

Aboriginal Labour Force Characteristics from the 1996 Census

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Notes to User

This publication presents data from the 1996 Census of Population (Census). The Census is the only official source that provides a comprehensive survey of the Aboriginal labour force. Other sources, such as Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*, do not include reserves or the North. Thus, this publication provides an important snapshot of the Aboriginal labour force.

The 1996 Census and Aboriginal Data

The 1996 Census introduced several changes to the questions pertaining to the Aboriginal population asked in the 1991 Census. The changes have allowed for multiple definitions of the Aboriginal population, each with different population counts. Users of census data should understand the differences in definitions between census years, which in turn affect the comparability of the Total Aboriginal, Inuit, Métis, and North American Indian populations across censuses.

The difference in counts arises in 1996 with the inclusion of a new question of Aboriginal Identity (Q18), in addition to the Ethnic Origin (Q17), Band Membership (Q20) and Registered Indian (Q21) questions asked in 1991. 1996 Identity based data cannot be compared directly with the ancestry/origin based data from previous censuses.¹

Prior to 1996, counts of Aboriginal persons were derived primarily from a question that asked respondents about their ancestry. In both the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, respondents were asked: "To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong?". In 1991, 15 of the most frequent origins were listed and respondents were asked to mark as many as were applicable. In addition, two blank spaces were provided for other responses, and several other origins were provided as examples. In 1996, the questionnaire did not provide a list of answer categories, and instead provided four blank spaces for respondents to write in their origins. Examples of origins were provided as illustrations, and for the first time, "Canadian" was included among the examples. These modifications, in particular the inclusion of "Canadian" resulted in a major change in the way ethnic origins were reported. The number of "Canadian" responses was high, suggesting that respondents who had previously considered themselves of alternative ancestry were choosing Canadian origin in 1996.² This may have had an impact on the pattern of responses for Aboriginal origins.

As explained above, the 1996 Census includes a new lens to view the Aboriginal population. This lens is "identity", measured by responses to the question, "Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit

¹Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, January 13, 1998, Catalogue no. 11-001E.

²Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, January 13, 1998, Catalogue no. 11-001E.

(Eskimo)?"(Q18). North American Indian (NAI), Métis, and Inuit were the printed choices given, with the instruction to mark the circle(s) that best apply. From this question population counts were obtained for NAI only, Métis only, and Inuit only, as well as those who claimed multiple Aboriginal identities.

Understanding the Differences in Aboriginal Population Counts

The definition of Aboriginal used by INAC (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) in this publication combines answers from all four "Aboriginal" questions asked in the 1996 Census. According to this definition, the total Aboriginal Population in Canada is 1,170,190. Aboriginal refers to those who reported themselves as Treaty Indians or Registered Indians (Q21), *and/or* as having Aboriginal identity (i.e. North American Indian, Inuit, or Métis) (Q18), *and/or* with one or more Aboriginal ethnic origins (Q17), *and/or* having membership in an Indian Band or First Nation (Q20).

In their January 13, 1998 release of Aboriginal data, Statistics Canada reports an Aboriginal population of 799,010. This population is referred to as the Aboriginal Identity Population, and is derived from responses to three questions on the 1996 Census form. It includes those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo) (Q18) *and/or* who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian (Q21) *and/or* who reported they were members of an Indian Band or First Nation (Q20).¹ The ancestry based data (Q17) was not used.

The data from the 1996 Census indicates that although respondents may claim Aboriginal ancestry (Q17), they may not identify themselves as Aboriginal (Q18). Statistics Canada did not include this population in its Aboriginal population count. INAC, however, continues to include this population in its Aboriginal figure, resulting in a difference of 371,180 people.

Understanding the Differences in Registered Indian Population Counts

The 1996 Census reported approximately 488,000 Registered Indians. The Indian Register, which is maintained by INAC, recorded approximately 601,000 for the same year. Several reasons explain these differences, including conceptual differences as well as incomplete enumeration and undercoverage on the part of the 1996 Census.

¹Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, January 13, 1998, Catalogue no. 11-001E.

One difference in methodology arises from the different purpose and time line of the two federal counts. Chapter I, Section 5 (1) of the *Indian Act* requires that the name of every person entitled to be a Registered Indian be recorded and maintained by INAC. Roll-ups for the Register are completed as of December 31.

In contrast, the *Statistics Act (1971)* directs the Chief Statistician of Canada to undertake a comprehensive census of the population on a decennial basis. Additionally, a five year census of reduced scope and breadth is also required. The 1996 Census took place during February and March in remote communities in the North, and on May 14th in the rest of Canada. Thus, an additional six months of life events (births and deaths) for Registered Indians was captured by the Register and missed by the Census.

