e.g., with CCRI files ...)	NS, NB, PE, QC, ON, MN, BC, Territories, Unorganized	5% ^{xxxi}	Canadian Families Project (UVictoria and partner universities)	Odesi permalink . (EN)	

Census years	Completion date	Time-harmonized variables & geography	Extent	Sample	Responsible	Public deliverables	Notes
1911-1951	2009 ^{xxxii}	✓	Canada - National CD-level reference maps: 1911 ^{xxxiii} 1921 ^{xxxiv} 1931 ^{xxxv} 1941 (Labrador) ^{xxxvi} 1951 (Newfoundland) ^{xxxvii}	1911: 5% 1921: 4% 1931: 3% 1941: 3% 1951: 3% ^{xxxviii}	CCRI (with secure access support via RDC's)	Not until 2015	1911 + the restricted files for 1921-1951 ^{xxxix} files via the CRDCN
1921	2015	✓ with 1911 PUM + the CCRI boundary files	Canada ^{xi}	4%	University of Alberta (on behalf of the CCRI) – translation and public release of both 1911 and 1921 sample microdata files.	Yes ... 1911 and 1921 "Databases" via U of Alberta CCRI web gateway (EN & FR) OR 1911 via Odesi permalink (EN)	
1931	2023	✓ with 1911 and 1921 PUMS + the CCRI boundary files	Canada ^{xli}	3%	(TBC, checking my workshop notes)	* Anticipated *	

Possible further interest ...

note 5, references of “articles and research notes of ‘historians involved in historical microdata projects’”, and note 6, references to “Other articles have provided detailed descriptions of the databases themselves”:

Dillon, L. (1998). *Guidelines for the Creation of Historical Microdata, draft 2*. Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Ottawa., pp. 26-27. <https://web.uvic.ca/hrd/cfp/publications/Lisa%20Y%20Dillon.pdf>.

ⁱ *Launch of the 1831 Census of Quebec Database: Conference and Reception* - Tuesday May 14 2019, 3-6 pm, Université de Montréal. (n.d.). H-Demog. <https://networks.h-net.org/node/16563/discussions/4103775/launch-1831-census-quebec-database-conference-and-reception>

ⁱⁱ The Programme de recherche en démographie historique. *The 1852 and 1881 historical Censuses of Canada*.

<https://www.prdh.umontreal.ca/census/en/main.aspx>

ⁱⁱⁱ Estimate from date of publication - Dillon, L. (2005). « La création de la base de données du recensement de Canada 1852. » *Cahiers Québécois de Démographie*, 34(2), 297–313. (Note also English version : Dillon, L. (April 2005). The Historical Demography Research Infrastructure: Creating the 1852 Canadian Census Database. https://www.nappdata.org/napp/resources/publications_pdf/ca1852_dillon.pdf)

^{iv} “This public-use microdata sample (PUMS) is a random, clustered 20% sample of the 1852 population of Canada West and Canada East. We currently provide two separate samples which cover the rural and urban populations. These sample data have been entered, checked and cleaned by the PRDH data entry operators. These data also include data for Québec City from the Population et histoire sociale de la ville de Québec project at Université Laval. Please note that 27% of the manuscript census returns for 1852 Canada West and Canada East were destroyed or lost prior to microfilming. As a result, these rural and urban databases represent 20% of existant census material. We will be conducting further work to create weights to be used with these data in order to compensate for the absence of certain sub-districts and render these data more nationally representative.” (download.asp instructions)

^v “The PRDH is currently planning to work with the Genealogical Society of Utah to expand this database to 100%, as well as to create a 100% database of the 1861 Census of Canada.”, Darroch, G., & Ruppert, E. (n.d.). *Related Projects*. CCRI York University Centre. <http://www.yorku.ca/ccri/related.html>

^{vi} *Data entry project: 1852 Canadian Census*. (n.d.). Université de Montréal, PRDH, 1852 and 1881 Historical Censuses of Canada. <https://www.prdh.umontreal.ca/1852Volunteer/en/>

^{vii} “It is in this context that BALSAC piloted, from 2013 to 2017, the creation of the Integrated Infrastructure of Historical Microdata of the Population of Quebec (IMPQ) in partnership with the Programme de recherches en démographie historique (PRDH) and the Centre interuniversitaire d’études québécoises (CIEQ)”, Vézina, H., & Bournival, J.-S. (2020). Overview of the BALSAC Population Database. Past Developments, Current State and Future Prospects. *Historical Life Course Studies*, 11(2), [unnumbered]. (6) <http://hdl.handle.net/10622/23526343-2020-0002?locatt=view:master>

^{viii} Primary historical census linking carried out at the level of households, individuals (and the special case of women). Vézina, H., St-Hilaire, M., Bournival, J.-S., & Bellavance, C. (2018). “The linkage of microcensus data and vital records: An assessment of results on Quebec historical population data (1852-1911).” *Historical Methods*, 51(4), 230–245.

^{ix} The IMPQ portal covers Individual records from the seven Canadian censuses held between 1851 and 1911, derived from a comprehensive analysis of census returns at Library and Archives Canada of a selection of six cities and regions of Quebec: (1) Quebec City and Trois-Rivières, and (2) Saguenay, Lac-Saint-Jean, Côte-Nord et the Gaspésie. Infrastructure intégrée des microdonnées historiques de la population du Québec = Integrated Historical Population Microdata Infrastructure of Quebec (French-language portal)

^x Features include (1) Searching for individuals, couples, or households (individuals and households are linked across censuses), and to follow them by censuses and compare their cross-historical census information, (2) Excel downloadable tables with registration, (3) Individual working space with registration.

