



ESTIMATES

Statistics Canada

2001-2002
Estimates

Part III – Report on Plans and Priorities

Canada

The Estimates Documents

Each year, the government prepares Estimates in support of its request to Parliament for authority to spend public monies. This request is formalized through the tabling of appropriation bills in Parliament. The Estimates, which are tabled in the House of Commons by the President of the Treasury Board, consist of three parts:

Part I – The Government Expenditure Plan provides an overview of federal spending and summarizes both the relationship of the key elements of the Main Estimates to the Expenditure Plan (as set out in the Budget).

Part II – The Main Estimates directly support the *Appropriation Act*. The Main Estimates identify the spending authorities (votes) and amounts to be included in subsequent appropriation bills. Parliament will be asked to approve these votes to enable the government to proceed with its spending plans. Parts I and II of the Estimates are tabled concurrently on or before 1 March.

Part III – Departmental Expenditure Plans which is divided into two components:

- (1) **Reports on Plans and Priorities (RPPs)** are individual expenditure plans for each department and agency (excluding Crown corporations). These reports provide increased levels of detail on a business line basis and contain information on objectives, initiatives and planned results, including links to related resource requirements over a three-year period. The RPPs also provide details on human resource requirements, major capital projects, grants and contributions, and net program costs. They are tabled in Parliament by the President of the Treasury Board on behalf of the ministers who preside over the departments and agencies identified in Schedules I, I.1 and II of the *Financial Administration Act*. These documents are to be tabled on or before 31 March and referred to committees, which then report back to the House of Commons pursuant to Standing Order 81(4).
- (2) **Departmental Performance Reports (DPRs)** are individual department and agency accounts of accomplishments achieved against planned performance expectations as set out in respective RPPs. These Performance Reports, which cover the most recently completed fiscal year, are tabled in Parliament in the fall by the President of the Treasury Board on behalf of the ministers who preside over the departments and agencies identified in Schedules I, I.1 and II of the *Financial Administration Act*.

The Estimates, along with the Minister of Finance's Budget, reflect the government's annual budget planning and resource allocation priorities. In combination with the subsequent reporting of financial results in the Public Accounts and of accomplishments achieved in Departmental Performance Reports, this material helps Parliament hold the government to account for the allocation and management of public funds.

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Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

2001-2002 Estimates

A Report on Plans and Priorities

Brian Tobin
Minister of Industry

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SECTION I: MESSAGES

Minister's Portfolio Message

Our vision of Canada is a country that is strong and dynamic, a leader in the global knowledge-based economy, and a country where all Canadians have the opportunity to benefit from economic and social prosperity.

That is why the government is investing in knowledge and innovation--fundamental contributors to our quality of life. Through strategic investments in skills development, knowledge creation and new technologies the government is committed to expanding Canada's knowledge base, innovation and research capacity, and accelerating Canada's leadership in the new economy.

The government's strategy of investing in knowledge and innovation is already helping to create new businesses, products, processes and jobs. The fifteen organizations within the Industry Portfolio contribute to economic growth, which leads to a higher quality of life and social well-being for all Canadians.

With over forty percent of the federal government's science and technology funding and many of the key micro-economic levers at its disposal, the Industry Portfolio is instrumental in promoting innovation through science and technology; helping small- and medium-sized enterprises grow; encouraging trade and investment; and promoting economic growth in Canadian communities.

I am pleased to present the Report on Plans and Priorities for Statistics Canada which describes for Canadians the expected achievements over the next three years. These plans illustrate how Statistics Canada is contributing to a better understanding and measurement of the growth and dynamics of the Canadian economy and emerging societal trends and issues. Statistics Canada provides Canadians with high quality information which covers a broad spectrum of issues such as the performance of the Canadian economy and its productivity, the knowledge-based economy, economic growth, global challenges, social cohesion and human development. This is achieved through the enhancement of statistical programs covering economic production, science and technology, the environment, trade, income polarization and various social transitions to name a few.

The Industry Portfolio is ...

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Business Development Bank of Canada*
Canadian Space Agency
Competition Tribunal
Copyright Board Canada
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
Canadian Tourism Commission*
Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation*
Industry Canada
National Research Council Canada
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Standards Council of Canada*
Statistics Canada
Western Economic Diversification Canada

**Not required to submit Reports on Plans and Priorities*

Through organizations like Statistics Canada, we will work together to build on the strengths and opportunities that exist throughout Canada.

The Honourable Brian Tobin

Management Representation

Report on Plans and Priorities 2001-2002

I submit, for tabling in Parliament, the 2001-2002 Report on Plans and Priorities for
Statistics Canada

To the best of my knowledge the information:

- Accurately portrays the Agency's mandate, priorities, strategies and planned results of the organization.
- Is consistent with the disclosure principles contained in the *Guidelines for Preparing a Report on Plans and Priorities*.
- Is comprehensive and accurate.
- Is based on sound underlying departmental information and management systems.

I am satisfied as to the quality assurance processes and procedures used for the RPP's production.

The Planning, Reporting and Accountability Structure (PRAS) on which this document is based has been approved by Treasury Board Ministers and is the basis for accountability for results achieved with the resources and authorities provided.

Name: _____

Date: _____

SECTION II: STATISTICS CANADA OVERVIEW

2.1 Mandate, Roles and Responsibilities

Statistics Canada's mandate derives primarily from the Statistics Act. The Act requires the Agency, under the direction of the Minister, to collect, compile, analyze and publish statistical information on the economic, social and general conditions of the country and its citizens. This activity is fundamentally important to an open, democratic society as it provides objective information to Canadians and their elected representatives about the evolution of our society and economy. The Agency's information resources are also exploited by businesses, unions and non-profit organizations to make informed decisions.

Statistics Canada's mandate also provides for coordination and leadership of the country's statistical system. This has led Statistics Canada to form many partnerships at the federal and provincial levels. These partnerships have benefited Canadians in many ways. Improved data quality through more comparable survey methods, reduced response burden through the use of administrative records and data sharing and the exchange of best practices among all participants are a few examples.

Agency data are also used in statutory and regulatory contexts. Uses include distribution of federal funds to provinces (*Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*); apportioning of federal-provincial tax revenues (Harmonized Sales Tax); indexing various types of federal payments to beneficiaries and income tax credits (*Income Tax Act*); determining areas of eligibility for supplementary benefits (*Employment Insurance Act*); determining the distribution of parliamentary seats among provinces and defining federal electoral districts (*Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*); designating federal bilingual services areas (*Official Languages Act*) and measuring the prevalence of sub-populations which are the focus of the federal employment equity program (*Employment Equity Act*). Other federal legislation also requires Statistics Canada to produce data for specific purposes. (See Section VI-A for a complete list of legislated requirements.)

Statistics Canada

2001-2002 Resources by Organization and Business Line

		<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Minister of Industry</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Chief Statistician</td> </tr> </table>							Minister of Industry	Chief Statistician	Sub-Total	Vote- Netted Revenues	Total
Minister of Industry													
Chief Statistician													
Business Line		ACS* Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics	ACS Business and Trade Statistics	ACS National Accounts and Analytical Studies	ACS Analysis and Development	ACS Communications and Operations	ACS Informatics and Methodology	ACS Management Services					
Economic and Social Statistics	(\$ millions)	47.9	74.7	27.9	11.3	80.8	59.9	102.1	404.6	75.6	329.0		
	FTEs	494	1089	371	140	916	707	784	4,501		4,501		
Census of Population Statistics	(\$ millions)	73.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	129.5	24.2	3.2	230.6	12.3	218.3		
	FTEs	575	0	0	0	369	350	23	1,317		1,317		
Total Planned Spending	(\$ millions)	121.6	74.7	27.9	11.3	210.3	84.1	105.3	635.2	87.9	547.3		
	FTEs	1,069	1,089	371	140	1,285	1,057	807	5,818		5,818		

*ACS - Assistant Chief Statistician

2.2 Objectives

From Statistics Canada's mandate are derived two primary objectives:

- to provide statistical information and analysis of the economic and social structure and functioning of Canadian society as a basis for the development, operation and evaluation of public policies and programs, for public and private decision-making and for the general benefit of all Canadians; and
- to promote the quality, coherence, and international comparability of Canada's statistics through collaboration with other federal departments and agencies, with the provinces and territories and in accordance with sound scientific standards and practices.