A second methodological difference arises from the source of data. The Indian Register operates on the basis of registry groups, which maintain and update their links with individual Registered Indians continuously throughout the year. The Indian Register covers all Registered Indians, regardless of their locations or living arrangements. (There is a reporting lag, however, between the occurrence of a given life event and its report and recording in the Indian Register.) In contrast, the census is a self-reporting survey that takes place once every five years. Census data covers only the population in private households and those present in Canada on Census Day.

Finally, the 1996 Census experienced incomplete enumeration and undercoverage with several reserves, which accounts for most of the difference between the Census count and that produced by the Indian Register.¹ In the 1996 Census, there were an estimated 44,000 people living on those reserves, primarily Registered Indians, resulting in under representation of the on-reserve Registered Indian population.

Differences in On-reserve Population Counts

What constitutes “on-reserve” differs for INAC and Statistics Canada. The differences are the result of including different geographic units as part of the “on-reserve” total. When INAC formulates its on-reserve count, it includes the population on reserves, as well as those living on Crown Land and other areas under INAC jurisdiction. Statistics Canada compiles the on-reserve count by including only certain municipality types, resulting in different on-reserve counts.

INAC Census Core Tabulations

The socio-economic indicators presented in this report were derived from 1996 Census Core Tabulations prepared for INAC by Statistics Canada. These data use INAC’s definitions of “Aboriginal” and “on-reserve” and are used in INAC publications.

¹Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, January 13, 1998, Catalogue no. 11-001E.

The data maintained in INAC's census core tabulations are provided at various levels of census geography. These include census subdivisions, census metropolitan areas, provinces/territories and national aggregations. These terms are defined by Statistics Canada. INAC also maintains a custom geography by band and tribal council, which represents roll-ups of reserves as defined by INAC (census subdivisions).

This publication presents data for Northwest Territories by 1996 boundaries, as well as data for Nunavut and Northwest Territories by 1999 boundaries. Nunavut is the territory created on April 1, 1999, when the former Northwest Territories was divided in two. Although the data in this publication are from the 1996 Census, it is possible to separate Nunavut and Northwest Territories to better reflect current geographic realities.

Significance of Rates

Labour force rates such as participation and unemployment may be affected by the size of the population. Rates based on a small population may be inflated. For instance, the North American Indian participation rate for Nunavut is 100%, but it is based on a population of only 15 people. Small populations are also subject to the effects of random rounding. Designed to protect confidentiality, this method is applied to all figures in a table, randomly rounding them up or down to a multiple of five or ten.¹ Thus the figures shown in a table may not represent the true population.

Definition of Terms

Labour Force (Census Definitions)²

Labour Force Activity: The population used for this variable is those aged 15 or more. Each person can be classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. Outside of the Census, this population is often termed the "working age population".

Total Labour Force: This variable refers to those aged 15 or more who are participating in the labour force. An individual may be either employed or unemployed.

Experienced Labour Force: Refers to persons 15 years of age and over, who were employed or unemployed during the week prior to Census Day, and who had last worked for pay or in self-employment in either 1995 or 1996.

Employed: Refers to persons 15 years of age and over, who worked for pay or self employment, or who were absent from their regular work during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day.

¹Statistics Canada. 1996 Census Dictionary. Ottawa: Industry Canada, 1999. 1996 Census of Canada. Catalogue # 92-351-UPE, pg. 253

²Statistics Canada. 1996 Census Dictionary. Ottawa: Industry Canada, 1999. 1996 Census of Canada. Catalogue # 92-351-UPE, pg. 44

Unemployed: Persons 15 years of age and over, who during the week prior to Census Day, were without paid work and were available for work; and had looked for work during the past four weeks, were temporarily laid off but expected to return to work, or had firm plans to start a new job in four weeks or less.

Unemployed Inexperienced: A sub-category of unemployed, this variable refers to those individuals who are looking for work, but had not worked in the full year prior to the Census.

Unemployed Experienced: The second sub-category of unemployed, this variable refers to those individuals unemployed as of one week before the 1996 Census, but who had been employed at some point during the full year prior to the Census.

Participation Rate: The participation rate determines the percentage of people who are currently in the labour force. It is derived from the total labour force as a percentage of the population 15 years and over.

Unemployment Rate: Determines the percentage of people who are actively seeking work but are unable to secure employment. It is obtained by taking the total unemployed population as a percentage of the total labour force.

Employment/ Population Ratio: Refers to the number of persons employed in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 and over.

Aboriginal Population: Terms Used in this Publication

Total Aboriginal Population: Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit(Q18) *and/or* those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada(Q21) *and/or* those with one or more aboriginal ethnic origins(Q17), *and/or* those who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation(Q20).

