

What's the Scoop on...

Canada 1986 Census Profile CD-ROM  
(Statistics Canada)

**What are Statistics Canada Profiles?**

A census is taken every five years by Statistics Canada to count the population of Canada. The **1986 Census Profiles** CD-ROM contains socio-demographic information from the 1986 Census for following geography:

- Canada & provinces
- census division (CD) & subdivision (CSD)
- census metropolitan area (CMA)/census agglomeration (CA) and census tract (CT)
- enumeration area (EA)
- forward sortation area (FSA)

Unlike E-Stat, which currently only offers CD and CSD profile data for 1986, with the appropriate software and the **1986 Census Profiles on CD-ROM (C86)**, you can display and print information for smaller geographic areas (e.g., some or all of the census tracts in Montréal); transform data into a form usable by other software packages; create new data from existing data using arithmetic functions; and bar-chart demographic characteristics for a geographic area. To protect confidentiality, however, only a limited number of functions can be performed on the data.

**HINT**

When this product was first created, the licence conditions were such that the CD-ROM only contained the CSD geography (and higher); therefore, in order to access the more detailed levels of geography you needed additional software, which was distributed on a 3.5" floppy disk. Now this extra software is available for download from the DLI FTP server

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If you need a new copy of the CD-ROM you may need to contact Statistics Canada to request it

<<http://www.statcan.ca/english/Dli/Data/Orders/orform.htm>>

1. Getting Started

- a. Download the above mentioned software and install it somewhere easily found on your computer. You might want to consider creating a short-cut to the program, C86EA, if you think you'll use it relatively frequently.
- b. Insert the **1986 Census Profiles CD-ROM** in the optical drive on your computer. If you have auto-run enabled, wait for the question of what to do, or for the contents to be displayed in a Windows Explorer window. Close any windows showing the contents of the CD-ROM or offering to show them.
- c. Navigate to the directory where the C86EA program resides (or double-click on the short-cut you might have made).
- d. Enter the world of DOS and be patient.

**HINT**

C86 was written years ago and will most likely not work on a machine running a 64-bit version of the Windows operating system. Ask your Systems person about whether or not you might be able to install Windows Virtual PC <<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/virtual-pc/>>. This is a great option for deprecated software which will not run in compatibility mode.

2. Selecting the Database & Table
  - a. After indicating your official language of choice, select which database is of most interest:
    - i. CTDATA (CT-level focus data)
    - ii. CTPROF (CT Profiles)
    - iii. EADATA (EA-level focus data)
    - iv. EAPROF (EA Profiles)
    - v. FSAPROF (FSA Profiles) \*\* note the absence of focus data for FSAs
    - vi. SDDATA (CSD-level focus data)
    - vii. SDPROF (CSD Profiles)
  - b. Choose which census questionnaire should be the source of your data
    - i. 2A - short form (100% of population)
    - ii. 2B - long form (20% sample)
3. Selecting Characteristics
  - a. Either scroll up and down the list of characteristics with the arrow keys or start typing the characteristics you seek and hit enter. It helps if you know the general structure and terminology of the characteristics, but it's not a requirement.
  - b. Select what you want by hitting the space bar. A number sign (#) appears to indicate the selection has been made.
  - c. Hit enter when you're finished selecting all characteristics of interest.

**HINT**

Keep your mouse away from the DOS window at this point or you'll find yourself inadvertently scrolling up and down, with no hope of regaining control until you accept that, here, the keyboard is king.

4. Selecting Geography
  - a. Similar to how you selected your census characteristics, you may scroll up and down or type in the beginning of the geographic code or placename of interest. Note: Unlike the way STC organizes geography now, C86 lists geographic units alphabetically; therefore, scrolling might not be your best bet.
  - b. Use the space bar to mark the geography you want, and hit enter to be taken to the next screen.
  - c. If you'd like to select all geographic sub-units within a higher unit, you can type the first few digits of the code followed by an asterisk and hit enter. This has the same effect as if you hit the space bar beside each one (but they can't all be unselected at once).

**HINT**

If you are interested more than a few characteristics and are researching an area with many divisions (e.g., Montréal has more than 700 CTs), **DO NOT** bother selecting all of them at once. C86 has a limit of how much data it can process before it runs out of memory. Officially the number of selected characteristics multiplied by the number of geographic units must not exceed 16 000; however, I've found that it's best to be cautious. As a rule of thumb, if you've chosen 5 or 6 characteristics, select your geography in groups of 250 or so. You can always go back and pick up where you left off if you paid attention to the last entry in your previous list.

## 5. Viewing, Saving, or Printing

- a. After you've selected at least one characteristic for one geographic unit, you'll be presented with the following options:
  - i. Print/Display Data
  - ii. Output to a File
  - iii. Bar Graph
  - iv. Manipulate retrieved data
  - v. Rank Geos on a given characteristic
  - vi. Retrieve additional geographic areas [keeps characteristics]
  - vii. Retrieve a new set of data [starts from the beginning]
  - viii. Set Display Options [decimals, column width]
- b. It's usually a good idea to view on screen before doing anything else, but ultimately your best bet is to Output to a file.
  - i. Display Data
    - (1) Hit Enter to display your data on screen.
    - (2) Select whether you want Geography in the rows or columns. Generally displaying geography in rows is wise, but if you have many characteristics chosen and very few geographic units selected you might want to put the geography in the columns.

### HINT

Print - this usually works well if you have a printer directly connected to your computer or you are printing through an LPR port (if you don't know what this means, it most likely means you're not doing it, so don't worry about it). To save yourself a lot of grief, save your output to a file which can be opened or imported in a Windows program.

- ii. Output to a File
  - (1) Select which format you prefer. For GIS applications, Dbase (dbf) is best.
  - (2) Name your file and hit enter.

### HINT

Remember: you're working in a DOS window. You need to choose a name which is 8 characters or less, and I recommend having a working directory with a similarly short name. Also, you need to include the file extension when you're naming your file (e.g., c:\data\Mont\_Imm.dbf).

- iii. Bar Graph
  - iv. Manipulate retrieved data
  - v. Rank Geos on a given characteristic
- } All of these functions can now be done more easily in external programs, so I'd not bother with them in C86 unless you're interested in some crazy DOS fun

## 6. Going on your merry way

- a. Once your data has been successfully gathered and saved, be amazed at how far Statistics Canada has come in its dissemination of electronic Census data.
- b. Thank your lucky stars that your data librarian doesn't dispose of older and often deprecated media and software.