2.3 Planning Context

The Agency's *raison d'être* lies in the production of high-quality statistical information. The effectiveness of Statistics Canada depends on its credibility, the relevance of its information, the accuracy and accessibility of its products and services, the attainment of high professional standards, and the control of the burden on survey respondents.

The gathering of information involves a partnership with all Canadians. In this partnership, Canadians both contribute and benefit. Information is provided to Statistics Canada through surveys and access to administrative records, while Statistics Canada, after compiling and analyzing this information, provides feedback through a myriad of information products.

New information needs

Historically, Statistics Canada's program has been structured to provide information on the macro-economy, the micro-economy and the socio-demographic structure of Canada. Statistical information also has been provided on public institutions and programs. This constitutes the Agency's core program (more information on which can be found in the business lines descriptions). Such information continues to be relevant, however, the Agency must ensure that it is responsive to changing complex requirements of continually emerging issues. New federal-provincial fiscal arrangements, the health of Canadians and the systems that support it, the factors affecting economic performance in the new knowledge-based economy, economic growth, the micro-economic factors affecting competitiveness, social cohesion, human development, global opportunities and challenges as well as the outcomes of social programs are some of the areas requiring more information and analysis to assist public and private decision makers in understanding the issues they face. In this dynamic environment, maintaining the relevance¹ of Statistics Canada's contribution by meeting such information needs, while safeguarding the integrity of the core program, continues to be a primary goal for the Agency over the planning horizon.

¹ Relevance is further discussed in section VI-B of this report

Partnerships

Partnerships and cost-sharing arrangements with other departments, other jurisdictions and external organizations, have become an intrinsic aspect of program delivery. These relationships are key to the development of effective business plans. Statistics Canada will continue to foster such arrangements over the planning period, as they have proven to serve not only the needs of the stakeholders but also those of the national statistical system and the Canadian research community.

2.4 Statistics Canada – Planned Spending

	Forecast Spending 2000-2001 ¹	Planned Spending 2001-2002	Planned Spending 2002-2003	Planned Spending 2003-2004
	(\$ millions)			
Budgetary Main Estimates (gross)	497.7	635.2	414.3	378.8
Less: Respendable Revenue	87.9	87.9	69.2	69.2
Total Main Estimates	409.8	547.3	345.1	309.6
Adjustments ²	48.7			
Net Planned Spending	458.5	547.3	345.1	309.6
Less: Non-respendable Revenue	2.5	0.8	0.8	0.8
Plus: Cost of Services received without charge	46.3	47.5	44.3	43.1
Net Cost of Program	502.3	594.0	388.6	351.9
Full Time Equivalent	6,024	5,818	5,023	4,776

¹ Reflects best forecast of total planned spending to the end of the fiscal year.

² Adjustments are to accommodate approvals obtained since the Annual Reference Level Update (ARLU) exercise and to include Budget initiatives.

SECTION III: PLANS, RESULTS, ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

Economic and Social Statistics Business Line

3.1.1 Objective

The objective of this Business Line is twofold:

- to provide statistical information and analysis relating to the measurement of the international and domestic components of Canadian economic performance; and
- to provide statistical information on the social, economic and physical well-being of individuals and families and on the public systems and institutions which serve them.

3.1.2 Description

The Economic Statistics component of this business line provides information and analysis on the entire spectrum of Canadian economic activity, both domestic and international, through a set of macro-economic statistics. The organization of economic statistics is guided, in large measure, by frameworks which constitute the Canadian System of National Accounts. The system makes it possible to measure both the current performance and the structural make-up of the Canadian economy by type of economic transaction and by sector. This set of accounts is designed to provide structural and current information on the Canadian economy in direct support of fiscal, monetary, human resource, industrial and international economic policy formulation and adjustment. The System of National Accounts also serves as a framework within which individual statistical series are compared to assess their reliability and as an analytic tool to identify shifts in the economic importance of various sectors.

*Measuring
Canadian
Economic
Performance*

Another component of Economic Statistics focuses on the business, trade and tourism sectors of the Canadian economy. Information produced includes measures of the value of production, cost structures, commodities produced and consumed, the flows and stocks of fixed capital assets employed in the economy, the degree of capacity utilization, estimates of planned annual capital expenditure of businesses and governments, and measures of price changes for industrial goods, capital expenditures and construction.

*Information on Canadians
and the systems funded
to meet their needs*

The Household Statistics component of this business line provides information on the economic and social characteristics of individuals, families and households in Canada, and on the major factors which can contribute to their well-being. It

includes measures of household income and expenditure; of employment, unemployment, their associated costs and benefits, labour income and factors affecting labour supply; and information on topics of specific social policy concern.

The Institutions Statistics component of this business line provides information on the facilities, agencies and systems which are publicly funded to meet the socio-economic and physical needs of Canadians, and on the outcomes of the services which they provide. It encompasses the justice, health care and education systems as well as cultural institutions and industries, in terms of the nature and extent of their services, and operations, the characteristics of the individual Canadians and families whom they serve, and their impacts on Canadian society. Increasingly, the Agency is attempting to go beyond the institutional orientation of this component, and to portray the impacts on Canadians of the activities of the health, education and justice systems.

3.1.3 Net Planned Spending (\$millions) and Full Time Equivalent (FTEs)

Forecast Spending 2000-2001 ¹	Planned Spending 2001-2002	Planned Spending 2002-2003	Planned Spending 2003-2004
\$336.2	\$329.0	\$310.3	\$290.7
4,451 FTE	4,501 FTE	4,413 FTE	4,322 FTE

¹ Reflects the best forecast of planned spending to the end of the fiscal year.

3.2 Key Results Commitments, Planned Results, Related Activities and Resources

In 1998-99 Statistics Canada defined the quality assurance framework that it uses for managing data quality within its statistical programs. The framework embraces six dimensions of quality (relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, interpretability and coherence) which formed the basis for reporting on quality in Statistics Canada's Departmental Performance Report for the period ending March 2000.

The projects highlighted in the following table under the heading "Planned Results" will be subject to review and reporting according to the framework.

Key Results Commitments, Planned Results, Related Activities and Resources

To provide Canadians with:	Planned Results:	Related Activities:	Resources 2001/02 \$millions
<p>Objective and non-partisan statistics that provide measures of various aspects of Canada's economy and society which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant to policy formulation and decision making; • responsive to emerging issues; • of high quality. <p>And which contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the fulfillment of legal requirements; • informing Canadians about current and emerging economic and social issues; • the maintenance of a national statistical knowledge infrastructure. 	<p>A. Information to support sound policy formulation and decision making. (p.13)</p> <p>B. Information needed to meet emerging issues and new challenges: (p.15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • performance of the Canadian economy and its competitiveness; • the knowledge-based economy; • economic growth; • social cohesion; • human development; • global challenges and opportunities. 	<p>Adjustments to ongoing programs in response to policy needs. Examples include the post-censal surveys, the customs blueprint, the census of agriculture and transportation statistics.</p> <p>The development of the Survey Research Program in response to information needs to meet emerging issues in such areas as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • science and technology; • education; • justice; • labour market dynamics; • the environment; • children and youth; • international trade and its promotion. <p>The development of the Health Roadmap Initiative.</p>	<p>20.0</p> <p>12.5</p>
	<p>C. The maintenance of a national statistical knowledge infrastructure: (p.31)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • controlled respondent burden; • maximum use of administrative data; • use of modern methods & technologies; • skilled & responsive staff. 	<p>Controlling response burden.</p> <p>Results for Canadians.</p>	

A. Information to support sound policy formulation and decision making

As discussed in the Planning Context of this report (Section 2.3), the Agency's raison d'être lies in the production of statistical information. The effectiveness of Statistics Canada depends on its credibility, the relevance of its information and the quality and accessibility of its products. For the planning horizon, Statistics Canada will undertake a number of activities to reinforce its core program in the following areas which continue to be important to key stakeholders in policy formulation and decision making.

1. *The 2001 Census of Agriculture*

Statistics Canada conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years in conjunction with the Census of Population. The Census of Agriculture provides detailed information on the structure of the farm sector and the geographic location of agricultural production. By its quinquennial nature, the Census of Agriculture is conducted in tandem with the Census of Population, thus allowing for sharing of methodology and techniques. The Census of Population is discussed on page 35. These two initiatives could be discussed together but due to the business line structure, the Census of Agriculture is presented here.

