

aboriginal network

N E W S L E T T E R

Statistics Canada Western Region and Northern Territories
Statistique Canada Région de l'Ouest et des territoires du Nord



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2011 Census - May 2011

Statistics Canada: Almost every country in the world regularly gathers important information on the social and economic conditions of persons living in its different regions and Statistics Canada is recognized internationally as a leader in developing innovative statistical methods. Statistics Canada is guided by the fundamental values of confidentiality, accuracy, objectivity and timeliness.

What is Census? Every five years, Statistics Canada conducts a census – a count of all people and households. Every effort is made to include everyone across the roughly 9.2 million square kilometres of Canada. The Census is the only survey that provides a detailed picture of the entire population, and it is unique because it covers everyone at the same time and asks the same questions everywhere. Canada's 21st census will take place May 2011.

Scope of the Census: Census information is the most fundamental source of information about our country and society that is used by all levels of government, the private sector, and community groups. Information from Statistics Canada influences everything from government policy, to the location of schools and corner stores, to the investment patterns of the financial sector. Business, industry, associations, institutions, academia, and media depend on census data as a valuable decision-making tool. Census data are also used for planning social programs, such as Old Age Security and the Canada Child Tax Benefit, and for planning important community services such as schools, senior citizens' homes, daycare and fire protection.

Aboriginal Participation: Statistics Canada recognizes the importance of participation by First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in the census. Our approach is based on fostering close working relationships with Aboriginal communities and organizations. This approach is the basis of capacity development initiatives which include an ongoing, inter-censal Aboriginal Liaison Program (ALP).

Through developing these relationships between Statistics Canada and Aboriginal communities, First Nations non-participation in Canada was reduced from 77 incompletely enumerated reserves in the 1996 Census to 30 in 2001 and to 22 in 2006. In addition to maintaining the positive working relationships we have developed, we look forward to continuing our effort to serve the Aboriginal community through activities that will lead to more effective information sharing and data collection, not only in the census, but in other initiatives as well.

Over the next year, the Advisors for the ALP will be attending meetings, hosting tradebooths and meeting with community leaders and Aboriginal organizations to discuss the 2011 Census and how they can work with Statistics Canada in promoting job recruitment and participation.

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to request a presentation, or information please contact the Advisor in your area.



2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles for Selected Cities and Communities

The Aboriginal Statistics Program at Statistics Canada has released the *2006 Aboriginal Population Profiles for Selected Cities and Communities: Prairie provinces* (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-638-x/89-638-x2010003-eng.htm>, catalogue no.89-638-X2010003) and *British Columbia* (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-638-x/89-638-x2010004-eng.htm>, catalogue no.89-638-X2010004). These are a series of profiles for a number of census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations and communities across Canada with a large Aboriginal population, either in numbers or share of the area's total population.

The series aims to present a demographic and socio-economic profile of the total Aboriginal population living in these areas. Demographic data as well as information on living arrangements of children, education, labour, income, mobility, housing, and health are highlighted. While most of the focus is on adults, there is also some information provided on children. Data are presented by Aboriginal group for selected variables, along with comparisons with the non-Aboriginal population. Findings are based on the 2006 Census and the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

This product is available via the 'New products' list through *The Daily*.

www.statcan.gc.ca



Aboriginal People Living Off-reserve and the Labour Market: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The study *Aboriginal People Living Off-reserve and the Labour Market: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2008-2009* is the second report in the series. This report presents national estimates on the labour market experiences of Aboriginal people living off-reserve from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). These estimates are based on the years 2008-2009 and cover Aboriginal people living off-reserve in the 10 provinces. This report examines the labour force characteristics of Aboriginal people, namely the employment and unemployment rates by Aboriginal identity. The report provides estimates for non-Aboriginal as well as for Aboriginal, North American Indian, Métis and Inuit populations. Data are presented for the following characteristics: age, sex, educational attainment, province or region and industry.

