

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure
SEEKING_WORK

Definition: Indicates whether or not the respondent was actually seeking work

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					
1931					
1941	31	31			
1951					

Census Guide, 1941

A. Census Question	Trade or profession, as stationary engineer, insurance agent, etc.
B. Question Number	31 on schedules 1A and 1B; 18 on schedule 1C.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	CHIEF_OCCUPATION CHIEF_OCCUPATION_CORR CHIEF_OCCUPATION_RET_IND OCCUPATION_CODE SEEKING_WORK
D. Reference Point	As of census day, June 2, 1941.
E. Total Target Population	4 384 833
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Every person of 14 years of age or over.

<p>H. Enumerators' Instructions</p>	<p>110. It is important that the entries in the occupation and industry columns accurately and adequately describe the trade or profession of the individual and the kind of business or industry in which his occupation is carried on. Under Instruction 124 are given a number of examples of acceptable designations of occupation and industry. The words in heavy type are essential to the proper description of the occupation and of the industry.</p> <p>The Commissioner has been instructed not to certify Enumerators' vouchers for payment if he does not find entries in both occupation and industry columns for every person with a gainful occupation.</p> <p>111. Column 31.—Occupation. The Enumerator must make an entry in this column for every person of 14 years of age or over. The entry that he shall make much be one of the following:</p> <p>(a) The chief occupation of every gainfully occupied person.</p> <p>(b) Retired.</p> <p>(c) Homemaker.</p> <p>(d) Student.</p> <p>(e) None (yes)—only for persons 14 to 24 years of age inclusive.</p> <p>(f) None (no)—only for persons 14 to 24 years of age inclusive.</p> <p>(g) None—only for persons 25 years of age and over.</p> <p>112. "Gainful Occupation" defined. For census purposes, a gainful occupation is one by which the person who pursues it earns money or in which he assists in the production of goods. Children working at home merely on general household duties or chores or at odd times at other work are not to be returned as having an occupation. Similarly women doing housework in their own homes without salary or wages are to be returned as "homemaker." Persons not at work on June 2 shall report the occupation last followed. For young persons who have never worked, the Enumerator shall make an entry in this column in accordance with Instruction 111 and 116. (For illustrations of occupations, see Instruction 124.)</p> <p>113. "Retired" defined. Persons who on account of old age, permanent</p>
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	<p>physical disability or otherwise are no longer following a gainful occupation and are to be entered in Col. 31 as “retired”. Only persons who at some time had a gainful occupation and are no longer employed nor seeking employment shall be reported as “retired.”</p> <p>114. “Homemaker” defined. In the case of a woman doing housework in her own home, without salary or wages, and having no other employment but being responsible for the domestic management of the home, the entry in Col. 31 shall be “homemaker.” But if a woman, in addition to doing housework in her own home, regularly earns money at some other occupation, whether carried on at home or outside, then that occupation will be entered in Col. 31 and not “homemaker.” Where a woman keeps lodgers or boarders as a means of supplementing family earnings she shall be returned as a “lodging-house keeper” or “boarding-house keeper” when the number of lodgers or boarders exceeds the number of members of the family in the household.</p> <p>115. “Student” defined. Every person, 14 years of age and over, regularly attending school or college or receiving private tuition, shall be returned as a “student.” Even if earning small sums of money after school or on Saturdays as a messenger, newsboy, etc., he or she shall be enumerated as a student. Only when the person is not attending school and is employed most of the day at some occupation, or is wholly assisting his or her parents or any other person on a farm, in a store, etc., will he or she be reported as having a gainful occupation.</p> <p>116. “None” or “No Occupation” defined. For all other persons who have no gainful occupation the entry in Column 31 shall be “none”. These include such adult dependants as invalids at home or in institutions, persons with private means, etc., who have never followed a gainful occupation and, therefore, would not be returned as “retired.” Young persons 14 to 24 years of age who have never had a gainful occupation and are not at present attending school shall in addition be asked whether or not they are actually seeking employment. If the answer is in the affirmative the Enumerator must add the word “yes” in the same Column, as “none (yes),” and if the reply is in the negative the entry in Column 31 shall be “none (no)”. (See Specimen Schedule Column 31.) In the case of persons of 25 years of age or more who have never had gainful occupation, the Enumerator shall enter “none” in Column 31.</p> <p>117. Two or more occupations. If an individual has two occupations which he customarily follows during the year, enter the one at which he spends most of his time or from which he receives the greater part of his annual</p>