After having successfully implemented document imaging in 1996, the Census of Agriculture program has recently investigated the use of intelligent character recognition (ICR) software to automate the manual data capture process and this technology will be adopted for the 2001 Census. This will permit a more timely and comprehensive process. Preliminary estimates from the Census of Agriculture are scheduled for May 2002.

Respondents in selected test sites will be given, in 2001, the option to complete their questionnaires over the Internet and it is estimated that over 1000 Census of Agriculture questionnaires will be received using this medium. The test sites will comprise over 10,000 farms in Alberta and Ontario.

The Census of Agriculture is scheduled for May 14, 2001.

2. *Post-Censal Surveys*

- **2001 Aboriginal Peoples' Survey**

This initiative aims to provide comprehensive data which is focussed towards specific interests of Aboriginal groups. It is complemented by a concurrent initiative which aims at developing a statistical capacity among the aboriginal people.

In December 1997, approval was given to the Government's response to the final *Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples: Canada's National Aboriginal Strategy*. Incremental funding was provided to Statistics Canada in the 1998 budget to act as a partner in this initiative. Statistics Canada's

contribution is to conduct an Aboriginal Peoples' Survey and create a statistical training program for 30 to 40 Aboriginal persons per year.

In accomplishing this, the Agency's focus has been on establishing a working relationship with National Aboriginal groups. The design recognizes the need for core national data as well as for data specific to various Aboriginal groups and the survey will be conducted in two phases, the first phase will take place between September and December 2001. Phase two will target the population reporting only Aboriginal ancestry and will take place in March 2002.

- 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey

This initiative aims to provide information on adults and children with disabilities in Canada, on their social support needs and the degree to which persons with disabilities are involved with school, work and everyday activities.

Recent research and development conducted on the disability filter questions will enable Statistics Canada to identify the Canadian population with disabilities and these will be applied to social surveys starting with the 2001 Census.

- Ethnic Diversity Survey

The objectives of the survey are two-fold: the survey will provide information to better understand how Canadians of different ethnic backgrounds interpret and report their ethnicity by exploring and probing various dimensions and measures of ethnicity such as ethnic ancestry and ethnic identity and secondly, the survey will provide information on ethnic diversity in Canada and the interaction of ethno-cultural characteristics and socio-economic outcomes.

The Ethnic Diversity Survey will follow the 2001 Census. The collection for the Ethnic Diversity Survey will be from April to June 2002 and ethnic self-definition, respondent and family background, and knowledge of languages and language use will be the modules. Further planned survey explorations include socialization and social networks, interactions with society and civic participation.

3. North American Transportation in Figures

Statistics Canada, in partnership with statistical agencies and policy departments in the United States, Mexico and Canada completed a new report, *North American Transportation in Figures*. The report, available on the Internet, provides a comprehensive set of statistical indicators of the use, performance and impact of transportation in North America and covers a wide variety of transportation subjects across the three countries including: transportation and the economy; safety; merchandise trade; freight activity; passenger travel; infrastructure; and energy and environment. In 2001/2002, the three countries will continue this work of continental harmonization and integration of transportation and related statistics by creating a database on the Internet where the data series in the publication can be updated independently by each country.

4. Customs Blueprint

As a result of new reporting arrangements and other process changes being undertaken by the Canadian Custom and Revenue Agency (CCRA) whereby brokered goods are reported electronically on a monthly basis, the International Trade (IT) program must be adjusted to maintain its integrity. The Transportation program and the Travel Surveys are also affected (the former sees an opportunity to fill important data gaps in the area of international marine transport statistics). The IT program will assess proposed alterations to reporting procedures, concepts and quality assurance methodologies and accommodate them at the speed dictated by CCRA's implementation plan. From an IT program perspective, these initiatives pose both opportunities and threats. They provide the potential to improve both the coverage and the quality of trade data, but will require major alterations to processes, concepts and automated systems which will be significant and will require careful management during the transition period.

B. Information needed to meet emerging issues and new challenges

The dynamic nature of Canadian society requires the Agency to be continually responsive to new information requirements to be in a position to provide Canadians and their policy institutions with information to understand the changes taking place, their magnitude and underlying causalities. The Agency will pursue a number of initiatives aimed at responding to new information needs in the following areas.

1. The Development of the Survey Research Program in response to information needs to meet policy challenges – Data Gaps II

Issues identified by the Policy Research Initiative will continue to be a key focus of Statistics Canada over the next year. The Agency will consolidate, develop and implement, in conjunction with lead departments, a survey research program which will respond to the information demands in the areas of the *knowledge-based economy, economic growth, social cohesion, human development and global challenges and opportunities*.

Knowledge-based economy

Economic growth

Social cohesion

Human development

Global challenges and opportunities

Activities in support of the Knowledge-Based Economy and Society information needs

In response to the need for new information on the role of knowledge and higher level skills and their impact on the labour market and among firms, the following programs have been approved:

- Access to, and Use of, Information Communication Technology

The objective of this project is to measure the extent to which Canadians have access to these technologies, how often they are used, and the purpose of their use. The survey will provide information such as:

- the equipment and communications services to which people currently have access;
- the use made of equipment/services;
- time spent on these activities;
- demographics of users/non-users;
- the factors influencing people's decision not to use this equipment/these services;
- the history/flow of access to computers;
- the impact of technology on people's lives; and
- the adequacy of Canadian content in on-line services.

Planned activities

The topic on one of the latest General Social Surveys was "Access to and Use of Information Communication Technology". Preliminary analysis is under way and the release of data is planned for March 2001. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2002/2003. Further developments are subject to a Policy Research Development Group (PRDG) priority setting exercise which will begin in 2001.

- An Index of Total Labour Compensation

The purpose of the project is to develop a new labour cost index (LCI) to assist policy makers in their assessment of current developments on labour markets – an essential ingredient in implementing stabilization policies. The new series will also permit new or better research on topics such as:

- the role of labour-cost pressures in the inflation process and the business cycle;
- how particular labour markets adjust to changes in the demand and supply of labour;
- the role of non-wage benefits and pay 'at risk' in overall compensation and in promoting wage flexibility; and
- the relationship between wage flexibility and employment adjustment.

Planned activities

In 2001/2002 the results of a feasibility study to develop a LCI for Canada will be used to adjust the methodology and to prepare the annual LCI for 2001 as well as the final content for the Year 3 Workplace and Employee Survey (WES). A similar index for 2002 will be released in the fall of 2003.

- Workplace and Employee Survey

Policy research on workers and the workplace has been incomplete because of two missing elements:

- a lack of basic information on the demand for labour;

- the inability to link such demand side information to the supply side of the labour market, i.e. the inability to link company decisions to impact on workers.

The aim of the Workplace and Employee Survey is to eliminate this data gap by collecting information on the workplace, how it is changing and its impact on workers.

Planned activities

Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) are collaborating on a series of descriptive reports addressing topics on *Workplace Practices, Technology Adopters, Job Vacancies, Hirings and Separations and Competition and Human Resource Practices*. A staggered release of these reports will take place between January – March 2001. A compendium of selected WES statistics will also be published by the end of March 2001. In 2001/2002 the processing of the 2001 WES along with the collection of the 2002 WES will take place. Analytical reports on labour market topics will be produced. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2002/2003. Further developments are subject to a PRDG priority setting exercise which will begin in February 2001.

Activities in support of Economic Growth information needs

Economic growth is central to both wealth and job creation, yet many aspects of growth are not clearly understood, particularly in such areas as the determinants of productivity growth and the productivity slowdown, reasons for the strong growth in the 1990s in the U.S. but not in Canada, and the association between the environment and growth.

Projects planned to fill data gaps in this comprise:

- The Information System for Science and Technology Project
Science and technology activities are central to the creation of jobs and economic growth, to the improvement of the quality of life and to the advancement of knowledge. Although effective exploitation of science and technology is fundamental to individual and societal well being, many questions relating to this issue could not be answered with the statistical information available a number of years ago.

The development of an information system for science and technology was launched in April 1996 to address the information gaps in this area. The project is intended to provide information, in an integrated manner, on three aspects of science and technology in Canada: the basic performance of science and technology, including research, development and innovation, in all sectors of the economy; the economic and social impacts of technological innovation; and the diffusion of technologies and ideas in a knowledge-based economy.