National Highlights: Aboriginal labour market update (2008 and 2009)

- Aboriginal people aged 15 and over living off reserve experienced sharper declines in employment rates during the recent labour market downturn than non-Aboriginal people.
- Between 2008 and 2009, the average employment rate fell faster for off-reserve Aboriginal people than for non-Aboriginal people. As a result, the gap in employment rates between the two groups widened from 3.5 percentage points in 2008 to 4.8 percentage points in 2009.
- The average employment rate for Aboriginal people in 2009 was 57.0%, compared with 61.8% for non-Aboriginal people.
- At the same time, the unemployment rate rose more sharply for Aboriginal people aged 15 and over. Their rate increased from 10.4% in 2008 to 13.9% in 2009, while the rate for non-Aboriginal people rose from 6.0% to 8.1%.
- The biggest employer of core-age (ages 25 to 54) Aboriginal people in 2009 was the health care and social assistance field, followed by trade, construction and manufacturing. For core-age non-Aboriginal people, trade was the top employer, followed by manufacturing, health care and social assistance and professional, scientific and technical services.
- Canada's manufacturing industry posted the largest employment losses during 2009. Among non-Aboriginal manufacturing workers in the core-age group, employment declined by 8% (-114,000); the bulk of their losses was in Ontario. At the same time, manufacturing employment fell 30% (-7,000) among their Aboriginal counterparts, mostly in the western provinces.
- In the construction industry, Aboriginal employment fell by 16% (-4,000), while it decreased 5% (-45,000) among non-Aboriginal workers.
- In 2009, nearly 15% of employed core-age Aboriginal people worked in the health care and social assistance industry. Aboriginal employment in this industry increased by 12% (+4,000) between 2008 and 2009, outstripping a 2% increase among non-Aboriginal people.
- The labour market downturn had a particularly harsh impact on young people aged 15 to 24. From 2008 to 2009, the employment rate for off-reserve Aboriginal youth fell by 6.8 percentage points, compared with a decline of 4.2 percentage points among non-Aboriginal youth. Both decreases were much larger than those experienced by workers in the core-age group (ages 25 to 54) over this period.

(Continued on page 4: *Aboriginal People Living Off-reserve and the Labour Market: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2008-2009*)

LEARNING CORNER



On April 27, 2010 the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics released the *Juristat* article *Youth custody and community services in Canada, 2008/2009* (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/85-002-x2010001-eng.htm>). This article provides an overview of the number and characteristics of youth admitted to and released from custody and community services in 2008/2009 and examines trends over a five-year period. A focused analysis of Aboriginal youth under correctional supervision is also presented.

Highlights:

- In 2008/2009, there were 168 youth aged 12 to 17 years admitted to correctional supervision for every 10,000 youth in the population, according to the eight jurisdictions that reported data.¹ This rate represents a 3% decrease from the previous year and a 6% decline from five years earlier. Declines from the previous year were driven by decreases in the rate of admissions to remand, the community portion of a custody and supervision order and probation.
- Aboriginal youth continue to be highly represented in corrections. In 2006, Aboriginal youth accounted for 6% of all youth in the general population, yet in 2008/2009, they represented 27% of youth remanded, 36% of youth admitted to sentenced custody and 24% of youth admitted to probation.
- The median number of days served in remand was higher for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal youth in all five jurisdictions that reported data.² Overall, in 2008/2009, the median stay in remand for Aboriginal youth was 9 days, while for non-Aboriginal youth it was 6 days. Aboriginal youth served more time in remand than non-Aboriginal youth regardless of violation type.
- Compared to non-Aboriginal youth, a greater proportion of Aboriginal youth admitted to sentenced custody were admitted for serious violent violations. Overall, however, the median days served in sentenced custody were similar among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth.
- Among the four jurisdictions for which micro data are available for 2006, Census Day incarceration rates³ among Aboriginal youth were higher compared to non-Aboriginal youth, regardless of gender or age group. This rate was six times higher among Aboriginal youth in Alberta than the rate for non-Aboriginal youth. In Ontario, the rate was four times greater, while in Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick combined, it was twice that of non-Aboriginal youth.

Notes:

1. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
2. Includes Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.
3. Census Day incarceration rates refers to the rate of youth in remand or sentenced custody for every 10,000 youth in the population on Census Day (May 16, 2006). Includes Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick combined, Ontario and Alberta.



