Statistics Canada’s Geography
About Geography

• Compare similar levels of geography for counts, but you can get away with percentages to compare different levels of geography.

• Statistic Canada's geographical hierarchy is used by a LOT of Canadian sources.

• A same city might be available at many different geographical levels.
A city available at many geographical levels.

- **Census subdivisions**
  - Halifax (Regional municipality), Nova Scotia [map]

- **Census metropolitan areas / Census agglomerations**
  - Halifax (CMA), Nova Scotia [map]

- **Census divisions**
  - Halifax (County), Nova Scotia [map]

- **Economic regions**
  - Halifax, Nova Scotia [map]

- **Federal electoral districts (2003 representation order)**
  - Halifax, Nova Scotia [map]
  - Halifax West, Nova Scotia [map]

- **Federal electoral districts (2013 representation order)**
  - Halifax, Nova Scotia [map]
  - Halifax West, Nova Scotia [map]

- **Population centres**
  - Halifax, Nova Scotia [map]
Hierarchy of standard geographic units for dissemination, 2016 Census
Online GeoSuite

Search geography by name or code

Data vintage: 2016
Nova Scotia (12010035), DA

Search result for: DA (12010035)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Census</th>
<th>Geographic level</th>
<th>2011 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UID: 12010035</td>
<td>Population: 516</td>
<td>Population:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total private dwellings: 278</td>
<td>Private dwellings occupied: 240</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land area (km²): 32.3224</td>
<td>Latitude: 43.704381</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR refusal: No</td>
<td>Longitude: -65.274216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Y: 1,292,010.173365</td>
<td>Lambert X: 8,328,573.00085501</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hierarchy of standard geographic areas for dissemination, 2016 Census

Scroll down and select
Small Geographies for Which Data is Often Available
Census Subdivision
Census Division
Dissemination Area
Dissemination Block
Census Metropoitlan Area
Health Regions
Forward Sortation Areas
And
Postal Codes
Census subdivision (CSD)

Part A - Short definition:

Area that is a municipality or an area that is deemed to be equivalent to a municipality for statistical reporting purposes (e.g., as an Indian reserve or an unorganized territory). Municipal status is defined by laws in effect in each province and territory in Canada.
Census tract (CT)

Part A - Short definition:
Area that is small and relatively stable. Census tracts usually have a population between 2,500 and 8,000 persons. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in census agglomerations that have a core population of 50,000 or more.

Part B - Detailed definition:
Census tracts (CTs) are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population between 2,500 and 8,000 persons. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in census agglomerations that had a core population of 50,000 or more in the previous census.

A committee of local specialists (for example, planners, health and social workers, and educators) initially delineates census tracts in conjunction with Statistics Canada. Once a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA) has been subdivided into census tracts, the census tracts are maintained even if the core population subsequently declines below 50,000.
Census tracts are available for Census Metropolitan Areas (big cities) only.

Here is a map of Halifax census tracts.
Dissemination area (DA)

Part A - Short definition:
Small area composed of one or more neighbouring dissemination blocks, with a population of 400 to 700 persons. All of Canada is divided into dissemination areas.

Part B - Detailed definition:
A dissemination area (DA) is a small, relatively stable geographic unit composed of one or more adjacent dissemination blocks. It is the smallest standard geographic area for which all census data are disseminated. DAs cover all the territory of Canada.

Census years:
2011, 2006, 2001
Census metropolitan area (CMA) and census agglomeration (CA)

Part A - Short definition:

Area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a core. A census metropolitan area must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the core. A census agglomeration must have a core population of at least 10,000.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Population Minimum</th>
<th>Covers all of Canada?</th>
<th>How many in Canada (2016)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Census agglomeration</strong></td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Census division</strong></td>
<td>CD</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Census metropolitan area</strong></td>
<td>CMA</td>
<td>100,000 with 50,000 in core</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Census subdivision</strong></td>
<td>CSD</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Census tract</strong></td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>2,500 (usually)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Census consolidated subdivision</strong></td>
<td>CCS</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Designated place</strong></td>
<td>DPL</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dissemination area</strong></td>
<td>DA</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>56,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dissemination block</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>489,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic region</strong></td>
<td>ER</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal electoral district</strong></td>
<td>FED</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Province or territory</strong></td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Regions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>127?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forward Sortation Areas</strong></td>
<td>FSA</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal Codes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>855,842</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://library.carleton.ca/help/census-canada-choosing-census-geography (with some additions)
Finding Maps and Lists of Small Geographies
To give get a quick look at dissemination areas or census tracts, cheat by using the Census Mapper! 😊
Finding Maps of Stats Can Geographies

- Choose your source based on your need and the time period to cover.
- Just need to **see the geography for a specific location**? Try GeoSearch or Scholar‘s GeoPortal or the Census Profiles.
- Want a **beautiful PDF map**? Try the online reference maps or internet archives.
- Need to **play around with maps in GIS software**? Try Scholar‘s GeoPortal or the Online Boundary Files.
Finding Lists of Small Stats Can Geographies

- Choose your source based on your need and the time period to cover.

- Just want to **see a simple list online?** Try browsing the Census Profiles, or clicking on numbers in the standard geographical classification.

- Want to **create a list?** You'll want to explore GeoSuite, or download the Census Profiles, or extract a list from Boundary Files...
GeoSearch is an interactive mapping application that makes it easy to find geographic areas in Canada for which census data are available. To find a specific place of interest, users can click and zoom in on a map of Canada or they can search by place name or postal code. Links to data products, analytical products and maps that are available for the selected area are listed below the map.

Options and preferences

Search

Related geography

Preferences

Census geographic reference period
- 2011
- 2016 (current)

Additional options
- Zoom automatically to the selected geographic area
- Enable/Disable additional geographic areas drop-down list

Results based on specific name and geographic reference period

Auto

OK Cancel