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	<p>earnings.</p> <p>118. (1) For persons reporting a gainful occupation in Column 31, the following instructions must be carefully studied:—</p> <p>(2) Occupations on farms. A person running his own farm or operating a farm as a tenant or renter shall be returned as “farmer.” A person managing a farm for someone else and being paid a wage or salary shall be reported as “farm manager.” A person working on a farm as a farmer’s son or hired man, whether receiving pay or not, shall be entered as “farm labourer.” Where two or more persons share in the ownership and management of the farm each person is to be enumerated as “farmer.” Women operating their own farms shall be returned as “farmers,” but only in cases where women are working regularly at outdoor farm work or caring for livestock or poultry on a farm operated by someone else shall they be reported as “farm labourers.” Children who spend most of the day assisting in the work on the farm, other than household work, shall be returned as “farm labourers.”</p> <p>(3) Unusual occupations for women. Women are rarely found in most primary occupations, i.e., as miners, fishermen, loggers; nor in building trades, i.e., as carpenters, plumbers, etc.; nor in most railway or road transport occupations, i.e., as locomotive engineers, motormen, truck drivers, etc.; nor in most heavy occupations in factories or elsewhere. When a woman is reported as having an occupation not usually followed by women, make further inquiry before accepting the statement as given.</p> <p>(4) Unusual occupations for children. It is unusual for a child to be found in a position of ownership of a business or to be a proprietor of a farm, factory, or store. Nor is it likely that he would be working in an official capacity, as manager or foreman, or following a profession or a skilled trade. The Enumerator shall in all cases note the age of working members of the family for whom such occupations are reported and verify doubtful cases.</p> <p>(5) Kind of agent, engineer, inspector, etc. In an occupation inquiry, it is essential that a complete description of the occupation be obtained. As will be apparent from the following illustrations, the terms “agent”, “engineer”, “inspector”. “clerk” and so on, are not acceptable descriptions of occupations. An agent may be an insurance agent, a purchasing agent, a ticket agent, etc.; an engineer may be a civil engineer, a stationary engineer, a locomotive engineer, etc.; a clerk may be a filing clerk, a correspondence clerk, a sales clerk, etc.; and an inspector may be a school</p>
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	<p>inspector, a meter inspector, a food inspector, etc. The Enumerator shall insist that a distinction be made between a machine operator and a machinist, between a milk driver delivering milk from door to door and a milk salesman going from house to house seeking new customers, etc.</p> <p>Similarly with occupations that actually describe specific process in the making of articles of manufacture, the kind of material on which the process or operation is performed must be known. For example, a polisher may be either a metal or a wood polisher, a cutter either a leather or a cloth cutter, and a cleaner either a window or garment cleaner, and each is quite a distinct occupation.</p> <p>The full description of the present occupation must be secured and entered in Col. 31. Be careful not to enter in the space allowed for the industry (Col. 32 or Col. 33) information that pertains to the occupation only. (See Instruction 124 for further examples of occupation descriptions.)</p> <p>(6) Officers, employees and inmates of Institutions and Homes. For an officer or regular employee of an institution or home, such as an asylum, penitentiary, jail or sanitarium, return the occupation followed in the institution. For an inmate of such institution, enter in Col. 31 the occupation pursued prior to commitment.</p> <p>(7) General and indefinite occupation returns. Do not accept such general expressions as helper, office worker, mechanic, mill hand, labourer, etc., as a description of the occupation followed. Office workers may be bookkeepers, stenographers, filling clerks, etc. Persons reported as labourers or mechanics may be found, on further inquiry, to have some definite occupation, as boiler fireman, steamfitter, machine setter, caretaker, tobacco cutter operator, etc. (See also Instruction 124.)</p> <p>(8) For persons who are members of His Majesty's Forces, either in the Active Army or the Reserve, the occupation entered in Column 31 shall be that followed prior to joining the Forces. This will be true also of entries in Columns 32, 33 and 34. In the case of persons who were members of His Majesty's Permanent Forces before the war, however, the entry shall be the occupation followed in the army, navy, air force, etc.</p> <p>124. Illustration of occupation, industry, and status. The Enumerator shall study very carefully the following examples of occupation, industry and status descriptions. The words in heavy type are necessary for an accurate ready of the nature of the occupation and the kind of industry of each</p>
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gainfully occupied person.