The project aims at developing three sets of measurements under the headings of science and technology, innovation, and diffusion and appropriation. These

measurements will serve to provide a coherent picture of the Canadian system of innovation and its relation to the knowledge-based economy.

Planned activities

For the coming fiscal year, the data from the 1999 Survey on Innovation will continue to be analysed with emphasis on regional differences in the activity of innovation. New results on biotechnology activities and firms will be released and the feasibility of a survey of knowledge management practices will be explored as part of a broader OECD initiative. New analysis based on the General Social Survey will examine the use of information and communication technologies by people. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2002/2003. Further developments are subject to a PRDG priority setting exercise which will start in 2001.

- Socio-Economic Indicators of “Connectedness”

This project will provide information on the factors that influence Canada’s ability to achieve its objective to make the knowledge infrastructure accessible to all Canadians, and will also serve to determine the use or planned use of information and communication technologies by households and other sectors of the economy as well as their readiness to engage in electronic commerce. Measuring electronic commerce is a key part of the project.

Planned activities

For the coming year, both the cross-economy survey of electronic commerce and of the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and electronic commerce questions added to the 1999 Household Internet Use Survey (HIUS) will be repeated in the view to gain new insight into the use of electronic commerce in Canada. Also, the ‘Connectedness Series’ will be introduced to provide a vehicle for the analytical products coming out of these and other surveys. At the same time the Agency will explore other ways in which data could be gathered on the use of electronic networks by Canadians. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2002/2003. Further developments are subject to a PRDG priority setting exercise which will begin in 2001.

The Agency will continue to work internally and closely with Industry Canada to develop new and timely measures of electronic commerce and other aspects of the network economy.

- Environment Statistics Program

The Program’s objective is to provide Canadians with consistent, comprehensive and pertinent information with which to study the relationship between the environment and human activities. The mandate is carried out through two main activities:

- integration of environmental information with Statistics Canada’s socio-economic data; and

- collection of data on environmental protection directly from businesses, households and governments through several surveys on the production and consumption of environmental goods and services.

Planned activities

The following activities will be undertaken and will contribute to the overall program:

- The project on the supply of recycled/recyclable materials was planned to be conducted in four stages, each having a duration of approximately one year. The first stage which involved identifying the activities and players involved in recycling in Canada as well as identifying two or more options for collecting improved data on recycling has been completed. The second stage will involve a more detailed investigation of the most promising data collection methods. A pilot data collection will be run during the third stage. Finally, a full-scale data collection will be implemented in the final year of the project.
- A workshop on the measurement of environmental technologies and environmental practices was held in January at Statistics Canada. Attendees included experts from federal government departments and environmental engineers from the private sector. The recommendations from this workshop will be incorporated in the preparation for the next cycle of the Environment Protection Expenditures Survey (EPES 2000).
- Statistics Canada will prepare a report on the uses of environmental technologies, including those technologies related to resource conservation and renewable energy, environmental practices and pollution prevention activities of natural resource and manufacturing industries. The industrial data provided in this report will allow the user to examine the use of innovative technologies for environmental protection by the natural resource sector (including both primary and manufacturing sectors).

Activities in support of Social Cohesion information needs

Among the challenges in the area of Social Cohesion are issues related to polarization and Canadian identity. A research framework has been developed and, while there is a broad range of information from existing surveys, major information gaps still exist. A multi-faceted strategy is proposed combining specific initiatives to meet short term data needs and the development of flexible data collection and analysis vehicles to address new questions which emerge from the ongoing research program. Areas to be covered by this initiative are:

- General Social Survey (GSS)

The aim of this project is to redesign and expand the GSS to provide data to support research initiatives, particularly in the areas of social cohesion and human development.

Planned activities

The next cycle of the survey (2001) will focus on families. It will be the third retrospective family survey conducted within the GSS program. The survey will again collect information on reproductive and partnership histories, childhood history, family planning, contraceptive use, work and education histories, home-leaving history, kinship, etc. New initiatives for 2001 include the collection of improved data on education and work histories, financial relationships between fathers and non-resident children, and the home leaving process. In 2002/2003 the Social Support core content of the GSS will be expanded to include Aging.

- Hate Crime and Other Diversity Issues in the Justice System

Hate-motivated crime and the perceived inequality of treatment of different groups by the justice system can polarize society along racial or ethnic lines. Hate-motivated crime has been identified as a major information gap. This project will assess existing information and seek to address gaps on experiences of various groups as victims, offenders and workers in the justice system, to support the development of effective policy in response to hate-motivated activity and other diversity-related justice issues.

Planned activities

In 2001/2002, a series of profiles on diversity groups of concern to the justice community (e.g. Aboriginal peoples, visible minorities) will be completed. The profiles present socio-economic characteristics of each group and any justice data that are available. A study of the diversity of persons working in the justice system will also be undertaken. An overview of issues and current data sources related to hate crime will be completed. Work in 2002/2003 and subsequent years will focus on testing data collection methods and attempting to establish ongoing data collection mechanisms to address gaps.

- Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada

The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada is designed to improve our understanding of how immigrants adjust to life in Canada. The survey will interview the same respondent at three points in time after arriving in Canada: six months (Wave 1), two years (Wave 2) and four years (Wave 3). This design will facilitate detailed analysis of the factors influencing changes in the life of the immigrants over time. The study will focus only on issues related to short-term adjustments and integration. The results of this survey will guide the determination of which services are most effective in helping newcomers settle into Canadian society and will provide information on how new immigrants use the resources available to them. The target population of the survey is permanent residents 15 years of age and older arriving from outside Canada over a specified period of time. The primary unit of analysis for the survey is the individual immigrant.

Planned activities

In 2001/02 the development of the survey processing system will be pursued and the analysis plan for the survey will be finalized. The collection of the first cycle of the survey will start in April 2001. The results will be released early in 2003.

- Culture Trade and Investment

The Culture Trade and Investment (CTI) Project was initiated in 1996-1997 with initial funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Industry Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Statistics Canada.

The primary focus for the initial years was conceptual development and data mining:

- identifying relevant concepts and methodologies for assessing the role and contribution of culture trade activities;
- developing an integrated database on international trade in cultural goods and services (exploiting all available sources of data);
- identifying data gaps and appropriate strategies for enhancing culture trade data;
- producing technical documentation on culture trade; and
- developing analytical products.

Planned activities

Over the next two years the project will finalize an integrated database on trade in cultural goods and services and data gaps that have been identified will be filled. The project will also produce technical documentation on trade and analytical products.

Activities in support of Human Development information needs

Human Development covers numerous aspects of the human experience: childhood, work, learning, aging, caring for others and participation in the community. The following statistical projects will be undertaken to meet the needs identified as gaps by the Human Development Network initiative over the first several years of its research agenda.

- Post-Secondary Transition Survey

The Post-Secondary Transition Survey will provide information to better understand factors affecting the transition of Canada's young people in moving between post-secondary education and the world of work. This will help in the development of youth policies and programs to achieve successful transitions into the labour market. Results will also identify concerns about social integration and social disenfranchisement. The survey will reveal if there are major inefficiencies in the early stages of post-secondary education, and if "leavers" might benefit from alternative educational pathways. Information is critically needed to assess the magnitude of persons leaving the country upon graduation to understand the

factors involved and to develop policies on the issue of the “brain-drain” - a growing policy concern relating to Canada’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Planned activities

The results of the National Graduate Survey (NGS) follow-up of the 1995 cohort of graduates will be analyzed and disseminated.

A new survey, the Postsecondary Participation Survey (PPS), will be conducted as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey in February 2002. The PPS will provide information on post-secondary participation, post-secondary leavers and graduates, student debtload and repayment. Key content areas of PPS include:

- access to post-secondary education, and retention of post-secondary students
- indicators of student debt and repayment to facilitate monitoring of the Canada Student Loans Program.

- Life Skills Survey

As Canada’s economy and society change to become more knowledge-based, Canadians will face a new set of transition and adjustment challenges. The purpose of the International Life Skills Survey (ILSS) is to directly assess, via cognitive measures, the performance of adults aged 16 to 65 in the skill domains of *prose literacy*, *document literacy*, *numeracy*, and *problem solving*. The results will establish the level of skills among Canada’s working age population and will enable international comparisons. The project will be developed jointly with the OECD, thereby permitting the design and calibration of a series of generic tests to measure the aforementioned skills.

