

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure

OCCUPATION_CODE

Definition: The code used by Statistics Canada to represent the occupation recorded.

Source: Census Question

The table below indicates, for each census year, the numbers of the census questions corresponding to this variable.

Census Years	Schedule 1a	Schedule 1b	Schedule 1c	Schedule 2	Schedule 2a
1911					
1921	29	29	8		
1931					
1941					
1951					

Census Guide, 1921

A. Census Question	Chief occupation or trade. (Be specific, give as definite information as possible).
B. Question Number	Column 29 of Forms 1A and 1B; Column 8 of Form 1C.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	CHIEF_OCCUPATION CHIEF_OCCUPATION_CORR CHIEF_OCCUPATION_RET_IND OCCUPATION_CODE
D. Reference Point	As of Census Day, June 1, 1921.
E. Total Target Population	6 671 236
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Every person of ten years and over.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	102. Chief or principal occupation or means of living will be entered in column 29. An entry should be made in this column for every person of ten years and over. The record in column 29 should be either (1) the word or words which most accurately indicate the particular kind of work done by which the individual earns money or money equivalent, -as " <i>physician</i> ," " <i>carpenter</i> ," " <i>farmer</i> ," " <i>stenographer</i> ," " <i>nurse</i> ," etc.; or (2) " <i>income</i> "; or

	<p>(3) if no occupation the entry will be "<i>none</i>."</p> <p>103. Income. For every person who does not follow a specific occupation but has an independent income, as from investments, pensions, superannuation, etc., the fact should be noted by writing the word "<i>income</i>" in column 29; and the entry "<i>none</i>" should be made for all persons ten years old and over who follow "no occupation" and who do not live on "income."</p> <p>104. Persons retired. Persons who on account of old age, permanent physical disability or otherwise are no longer following a <i>gainful occupation</i> should not be reported as of the occupation formerly followed. If living on their own income the entry should be "<i>income</i>," but if they are supported gratuitously by other persons or institutions the entry in this column should be "<i>none</i>."</p> <p>105. Exceptions. Farmers or business men who have retired from active service but who still control an interest in the farm or enterprise in which formerly engaged are to be returned as under the name of the occupation, business or trade from which their living is obtained, and the entry will be made thus: "<i>Farmer r.</i>" for farmer retired, and "<i>Grocer r.</i>" for grocer retired, or as the case may be.</p> <p>106. Persons temporarily unemployed. Persons who are out of employment when visited by the enumerator may state that they have no occupation, when the fact is that they usually have an occupation but happen to be idle or unemployed at the time of the visit. In such cases the occupation followed by the person when employed should be obtained and recorded.</p> <p>107. Farm workers. A person in charge of a farm should be returned as a farmer, whether he owns it or operates it as a tenant, renter or cropper; but a person who manages a farm for some one else for wages or salary should be reported as farm manager or farm overseer; and a person who works on a farm for some one else, but not as manager, tenant or cropper, should be reported as farm labourer.</p> <p>108. Women doing housework. In the case of a woman doing housework in her own home, without salary or wages, and having no other employment, the entry in column 29 should be "<i>none</i>." But a woman working at housework for wages should be returned in column 29 as housekeeper, servant, cook, chambermaid, etc., as the case may be; and</p>
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the entry in column 31 should state the kind of place where she works, as private family, hotel, or boarding house. Or if a woman, in addition to doing housework in her own home, regularly earns money by some other occupation, whether pursued in her own home or outside, the kind of occupation should be stated in column 29 and the place where employed in column 31. For instance, a woman who regularly takes in washing should be reported as laundress or washerwoman in column 29, and the entry "at home" should be made in column 31.

109. Children working for parents. Children of ten years of age and over who work for their parents at home at general household work, or on the farm, or at any other work or chores, when attending school, should not be recorded as having an occupation. Those, however, who spend the major portion of their time at home, and who materially assist their parents in the performance of work other than household duties, should be reported as of the occupation in which their time is employed.

110. General or indefinite terms not to be used. The kind of class of occupation must be stated precisely in column 29, and the place where the person is employed, as "*farm*," "*woollen factory*," "*cotton factory*," "*coal-mine*," etc., will be carefully recorded in column 31. The occupation or trade of any person should not be described in column 29 by such indefinite terms as "*manufacturer*," "*merchant*," "*cotton mill employee*," "*labourer*," "*miner*," "*manager*," etc. A worker in a mine may be described in column 29 by his precise designation as miner, labourer, driver, foreman, driller, etc., but unless the kind or class of mine in which he operates is stated in column 31, the record will be useless for compilation into statistical tables.

111. Mechanic. The word "*mechanic*" should be avoided in all cases; and the exact occupation given, as carpenter, blacksmith, painter, etc. Generally the term means one who has the art of using tools in shaping wood, metal, etc., as a craftsman or artisan; but this is not the sense in which it is to be understood in taking a census of the trade or occupation of the people. Specify the trade by its particular name in common use.

112. Doctors or physicians. In the case of a doctor or physician enter in column 29 the word "doctor" and in column 31 the class to which he belongs, as *medical*, *osteopathic*, *chiropractic*, etc.

113. Engineers. The different kinds of engineers should be carefully

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	<p>distinguished by stating the full descriptive title in column 29 as <i>civil engineer, electrical engineer, locomotive engineer, mechanical engineer, mining engineer, stationary engineer</i>, etc., and in column 31 how or where employed as “<i>private practice</i>” or give company with whom or piece of work upon which employed as “bridge work,” “road construction,” “railway”, etc.</p> <p>114. Agent. The different kinds of “<i>agents</i>” should be carefully distinguished by stating in column 31 the line of business followed.</p> <p>115. Retail or wholesale merchants. The enumerator will distinguish carefully between retail and wholesale merchants; the kind or class will be entered in column 29 as retail or wholesale, and the kind of business, as dry goods, groceries, hardware, etc., will be entered in column 31.</p> <p>116. Clerk. The use of the word “<i>clerk</i>” should be avoided whenever a more definite occupation can be named. Thus a person in a store who is engaged in selling goods should be recorded as a “<i>salesman</i>” or a “<i>saleswoman</i>.” A stenographer, typewriter, accountant, bookkeeper, cashier, etc., should be reported as such, and not as clerk.</p> <p>117. Workers attending school. In the case of a person who is at work and also attends a school or college, enter the occupation followed in columns 29 and 31 and indicate the fact of school or college attendance in column 28 by entering the number of months in school or college. In such cases make a dash (-) in column 34 opposite this name.</p> <p>118. Labourer. The term “labourer” should be avoided if any more precise statement of the occupation can be secured. Employees in factories and mills, for example, usually have some definite designation, as weaver, roller, puddler, etc. Where the term “labourer” is used, be careful to state accurately the industry in column 31.</p> <p>119. Caution. <i>You need not give a person’s occupation just as he expresses it. Always find out exactly the kind of work he does and the industry, business or place in which he works, and so state it. For instance, if a person says that he is “in business,” find out what branch of business and kind of work he does or what position he holds.</i></p>
I. Remarks	

Codes: None

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Remarks: The occupation code was only captured in 1921.