Canadian Social Trends

May 2010

An exploration of cultural activities of Métis in Canada

Métis peoples make up one third of the Aboriginal population in Canada (about 390,000 people in 2006). Using the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (15 and older) and Métis Supplement, this article explores various cultural activities of the Métis population. More specifically it considers involvement in traditional activities such as: arts and crafts, hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering wild vegetation. It also explores Aboriginal language use, involvement in Métis-specific organizations, and spiritual and religious practices. Findings are presented by sex, age, and region.

To view the full article, follow the link:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/11-008-x2010001-eng.htm>

Aboriginal Community Data Initiative (ACDI)

As part of our commitment to provide more useful information from the 2006 Census to Aboriginal communities, Statistics Canada has prepared individual profiles for First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities in the Western Region and Northern Territories. The ACDI reports provide Aboriginal communities with community-level data and analysis on topics such as, education, language, children and families, labour force participation, and housing.

For more information about your community's ACDI report or other Statistics Canada Aboriginal data and products, please contact your regional Advisor.

our logo



Our logo, which was designed for Statistics Canada's Aboriginal Communications Program by Velma Day Chief from the Piikani Nation of Alberta, is a unique symbol representing the continuous cycle (circle) of data collection. It represents equal opportunity (hands) within all nations in the sharing of data to provide an overview of every aspect relating to everyday needs. The sun represents the birth or a new beginning of data collection.

(Continued from page 2: *Aboriginal People Living Off-reserve and the Labour Market: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2008-2009*)

- In 2009, the employment rate was 45.1% for Aboriginal youth, while it was 55.6% for their non-Aboriginal counterparts.
- Compared with their counterparts in the other provinces, core-age Aboriginal people in Alberta and British Columbia, two of the provinces hardest hit by the downturn, experienced more pronounced changes in their employment and unemployment rates.
- In Alberta, the employment rate for core-age Aboriginal people fell from 75.1% in 2008 to 69.5% in 2009. This decline was more than twice as large as it was for non-Aboriginal people.
- In British Columbia, the core-age Aboriginal employment rate fell by 5.6 percentage points to 65.1%, the lowest rate for Aboriginal people among all the provinces.

Note: This report draws on new data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which examines the labour market outcomes of Aboriginal populations living off-reserve.

The year 2007 marks the first time that the Aboriginal identity questions were extended to all provinces in the LFS. These identity questions were incorporated at an earlier date in Alberta

(2003) and in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (April 2004).

The information in this report excludes the territories. The Labour Force Survey does not include the population living in First Nations communities (Indian Reserves). Therefore, the information in this report on the Aboriginal population reflects the situations of the Inuit, Métis and North American Indian people living off-reserve in the provinces.

Although the LFS is a monthly survey, this analysis is based on annual data. The study of annual data is more reliable for small populations such as the Aboriginal population. Moreover, the Atlantic provinces were grouped together to produce more reliable estimates.

The study *Aboriginal People Living Off-reserve and the Labour Market: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2008-2009* is now available as part of The Aboriginal Labour Force Analysis Series (71-588-X2010001, free). From the "Key Resource" module of our website, under "Publications", choose "Labour Statistics".

This product is also available via the following link:
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/100513/dq100513b-eng.htm>



New Name and Program Identifier

A few months ago, Statistics Canada's Aboriginal Communications Program changed its program name to the Aboriginal Liaison Program and the Aboriginal Communications Officers became Advisors. In addition to the new name and working title, a new program identifier was designed and will be slowly introduced on our promotional materials.

Aboriginal Statistical Training Program

The Aboriginal Statistical Training Program (ASTP) at Statistics Canada was developed in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and provides statistical training to Inuit, Metis and First Nations people across Canada. In 2009-10, the Aboriginal Liaison Program in the Western Region and Northern Territories held 13 courses in the region.

Photo: Aboriginal Statistical Training Program, North Battleford, SK, February 2010. Front row: Bill Lehne, Shirley Antoine, and Leila Louison. 2nd row: Pat Foster (Instructor), Maureen Opekokew, Gina Laliberte and Brenda Roberts. 3rd row: Don Tatton, Sheena Daigneault, Kimberly Burnouf, Heather Beatch, Sandra Rewerts and Dallas Albert.



**Do you know someone who would be interested in receiving our newsletter?
Call or email your regional Aboriginal Liaison Program Advisor at Statistics Canada.**