Planned activities

The OECD’s Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) report, which Statistics Canada will help coordinate and publish, is scheduled for release in October 2001. The first Canadian report on the age 15 cohort is expected in early 2002. It will explore findings from both the Youth in Transition Survey and PISA. Results for the 18-20 year olds cohort are expected towards the end of 2001. Over the next two years the major steps will be: linking and analyzing the national and international data; reviewing the main assessment tools; drafting an international comparative report; releasing the international microdata; and, completing and publishing the International Life Skill Survey comparative report and monograph.

- Changing Life Paths and Time Allocation

One of the major gaps in federal policy research identified by the federal Policy Research Initiative (PRI) concerns the life path and time allocation patterns of Canadians, how these patterns have been changing and what the impacts of these changes are. In particular, the PRI noted that “The way Canadians allocate their time to key life activities affects current and future production, the quality of care provided to children, the quality of life of individuals and families and the

strength of local communities. The consequences of family ‘time crunch’ and the changing nature of the world of work need to be monitored and better understood. More needs to be known about family preferences in balancing work, learning, leisure and caring activities.” The LifePaths project is an innovative effort to integrate data from across a variety of Statistics Canada data sources. The objective is to construct a statistical picture of the way Canadians spend their time, and the activities in which engage, over their lifetimes.

Planned activities

The project is reaching a key milestone with the public release by the end of the 2000/2001 fiscal year of the core model. The software and documentation will be available on Statistics Canada’s web site.

With the completion of the core model, activities are planned in three major directions. First is the production of a stream of analytical studies. Some of these reflect the analysis that has gone in building the model. For example, one analysis has developed cohort trends in union formation and dissolution propensities by comparing/combining the 1995 GSS and 1984 Family History Survey.

The second planned set of activities is further extensions to the model’s capabilities, for example income tax and cash transfer program modules, and a module for personal saving. These are particularly important for analysis of population aging and retirement income prospects.

The third set of activities involves working with our client departments, particularly HRDC. One area of interest is projecting the effects of population aging.

- Survey of Financial Security (SFS)

The Survey of Financial Security will provide information on the net worth of Canadians, that is, the value of our assets less our debts. In particular, this project will enable a better understanding of:

- the types of assets and debts held by Canadian individuals and families;
- the manner in which wealth is distributed among the Canadian population;
- the profile of Canadians holding different types of assets and debts;
- the changes in asset and debt holdings over the life-cycle;
- future consumption capabilities of Canadians and their potential financial vulnerability, particularly if facing unforeseen events such as a reduction in income;
- the extent to which individuals' current assets will provide them with an income during retirement;
- the relationship between income and wealth;
- the extent to which assets are being, or could be, transferred from one generation to the next; and
- the impact of student loans on students and their families.

Planned activities

Because of the complexity and the amount of collected and derived information, it has been suggested that data be released in two steps. A first release of the assets and debts data is planned for March 2001. The release will include most of the assets and debts components (with the exclusion of the information related to pensions). The release will also include a comparison of assets and debts of Canadians through time (comparing the 1999 survey with the 1984 survey).

A comparison of the SFS with aggregates from the System of National Accounts will be pursued and a paper reconciling the two sources of information (and explaining potential differences) is scheduled to be released in March 2001. Other research papers are expected later in the year.

A consultation paper will be issued to stakeholders explaining the proposed methodology to estimate a value of pensions. Comments from the consultation paper are expected by March 2001. In 2001/2002 the methodology will be adjusted accordingly and a value of pension will be calculated in order to release the second part of the data by the early fall.

Activities for future years include the processing of the data on pension and the creation of a public use microdata file, and support to researchers.

- Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS)

The project consists of establishing a national database of individual student records at all levels of education, kindergarten through post-secondary, public and private. Such information will provide for the analysis of student mobility and pathways over time, from one level of education to another, across institutions and jurisdictions as well as more in depth analysis of factors associated with education and labour market outcomes.

Planned activities

In 2001/2002 post-secondary student information included in the database up to now will be analyzed to illustrate the potential of ESIS, and thus encourage other jurisdictions to participate fully.

The project will address the following challenges in subsequent years:

- implementing the Classification of Instructional Programs, which is a much more detailed and modernised classification system of major field of study than is currently in place;
- overcoming privacy concerns in some jurisdictions;
- implementing systems changes in institutions to allow them to report data in ESIS mode; and
- addressing conceptual coverage issues.

- Education and Training Services Industry

The Education and Training Services (ETS) industry is a complex sector comprised of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the training arms of companies in other industrial sectors (e.g. telecommunications, health care, multimedia), and the commercial activities of colleges, universities and school boards. The sector represents a growing component of the supply of education and training in Canada. However, existing data collection projects offer little information on ETS industries or their role in the export market.

Under the Canadian Government's Policy Research Initiative, a project entitled *Education and Training Services Industry Data* was approved in June 1999, to address these data gaps, with funding allocations over a four-year period.

Planned activities

Specific plans for the next two years are still being discussed with interested departments (Industry Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Department of Canadian Heritage).

Activities in support of Global Challenges and Opportunities information needs

The projects which fall under this heading are of a more global nature and thus are not readily classifiable in any of the preceding headings:

- International Merchandise Trade Data Reconciliation and Improvement

Two factors in the development of Canada's trade policy that require a better understanding are reconciliations with major trading partners and the characteristics of our exporting community. Mutually-agreed trade data are a prerequisite for trade negotiations. This project will consist of reconciling, with Canada's major trading partners, the bilateral trade flows on an annual basis. In addition, a population of exporters will be developed and maintained over time. This will allow analysis, over time, of our exporters in terms of who they are, what they export and where. Such information is a key component to monitor and focus trade promotion activities.

Planned activities

In 2001/2002, on the reconciliation front, work will continue with the European Union for 1998 and 1999 data as well as with Mexico for 1999 and possibly 2000 data. Negotiations will be undertaken with Japan and Korea. Regarding the exporter community, information on 1998 and 1999 will be produced. From then on information will be produced on an annual basis. A number of interesting analytical issues will be developed using the longitudinal data from 1993 to 1999. The exporter register will then serve as a frame to conduct surveys of segments of the exporting population.

2. The Development of the Health Roadmap Initiative

The Health Roadmap Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), Statistics Canada, Health Canada and a number of groups within the health community. The outcome of this initiative aims to:

- provide much better information on major current and emerging health issues;
- address problems of fragmented or incomplete data;
- improve the analysis of health information being captured; and
- more broadly disseminate health information to realize its potential for improving the health of Canadians and their health care system.

This initiative involves the establishment of new databases or the expansion of existing information to better understand emerging issues in health care. The initiative through its various projects will also result in better data, technical standards for gathering information and ensuring privacy, and a series of broad indicators on health and its determinants for the use of both the general public and managers in the health system.

Projects include:

- the launching of the Canadian Community Health Survey which will provide cross-sectional estimates of health determinants, risk factors, health status and health system utilization not only at the national and provincial levels, but also for sub-provincial community health regions across Canada;
- the development of person-oriented datasets which integrate health care data with information on health status and the outcomes of medical treatment;
- the enhancement of the Canadian Cancer Registry to accept additional data (diagnostic detail, particularly staging, medical, surgical and therapeutic interventions, as well as associated costs and outcomes) to support analysis of survival;
- the further development of Vital Statistics to improve the accuracy, timeliness and quality of the data and enhance the capability to use birth and mortality data in the development of health outcome information; and
- the development of a time-series with description of important health-related measures by age, sex and geography, by category (non-medical determinants of health; health status, health system usage; demographic characteristics; and economic characteristics).

Funding for this project ends in two years. The recent First Minister's Health Accord included a commitment to "report regularly to Canadians on health status, health outcomes, and the performance of publicly funded health services". Negotiations and discussions with interested parties will continue as secure funding is required to sustain the initiative as well as to address gaps that have been identified since the onset of the activities. These gaps include regular collection of data on institutional residents and the increasing variety of health service providers.

3. *Canadian Initiative on Social Statistics*

The Canadian Initiative on Social Statistics (CISS) is a co-operative project of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and Statistics Canada.

