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# Research Data Centre (RDC) Program

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# What is a Research Data Centre (RDC)?

- A Statistics Canada research facility located on a university campus that offers secure access to detailed Statistics Canada microdata from population and household surveys
- Network of RDCs: 30 centres located across Canada
- Centres are staffed by Statistics Canada personnel

# Public-use microdata files (PUMFs) versus RDC master files

- PUMFs may not be sufficient to answer certain research questions:
  - Variables of interest may be aggregated, capped or suppressed
  - Levels of geography restricted to province and health region
  - May not contain full sample



## Reasons for accessing an RDC

- RDC mode of access appropriate when:
  - PUMF does not exist or may not cover all cycles
  - Sensitive variables required for analysis not found in PUMF
  - Require detailed information for variables (non-aggregated)
  - Require lower levels of geography (ex. CMA)
  - Longitudinal data linkage is required



# RDC application process

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/index>

## The Research Data Centres (RDC) Program

The RDC network

The FRDC

Application process and guidelines

Data sets and research tools

RDC projects and publications

Conferences

FAQ

## Other Microdata Access

## The Research Data Centres (RDC) Program

Decision-makers need an up-to-date and in-depth understanding of Canadian society to help them respond not only to today's needs, but to anticipate tomorrow's as well. This need is underlined by a growing demand for analytical output from the rich sources of data collected by Statistics Canada.

The Research Data Centres RDCs are part of an initiative by Statistics Canada, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and university consortia to help strengthen Canada's social research capacity and to support the policy research community. The program would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

RDCs provide researchers with access, in a secure university setting, to microdata from population and household surveys. The centres are staffed by Statistics Canada employees. They are operated under the provisions of the Statistics Act in accordance with all the confidentiality rules and are accessible only to researchers with approved projects who have been sworn in under the Statistics Act as 'deemed employees.'

RDCs are located throughout the country, so researchers do not need to travel to Ottawa to access Statistics Canada microdata.

To know more about the activities of RDCs, please visit the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) website.



# RDC application process

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/process>

## Application process for academic researchers

Type of research - academic	Description
<u>Faculty research (non-student)</u>	A research project conducted by a faculty member or staff of a Canadian post-secondary institution. The research is not funded by a federal, provincial or territorial government department.
<u>Masters or doctoral research (students)</u>	A research project conducted by a student of a Canadian post-secondary institution. The project forms an integral part of thesis or dissertation work that is not funded by a federal, provincial or territorial government department.
<u>Program of research (academic)</u>	A series of academic projects linked by a common theme; often funded by a large research grant for a program of research
<u>Academic course</u>	A course designed to teach graduate level students methodology related to complex survey data analysis.
<u>Unaffiliated academic research</u>	These steps are designed for academic projects conducted by a researcher who works for an academic institution that is not a member of the <u>Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN)</u> .





# RDC application process

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/faculty>

## Faculty research (non–student)

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If you are a faculty or staff member of a Canadian post–secondary institution, and you are performing research for a project that is not funded by a federal, or provincial/territorial government department, follow the steps below to submit an application to access microdata at a Research Data Centre (RDC):

- Step 1: [Draft a project proposal](#)
- Step 2: [Complete the online application form on the SSHRC website](#)
- Step 3: [Evaluation of the proposal](#)
- Step 4: [Complete the security screening process](#)
- Step 5: [Sign a microdata research contract with Statistics Canada](#)
- Step 6: [Submit a product/output](#)

## RDC application process

- Draft a proposal
- Apply online through SSHRC website
- Attend an orientation session
  - Sign a microdata research contract (MRC)
  - Security clearance
- Researchers become “deemed employees” of Statistics Canada



## Data in the RDC: Examples

- The Labour Force Survey (LFS):
  - Cross-sectional survey providing estimates on unemployment and other labour market indicators
  - Estimates by type of industry, occupation, sector, and hours worked
  - Employee estimates include wage rates, union status, job permanency and workplace size
- 14 refereed publications listed on CRDCN over the last 3 years
- Newly released cycle (LFS 2016)



## Data in the RDC: Examples

- The Workplace and Employee Survey (WES):
  - Longitudinal survey (1999-2006) exploring issues relating to employers and their employees
    - Employer file: workplace organization, technology use, innovation, and human resource management
    - Employee file: job training, job stability, and earnings
  - Employees selected from within sampled workplaces
    - Insight into supply and demand of labour market
    - Examine effects of workplace events on worker outcomes
- 19 refereed publications listed on CRDCN over the last 3 years



## Data in the RDC: Examples

- The Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS):
  - Cross-sectional survey conducted every 5 years (1991-2012) exploring the social and economic conditions of First Nations people living off-reserve, Métis and Inuit, aged 15 and over
  - Purpose: identify the needs of Aboriginal people and provide data on education, employment, health, language, income, housing and mobility
- 13 refereed publications listed on CRDCN over the last 3 years
- 2017 APS scheduled for release Fall 2018

## Additional Resources

- RDC website:
  - <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/index>
- Datasets at RDCs:
  - [www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/data](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/data)
- RDC application process:
  - <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/process>
- Sample RDC proposal available at:
  - [www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/sample](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/sample)
- CRDCN website:
  - <https://crdcn.org>



# Questions?

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