Occupation (Col. 31)	Industry		Status (Col. 34)
	Kind of Product or Service (Col. 32)	Branch of Industry (Col. 33)	
Farm labourer	Dairy prod.	Farming	N.P.
Stationary engine-man	Coal	Mining	W.
Foreman	Flour	Mfg.	W.
Seamstress	Dresses	Mfg	W.
Wooden pattern maker	Iron foundry prod	Mfg	W.
Timekeeper	Lumber	Mfg	W.
Metal polisher	Hardware	Mfg	W.
Electrical engineer	Street Rlwy.	Trans. M.G.	W.
Civil Engineer	Highways	Const. P.G.	W.
Sales Agent	Drugs	Mfg	W.
Insurance Agent	Life insurance	Service	W.
Manufacturer's agent	General merchandise	Whole. Tr.	O.A.
Purchasing agent	Groceries	Whole. Tr	W.
Manufacturer	Paper boxes	Mfg	E.
Cook	Pulpwood	Forestry.	W.
Servant	Domestic	Service	W.
Waitress	Tea room	Service	W.
Car inspector	Steam Rlwy	Trans. D.G.	W.
Building Inspector	City	Service M.G.	W.
Sales clerk	General merchandise	Ret. Tr.	N.P.
Office clerk	Department store	Ret. Tr.	W.
Commercial traveller	Furniture	Mfg.	W.
Salesman	Tobacco	Whole. Tr.	W.
Contractor	Buildings	Const.	E.
Plumber	Plumbing	Const.	O.A.

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	Truck driver	Dairy prod.	Ret. Tr	W.
	Teamster	Lumber	Whole. Tr	W.
	Graduate Nurse	Private training	Service	W.
	Nurse in training	Hospital	Service	W.
	Nurseryman	Nursery prod.	Farming.	E.
	Sales agent	Nursery prod.	Ret. Tr. .	W.
	Dynamo man	Electric power.	Mfg. P.G	W.
	Coil winder	Electrical prod.	Mfg.	W.
	Radio repairman	Electrical prod.	Repair	W.
	Stenographer	Post Office	Service D.G	W.
	Ship's engineer	Fish	Fishing	W.
	Custom's examiner	National Revenue Dept	Service D.G	W.
	Trapper	Furs	Trapping	O.A.
	Skidder	Logs	Forestry.	W.
	Riveter	Rlwy. cars	Repair	W.
I. Remarks	None			

Codes

1 "No"
 2 "Yes"
 99999001 "Blank"
 99999002 "Damaged"
 99999003 "Illegible"
 99999004 "In Error"
 99999005 "Suspicious"
 99999006 "Missing -- Mandatory Field"
 99999007 "Not Applicable"
 99999008 "Not Mapped"
 99999009 "Correction"
 99999010 "Suggestion"
 99999011 "Unknown - Suggestion"
 99999012 "Multiple Response - Suggestion"
 99999901 "None"
 99999902 "Not Given"

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99999903 "Unknown"
99999904 "Invalid Value"
99999999 "Uncodable"

Remarks: None