Statistics Canada possesses comprehensive data sets that provide the country with an excellent statistical base of information on critical social and socio-economic issues. These include, among others, an exploration of the factors that determine child development, survey results that shed light on the accumulating pension rights of Canadians, the impact of competitive business practices on employees, the factors that determine the health of Canadians, and the incidence of crime and its impact on victims and society. The three key objectives of this project are to:

- promote research and training that make extensive use of social statistics;
- facilitate access to Statistics Canada's detailed micro-data (but where confidentiality will be maintained in accord with the Statistics Act) through the implementation of data centres across Canada; and
- maximize the research and public policy interface.

The plan calls for the establishment of a series of university-based sites that are essentially extensions of Statistics Canada and that operate under the same strict security provisions (each centre will have a full-time Statistics Canada employee on site at all times). Researchers using the data will have to apply to a SSHRC-led committee that includes a representative from Statistics Canada. If approved, the researcher will be sworn in under the *Statistics Act* and will then access the data with the same security provisions established for the Agency's own employees. Any aggregate data physically removed from secure areas will be carefully screened to ensure confidentiality.

The researcher would also write a report based on the results of the research, which would be subject to Statistics Canada's rigorous peer and institutional reviews. This will foster the use of Canadian data in current research initiatives and thus contribute to a better understanding of factors at play in emerging socio-economic dynamics.

Nine research data centres will be opened at various universities over the next eighteen months. The first one opened at McMaster University in December 2000.

4. *Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participation and Voluntary Sector Satellite Accounts in the Canadian System of National Accounts*

- National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating

In March 1999 the federal government convened a series of joint tables bringing together government officials and voluntary sector representatives to determine how best to lend federal support to the voluntary sector. The report of these deliberations, "Working Together" recommended, among other things, that the 1997 Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participation be repeated and, as such, Statistics Canada will conduct the survey every three years starting in 2000. The

survey will also have an annual longitudinal aspect as a small group will be followed in the intervening years.

The 2000 survey is being conducted in a radically different economic context from that of 1997. The survey will provide a unique opportunity to investigate the effects of general economic conditions on both volunteering and giving behaviours. The longitudinal panel should allow us to understand for the first time flows into and out of volunteering and giving activity. Results of the survey should be available in August 2001.

- Voluntary Sector Satellite Accounts in the Canadian System of National Accounts
The System of National Accounts provides a framework for the development of sets of accounts to estimate the size and impact of various aspects of Canadian economic life in relation to the rest of the economy. The voluntary sector refers to non-profit organizations dependent on volunteers (at least for their governance) and on financial support from individuals, businesses or governments to deliver goods and services of public benefit. International standards for national accounting offer guidelines regarding the treatment and classification of these organizations. In addition, because the sector is highly dependent on unpaid work, the standard accounts must be extended to include the value of the volunteer effort to the economy.

The project will be undertaken in stages. In 2000/2001, provisional estimates of the accounts using existing data sources are being prepared and assessed for completeness, quality and consistency and for possible improvement in quality through investment in the edit and imputation of existing sources. Results at the end of the year will include provisional accounts and two reports; one outlining the results of the quality assessment, the second providing descriptive analysis of the voluntary sector.

Methodological improvement to augment the quality of the estimates so that the sector becomes a regular part of the national accounts production process will be undertaken in 2001/2002. The work will involve negotiations with other departments such as CCRA and Treasury Board to work on the quality of the administrative records used in the preliminary stage of the project. The project will become part of the ongoing program in 2002/2003.

C. The maintenance of a national statistical knowledge infrastructure

Statistics Canada must continually strive to ensure that the information it produces is timely, accurate and of high quality. Of equal importance is the need to ensure that the means by which Canadians communicate with the Agency are as practical and user friendly as possible. The Agency will continue to undertake initiatives aimed at controlling the burden it places on respondents, by exploring new ways of making use of information holdings, and by developing and testing modern methods and technologies to alleviate burdensome reporting. The Agency actively participates in “Results for

Canadians”, a government initiative that seeks to attain the same goals. The following summarizes some of the Agency’s plans in this area over the next three years.

1. Controlling Response Burden

Statistics Canada is mindful that its demands for information involve significant time and effort on the part of survey respondents. The following initiatives are examples of the Agency’s continued efforts to control the burden it places on respondents through the use of alternative means of data collection.

- The development of the Unified Enterprise Survey

Statistics Canada is redesigning its entire framework for conducting business surveys. To avoid duplication of survey activities, most annual business surveys will continue to be integrated into a single master survey program called the Unified Enterprise Survey (UES). Moreover, the UES will collect more industry and commodity detail at the provincial level than was previously possible and will avoid overlap between different survey questionnaires.

In the area of response burden, the Agency will continue to monitor and limit the amount of survey burden it places on businesses, especially smaller businesses, to make it as simple, flexible and low-cost as possible for businesses to provide the information that is required.

Several new electronic data reporting approaches will be tested in an effort to find simpler and cheaper means for businesses to supply needed data. The Agency will continue in its efforts to consult with business respondents and their trade associations on measures to lighten the reporting burden. Survey methodologies have been devised that permit very small enterprises to be excluded altogether from Statistics Canada business surveys.

To further ensure that the reporting burden resulting from questionnaires is as low as possible, a working group will continue reviewing business survey strategies. Issues such as avoidable duplication or low priority questions on survey questionnaires, using alternative information sources, and ensuring that questionnaires adopt terminology and concepts that are consistent with the way businesses keep their books will be addressed.

- The development of new administrative data

Another way to ease response burden is to use administrative data that have already been compiled from other sources. Often, these data come from other federal agencies or departments, or other levels of government, who gather the information for their own program requirements.

Statistics Canada will continue to aggressively pursue new sources of administrative data and be proactive in establishing agreements to share such information to reduce the need to conduct more surveys. Some sources, such as

the General Index of Financial Information (GIFI), the Goods and Services Tax (GST) file and the payroll tax deduction system have been identified, analyzed and will be integrated into the statistical system. These sources are compatible with Statistics Canada surveys and as such can be used to supplement survey data and enable the Agency to better comprehend the socio-economic structure of the Canadian society. In future years, Statistics Canada will continue to search for additional administrative sources to fill its information needs.

2. Results for Canadians

Statistics Canada fully supports the Government's commitments set out in "Results for Canadians". All of the plans enumerated in this Section of the report contribute to either "Citizen-centred Service Delivery" or "Government On-Line" or to both. Examples include the Development of the Survey Research Program where very relevant information is provided to lead policy departments to permit an improved policy focus on citizen needs. The Health Roadmap initiative will achieve similar results, while the development of the Unified Enterprise Survey brings a one-stop approach to business survey respondents.

- **Government On-line**

Statistics Canada views Government On-line as offering many benefits in reaching its objectives: improving service delivery, optimizing access to the Agency's information, cultivating partnerships, communicating with stakeholders, exploiting new technologies for data collection and finally enhancing the Agency's image and brand. Specifically, Government On-line offers the Agency the opportunity to perform better against the criteria which have been established to measure its performance: relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, interpretability and coherence.

The following three key services will be the focus of attention over the planning period.

- **Information Dissemination and Communication:** In 1995, Statistics Canada incorporated its Web site, www.statcan.ca, as a key element to the realization of its Communications and Dissemination Strategy. Today, it has become the Agency's principal channel for the official release of statistical information and for serving information users. A number of projects have been identified to further extend the use of the online channel. These include the creation of CANSIM II, a central repository of all published and publishable data holdings, and of the Integrated Metadata Base, which fully describes Statistics Canada's data holdings, the quality of the data, the survey sources and the statistical outputs. The Agency will also extend Census Community Profiles to include a broad range of other sources including Health, Education, Justice, Agriculture, Place-of-Work, Labour Statistics and provide a mapping tool to allow cartographic display of socio-economic patterns and features such as roads, schools, hospitals and government buildings. One of the key objectives of Government On-line is to provide

access to information and services organized according to client needs. This is the driving principal behind the creation of the E-Clusters. Statistics Canada will contribute data to about 20 of the currently defined E-Cluster sites.

- **Collection of Statistical Information:** Statistics Canada has begun to introduce an online channel for information collection. This area is at a much earlier stage of development due to the need for a secure channel that will provide the necessary assurance of privacy and confidentiality to respondents. Activities planned include a number of pilot studies, which will develop the tools required to conduct survey data collection online. The studies will also be used to assess issues such as respondents' readiness and willingness to use the online channel and the implications for data quality. At present, however, there is an uneven public take-up of the Internet as respondents are not all ready to complete surveys online. Existing collection methods must therefore be maintained while adding the Internet option.
- **Stakeholder Relationships:** In this area, Statistics Canada already makes extensive use of the online channel and will extend its use to improve the effectiveness of its many partnerships arrangements (see Section VI, part B).