^{xi} "The sample, completed in late 1997, is a five percent random sample of Schedule 1 (the "Nominal Return of the Living") and Schedule 2 ("Buildings and Lands)". Sager, E. (1998, March). *The national sample of the 1901 Census of Canada: A new source for the study of the working class*. Social Science History Conference, Amsterdam. <http://web.uvic.ca/hrd/cfp/publications/Eric%20W.%20Sager.pdf>, p. 27

^{xii} Dillon, L. (2000). Integrating Canadian and U.S. Historical Census Microdata: Canada (1871 and 1901) and the United States (1870 and 1900). *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*, 33(4), 185–194, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01615440009598959>. p. 185

^{xiii} "Sampling between .7 and 1.7 percent of the Canadian population in 1871, the 1871 Canadian census microdata contain over 24,000 individuals as a base sample and **62,281**" Dillon (2000)¹

^{xiv} "From 1987 to 1991 Elizabeth Bloomfield, Gerald Bloomfield and Kris Inwood compiled a national database of information from the 1871 industrial census."

Inwood, K. (n.d.). *The Guelph context*. The 1871 Census in Scotland and Canada. <http://census1871.ca/the-guelph-context/>

^{xv} "We use the 1871 and 1881 Canadian censuses, which were transcribed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and cleaned (but not linked; see Sect. 3.1) at the University of Ottawa (1881) and University of Guelph (1871). The 1871 census has 3,466,427 records and the 1881 census has 4,277,807 records." Antonie, L., Inwood, K., Lizotte, D., & Ross, J. (2014). Antonie, L., Inwood, K., Lizotte, D.J. et al. Tracking people over time in 19th century Canada for longitudinal analysis. *Machine Learning*, 95(1), 129–146., p. 131

^{xvi} "The 1871 census has 3,466,427 records" Antonie (2014), p. 131

^{xvii} Antonie, L., Inwood, K., Lizotte, D. et al. (2014). Tracking people over time in 19th century Canada for longitudinal analysis. *Machine Learning*, 95(1), 129–146. p. 131

^{xviii} Estimate from date of publication, Antonie (2014).

^{xix} "The next year (2004) Lisa Dillon at the Université de Montréal published a complete count database from the 1881 Canadian census." Inwood, K. (n.d.). *Research Context*. 1891 Census of Canada. <http://census1891.ca/research-context/>

^{xx} "The creation of the 1881 Canadian census database, with 4.3 million cases by LDS volunteers is a monumental achievement" Dillon, L. (2000)²

^{xxi} Dillon, L. (2000)²

^{xxii} "Researchers can download from the PRDH website a 100% public-use microdata file of the 1831 Census of Quebec, a version of our 20% sample of the 1852 Census of Canada (Canada West and Canada East), as well as the 100% database of the 1881 Census of Canada." A registration form is provided. SPSS and Stata supported formats.

^{xxiii} DDI metadata devt worthwhile

^{xxiv} DDI metadata devt worthwhile

^{xxv} "Between 2003 and 2010 staff and students at the University of Guelph digitized a random 5% sample (10% in cities and in the west) of the 1891 population records." Inwood, K. (n.d.). *The 1891 Census of Canada Sample*. 1891 Census of Canada. <http://census1891.ca/>

^{xxvi} See note xxix

^{xxvii} The database includes information returned from a randomly-selected 5% of the enumerators' manuscript pages, each of which describes 25 people. An additional 5% of census pages for western Canada and several large cities augment the basic sample. We also include all persons returned in hospitals, asylums and other dwellings with more than 30 residents and all persons living in three Ontario communities (London, Stratford, Guelph and surrounding rural townships). Inwood, K. (n.d.). *The Data*. 1891 Census of Canada. <http://census1891.ca/the-data/>

^{xxviii} DDI metadata devt worthwhile

^{xxix} Compare [Odesi permalink](#) (including numerous broken links) for *Census of Canada, 1890-91*. Study level metadata is more detailed.

^{xxx} "An important milestone was the release in 2003 of the Canadian Families Project sample of the 1901 census." Inwood, K. (n.d.). *Research Context*. 1891 Census of Canada. <http://census1891.ca/research-context/>

^{xxxi} Sager (1998)

^{xxxii} "The CCRI project successfully ran from 2003 to 2009" *CCRI web gateway*. (n.d.). University of Toronto, Canadian Century Research Infrastructure - Infrastructure Canadienne de Recherche Au 20e Siècle. <http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/ccri/>

^{xxxiii} URL: http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/ccri/CCRI_Production_PDFs/CANADA%201911%20CCRI%20Reference%20Map%20A.pdf

^{xxxiv} URL: http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/ccri/CCRI_Production_PDFs/CANADA%201921%20CCRI%20Reference%20Map%20A.pdf

^{xxxv} URL: http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/ccri/CCRI_Production_PDFs/CANADA%201931%20CCRI%20Reference%20Map%20A.pdf

^{xxxvi} URL: http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/ccri/CCRI_Production_PDFs/CANADA%201941%20CCRI%20Reference%20Map%20A.pdf

^{xxxvii} URL: http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/ccri/CCRI_Production_PDFs/CANADA%201951%20CCRI%20Reference%20Map%20A.pdf

^{xxxviii} Sample sizes, 1911: 371 557, 1921: 367 475, 1931: 348 519, 1941: 363 935, 1951: 443 921.

^{xxxix} Privacy of Canadians' Census information is legally mandated for 92 years after the data is collected, *Statistics Act*, RSC 1995, c S-19, s.81.1.

^{xl} URL: http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/ccri/CCRI_Production_PDFs/CANADA%201921%20CCRI%20Reference%20Map%20A.pdf

^{xli} URL: http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/ccri/CCRI_Production_PDFs/CANADA%201931%20CCRI%20Reference%20Map%20A.pdf