The Agency also plans to invest in its technical and administrative infrastructures to support the proposals for key services discussed above.

- Service Improvement Initiative

The Government of Canada has launched the Service Improvement Initiative as part of Citizen-centred Service Delivery. Statistics Canada fully supports this initiative and has been doing work in this area for a number of years.

The Agency has incorporated in its management practices over the years many aspects of the Service Improvement Initiative. These include: published Standards of Service to the public and audited adherence to these standards; a continuous assessment of the relevance of its published information; the conduct of market research on individual products and services, including its website; the conduct of employee opinion surveys; the establishment of a program to manage response burden; the conduct of training courses on customer service and the measurement of client satisfaction; and, the inclusion of a client feedback section in its Quadrennial Program Reports that are completed by all divisions.

As noted above, the Agency is continuously assessing the relevance of its published information and conducting market research on individual products and services. More recently a number of market research studies and market tests were undertaken to better understand the needs of information users. These included:

- a study of the impact on clients of the conversion of print publications to the Internet;
- a study on a new electronic publishing format; and
- a user evaluation of E-STAT, a product developed for use in secondary schools.

Statistics Canada's Web site has emerged as critically important in enabling the Agency to achieve its public access objectives, as well as in delivering commercial services. The evolution of the site and its strong public profile owes much to a number of market research projects in which user feedback on site design, content and tools available to visitors was solicited and measured. This research included two omnibus surveys conducted in 1997 and 1999 that also measured visitors' level of satisfaction with the site. Market research will continue as service opportunities develop and expand.

In light of the growing importance and profile that are being given to the improvement of services to Canadians, the Agency will, over the planning horizon, continue to refine its current practices in the spirit of Client-centred Service Delivery.

Particular attention will be on the application of the common measurement tool suggested by architects of the initiative in future web satisfaction research.

Census of Population Business Line

3.1.1 Objective

The objective of this business line is to provide statistical information on the Canadian population, its demographic characteristics and conditions, and their changes over time.

3.1.2 Description

This business line provides statistical information from the quinquennial Census of Population. The Census provides benchmark information on the structure of the Canadian population and its demographic, social and economic conditions. It provides the detailed information on subgroups of the population and for small geographic areas, which cannot be generated through sample surveys. Estimates of the size of the population and its demographic structure between Censuses, as well as population projections, are dependent on Census information.

Population counts and estimates are required to determine electoral boundaries, the distribution of federal transfer payments, and the transfer and allocation of funds among regional and municipal governments, school boards and other local agencies within provinces.

Population Counts to determine:

- *electoral boundaries*
- *transfer payments*
- *municipal allocation of funds*

3.1.3 Net Planned Spending² (\$millions) and Full Time Equivalent² (FTEs)

Forecast Spending 2000-2001 ¹	Planned Spending 2001-2002	Planned Spending 2002-2003	Planned Spending 2003-2004
\$122.3	\$218.3	\$34.8	\$18.9
1,573 FTE	1,317 FTE	610 FTE	454 FTE

¹ Reflects the best forecast of planned spending to the end of the fiscal year.

² The Census, by law (the Statistics Act), must be taken every five years. The decennial Census of Population is required by the Constitution as well as by the Statistics Act in every year ending in the number one, such as 2001. An entire cycle of activities for the Censuses of Population, from developing content and questionnaires to collecting, processing, and disseminating data, takes eight years to complete. Thus, the census cycles and funding requirements overlap each other, the completion of one census program taking place simultaneously with the development and consultation activities of the next.

3.2 Key Results Commitments, Planned Results, Related Activities and Resources

To provide Canadians with:	Planned Results:	Related Activities:	Resources 2001/02 \$millions
<p>Objective and non-partisan statistics that provide measures of various aspects of Canada's economy and society which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant to policy formulation and decision making; • responsive to emerging issues; • of high quality. <p>And which contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the fulfillment of legal requirements; • informing Canadians about current and emerging economic and social issues; • the maintenance of a national statistical knowledge infrastructure. 	<p>Demographic information on Canada's population.</p>	<p>Collection, tabulation and analysis of the 2001 census.</p> <p>Initial Planning for the 2006 census.</p>	<p>199.6</p>

2001 Census

The 2001 Census will be conducted basically in the same manner as in previous censuses. However, in two test sites, London, Ontario and in a rural area near Edmonton, Alberta, respondents will be offered the option of filling out and returning their questionnaires using the Internet. This option will also be offered as an alternative medium to CNIB members and to respondents expressing privacy concerns. Final preparations leading up to Census Day, May 15, 2001 continue. These preparations focus mainly on the following activities:

- Early enumeration in northern and remote areas will take place in early March 2001;
- Census questionnaires have been printed and shipped to the regional census warehouses;
- The recruitment and training of collection staff will continue through the next few months, e.g., Census Commissioners, Census Representatives, etc.
- Drop-off in mail-back areas will begin May 1 until May 12, 2001;
- The publicity campaign promoting the Census will intensify its activities during April and May 2001;
- Non-response follow-up in the Field will be completed in July 2001;
- Data capture operations in CCRA sites will begin in mid-June 2001 and end in October 2001;
- Coding and editing operations will begin in the summer of 2001 to be completed by the fall of 2002;
- Release of the population and dwelling counts will take place in March 2002. Other results from the 2001 Census will be released gradually between the summer of 2002 and the spring of 2004 using various media such as Internet, CD-ROMs, press releases and publications; and
- Release of the 2001 Census coverage studies estimates will take place in the spring of 2003. Population Estimates will then be re-calculated using these estimates and the 2001 Census results.

An estimated \$42 billion will be reallocated (Federal/Provincial Fiscal Arrangements) based on the 2001 Census results.

2006 Census

Developmental activities for the 2006 Census of Population will begin in 2002. The planning process has concentrated on resolutions to anticipated challenges in data collection. Issues at the forefront include privacy and the “local enumerator”; the presence of an Internet filing option; and, the manner in which questionnaires from all Canadian households can be processed as cost-effectively as possible. A proposal to reengineer the way the Agency collects and processes the census was finalized. The proposed methodology consists of developing an address register (AR) covering all parts of Canada where civic addressing is used. Questionnaires could then be mailed out to householders and returned by mail to a central office. The Agency will be devoting energy over the next three years to putting in place the necessary mechanisms to allow the transition to this new Census methodology.

SECTION IV: JOINT INITIATIVES

4.1 Collective Initiatives

Statistics Canada, by the nature of its mandate, does not play a direct role in policy development. However, as described earlier in this report, one of the Agency's primary objectives is "to provide statistical information and analysis of the economic and social structure and functioning of Canadian society as a basis for the development, operation and evaluation of public policies and programs, for public and private decision-making and for the general benefit of all Canadians".

The Agency does play a central role in enlightening public policy discussion. Many of the current domestic issues are discussed and assessed using Statistics Canada data and analyses. The *Speech from the Throne* of 1999 identified eight issues: children, youth, dynamic economy, health, environment, stronger communities, Aboriginal Peoples and Canada's place in the world, every one of which has been, and continues to be, illuminated by the Agency's products. The Agency's data helped to quantify the issues, and its objective analyses made a significant contribution to the identification of potential options or solutions.

Another example of how the Agency seeks to enlighten public policy discussion is our participation in the Government's Policy Research Initiative (PRI). In July 1996, the Policy Research Committee (PRC) was established as part of a review by the Privy Council Office (Canada 2005 project) to understand the policy environment over the medium term and to begin planning for the next decade. The PRC identified four broad areas of current and emerging policy concerns – *the knowledge-based economy, economic growth, social cohesion and human development* (a fifth area, *global challenges and opportunities*, was added later). Statistics Canada continues its development activities on a number of new survey initiatives that respond to the research challenges and statistical information gaps identified by the Policy Research Committee. These new initiatives are being developed to address the specific research priorities and information needs identified and provide an integrated and coherent program response. Here are collective initiatives for which the Agency has specifically received partnership funding:

Collective Initiative	Key Result Commitment	Leading Department	Planned Results
Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Statistical Training of Aboriginal People	To provide information on Aboriginal populations and socio-economic circumstances, and to provide statistical training of Aboriginal People.	INAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on Aboriginal populations and socio-economic circumstances is produced. Aboriginals are recruited and trained
Statistical Data Gaps Policy Research Initiative (Data Gaps II)	To consolidate and further develop a survey research program in response to PRDG decisions regarding high-priority policy research information gaps.	PRDG ¹	Information to meet emerging issues and new challenges in response to the PRI is provided.

¹The PRDG is comprised of a number of key departments for which data gap information is required. These include Industry Canada, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Health Canada, Justice Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canadian Heritage, Finance Canada and Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

SECTION V: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Table 5.1:

Statistics Canada

Source of Respendable and Non-respendable Revenue

Respendable Revenue

(\$ millions)	Forecast Revenue 2000-2001	Planned Revenue 2001-2002	Planned Revenue 2002-2003	Planned Revenue 2003-2004
Economic and Social Statistics	75.6	75.6	55.9	55.9
Census of Population Statistics	12.3	12.3	13.3	13.3
Total Respendable	87.9	87.9	69.2	69.2

Non-respendable Revenue

(\$ millions)	Forecast Revenue 2000-2001	Planned Revenue 2001-2002	Planned Revenue 2002-2003	Planned Revenue 2003-2004
Economic and Social Statistics Special statistical services	2.5	0.8	0.8	0.8
Total Non-respendable Revenue	2.5	0.8	0.8	0.8
Total Respendable and Non-respendable Revenue	90.4	88.7	70.0	70.0

Table 5.2.

Statistics Canada

Net Cost of Program for the Estimates Year

(\$ millions)	Planned Spending 2001-2002
Net Planned Spending	547.3
Plus: Services Received without Charge <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="334 709 992 779">• Accommodation provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)<li data-bbox="334 827 992 932">• Contributions covering employers' share of insurance premiums and costs paid by Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS)<li data-bbox="334 974 992 1043">• Workman's compensation coverage provided by Human Resources Development Canada<li data-bbox="334 1089 943 1159">• Salary and associated costs of legal services provided by Justice Canada	23.4 23.7 0.3 0.1 47.5
<i>Less: Non-responsible Revenue</i>	0.8
2001-2002 Net Cost of Program	594.0

Table 5.3.

Statistics Canada

Summary of Transfer Payments

(\$ millions)	Forecast Spending 2000-2001	Planned Spending 2001-2002	Planned Spending 2002-2003	Planned Spending 2003-2004
GRANTS				
Economic and Social Statistics	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Census of Population Statistics	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRIBUTIONS				
Economic and Social Statistics	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Census of Population Statistics	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Contributions	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
OTHER TRANSFER PAYMENTS				
Economic and Social Statistics	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Census of Population Statistics	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Other Transfer Payments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Transfer Payments	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

SECTION VI: OTHER INFORMATION

A. Legislated Requirements

In addition to the Statistics Act, the following Federal Acts give the Chief Statistician or Statistics Canada responsibility for the collection or provision of specific information:

Banks and Banking Law Revision Act, 1980
Canada Council Act
Canada Elections Act
Canada Pension Plan Act
Canada Student Loans Act
Children's of Deceased Veterans Education Assistance Act
Children's Special Allowances Act
Competition Act
Constitution Act
Corporations Returns Act
Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act
Excise Tax Act
Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977
Employment Equity Act
Income Tax Act
Judges Act
Municipal Grants Act
Official Languages Act
Old Age Security Act
Pension Act
Parliament of Canada Act
Railway Relocation and Crossing Act
Salaries Act
Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act

B. Relevance, Stakeholders and Uses

B.1 Relevance

Statistics Canada relies on many ongoing mechanisms which contribute to the assessment of the Agency's overall program. Given their nature and the breadth of their review, the impact of the advice received in the course of time affects virtually all Statistics Canada's programs. Consultation and advice is provided by the following mechanisms.

The National Statistics Council

The National Statistics Council advises the Chief Statistician of Canada on the full range of Statistics Canada's activities, particularly on overall program priorities.

Professional Advisory Committees

A network of Professional Advisory Committees in major subject areas ensures the continuous review of the Agency's statistical outputs and helps set priorities and foster program relevance.

***Ensuring
relevance
through
consultation***

Bilateral Relationships with Key Federal Departments

Statistics Canada maintains, on a continuing basis, a close bilateral relationship with key federal departments and agencies, including Industry, Health, Human Resources Development, Environment, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Transport, the Canadian Transportation Agency, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Indian and Northern Affairs, Heritage, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Citizenship and Immigration and Justice. These bilateral relationships foster an awareness of each department's needs and their information priorities.

Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy (and its subcommittees)

This Council and its subcommittees comprise a network of 13 provincial/territorial official representatives, who collaborate with Statistics Canada to determine data requirements, consult on current statistical activities and coordinate the dissemination of Statistics Canada products to provincial and territorial governments.

In the last instance, three special initiatives in the areas of health, education and justice statistics warrant mention.

Health: Statistics Canada priorities are developed with the assistance of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Institute for Health Information. The Board comprises senior federal, provincial and private sector representatives including the Chief Statistician.

Education: the Canadian Education Statistics Council is a joint creation of Statistics Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. The Council, comprising the Chief Statistician and Provincial/Territorial Deputy

Ministers of Education, advises the Chief Statistician on the Education Statistics Program at Statistics Canada.

Justice: The Justice Information Council comprises federal and provincial Deputy Ministers responsible for justice policies and programs and the Chief Statistician, and provides advice to the Chief Statistician on the Justice Statistics Program at the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics within Statistics Canada.

In addition to these consultation mechanisms, the Agency conducts special program reviews (featuring focus groups or special consultations during program re-designs) to monitor the continued relevance of its products and to enhance its understanding of client needs.

B.2 Stakeholders and Uses

Stakeholders : The operations and priorities of Statistics Canada must satisfy a very broad range of interests – key federal and provincial users, a multiplicity of other users, respondents, and other agencies whose administrative data are a major information source. The Agency’s specific stakeholders include the following groups.

- **Public and Media:** Statistics Canada’s basic information on Canadian society – economic growth, employment, inflation, balance of payments, population, family income, health, education, justice, and a host of other subjects – is communicated to the public largely through the media.
- **Government:** Most federal departments and agencies are major users of Statistics Canada data and several are also important suppliers of administrative data to the Agency. Intensive bilateral arrangements are in place to ensure an effective flow of information. Provincial and territorial governments, like the federal government, are heavily dependent on Statistics Canada data over the entire range of subjects covered by the Agency; they are also major suppliers of data on health, education and justice.
- **Businesses and Labour Unions:** Businesses and labour unions are important sources and users of the Agency’s information. The burden of surveys on the business community continues to be an important factor in the design of statistical programs. A multiplicity of communication channels is maintained with this sector, including close collaboration with small businesses.
- **Academic Sector:** For both research and pedagogical purposes, the academic sector is a significant user of Statistics Canada data and is also a prime source of advice to the Agency.
- **Foreign and International Bodies:** Statistics Canada maintains extensive contacts with international, scientific and intergovernmental organizations, to share professional expertise and to promote common concepts, standards and practices. Canada’s membership in international organizations, such as the United Nations and

the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, requires that the program's outputs meet international standards to ensure that Canadian data continues to be comparable with those of other countries.

- **Other client groups:** There are many other users of Statistics Canada's data whose interests have to be borne in mind; for example, regional and local governments, public libraries, professional associations, research institutes and special interest groups.

Uses: The relevance of the Agency's statistical information to stakeholders is demonstrated by the uses made of it. Information is used to:

- **analyze** economic performance;
- **develop** fiscal, monetary, and foreign exchange policies;
- **shape** international tariffs and trade negotiations;
- **develop** policies and programs to assist small businesses;
- **support** policy development and evaluate government programs on economic and social well-being;
- **improve** allocation of government program funding by determining their social and economic effects;
- **support** the regulatory and legislative requirements of government;
- **draw** electoral boundaries;
- **determine** equalization payments and other federal-provincial fiscal transfers;
- **adjust** inflation-indexed contracts and entitlements;
- **develop** programs to promote domestic and international competitiveness;
- **support** immigration policies and programs;
- **support** tourism strategies and programs;
- **assess** the cost-effectiveness of health care and education programs; and
- **monitor** the justice system's effectiveness and efficiency.