Registered Indians: A Registered Indian is a person registered or entitled to be registered as an Indian according to the *Indian Act*. In the 1996 Census, Statistics Canada observed this legal definition in Question 21. Thus the census data for Registered Indians refers to those who reported registry under the *Indian Act* of Canada. This count is distinct from the Indian Registry maintained by INAC, as noted in the discussion “understanding the differences in Registered Indian counts” above.

Inuit¹: An Aboriginal people in northern Canada, who live above the tree line in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec, and Labrador. The 1996 Census count refers to those respondents who were not Registered Indians and reported identifying as Inuit (Q18).

Métis¹: People of mixed First Nation and European ancestry who identify themselves as Métis people, as distinct from First Nations people, Inuit, or non-Aboriginal people. The 1996 Census count refers to those respondents who were not Registered Indians and reported identifying as Métis (Q18).

Other Aboriginal comprises several groups:

- Persons who were not registered but reported identifying as North American Indian (Q18); as well as persons who were not registered, did not identify as Aboriginal, did not report Aboriginal ancestry, but who did report band membership (Q20). Together these comprise 18.7%
- Persons who were not registered, did not identify as Aboriginal but who reported Aboriginal ancestry. These account for 80.5%.
- Persons who were not registered but who reported multiple Aboriginal identity. These account for 0.9%

Non-Aboriginal population: This group is comprised of the balance of Canadians who did not indicate themselves as Aboriginal people in any way.

¹INAC Information Sheet, *Definitions*, March 2000, http://www.inac.gc.ca/pr/info/index_e.html

Section 1:

Labour Force Characteristics
by Ethnic Designation

CANADA.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians			Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve				
Total - Labour Force Activity	771,010	312,405	148,150	164,250	23,260	123,070	312,275	21,857,915
Total labour force	486,515	169,390	76,305	93,090	13,955	81,180	221,990	14,326,185
Employed	389,700	123,345	54,365	68,975	10,960	65,155	190,245	12,929,040
Unemployed	96,810	46,045	21,935	24,110	2,995	16,025	31,745	1,397,150
Unemployed experienced	62,665	28,965	14,420	14,540	2,095	10,825	20,780	936,135
Unemployed inexperienced	34,145	17,080	7,515	9,565	895	5,195	10,970	461,010
Not in the labour force	284,500	143,015	71,855	71,160	9,305	41,890	90,285	7,531,725
Participation rate (%)	63	54	52	57	60	66	71	66
Unemployment rate (%)	20	27	29	26	22	20	14	10
Employment/population ratio	51	40	37	42	47	53	61	59

- T There were 771,010 Aboriginal people aged 15 or more in Canada, representing 3.4% of the total Canadian labour force.
- T Registered Indians comprise 35% of the Aboriginal labour force and account for 32% of employment and almost 48% of the unemployed.
- T Registered Indians had the lowest labour force participation rate of any Aboriginal group, with a rate of 54%. The Other Aboriginal population had the highest rate of participation in the labour force; at 71%.
- T Unemployment rates for all Aboriginal groups (except the Other Aboriginal population), continue to be at least double the rate of the non-Aboriginal population.
- T Registered Indians had the highest unemployment rate of any Aboriginal group, at 27%.
- T The Other Aboriginal population experienced the highest employment/population ratio of any Aboriginal group, with a rate of 61%.

Experienced Labour Force by Industry..... 1996

	Total	Registered Indians			Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
	Aboriginal	Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve				
Total - Industry	452,370	152,305	68,790	83,520	13,055	75,985	211,020	13,865,175
Primary (% of Total)	7.3	9.3	12.0	7.1	5.4	9.1	5.4	5.5
Agriculture (%)	28.1	18.1	14.6	23.1	7.9	31.7	39.5	61.9
Forestry and logging (%)	30.5	40.4	44.5	34.6	9.3	25.8	22.4	12.0
Fishing and trapping (%)	15.3	23.4	30.6	13.2	45.7	7.0	8.4	5.3
Mining (including milling), quarries, oil well (%)	26.1	18.1	10.3	28.9	37.9	35.7	29.6	20.8
Secondary - Manufacturing (% of Total)	9.8	7.2	3.6	10.1	2.5	9.2	12.5	14.4
Tertiary (% of Total)	82.8	83.5	84.4	82.8	92.1	81.8	82.1	80.1
Construction industries (%)	9.0	9.7	10.6	9.0	6.4	10.8	8.0	7.1
Transportation, communication and other utilities (%)	8.9	7.5	6.6	8.2	11.9	10.5	9.3	9.1
Trade (%)	17.1	11.7	8.4	14.5	15.0	18.2	20.8	21.9
Finance, insurance and real estate (%)	3.9	2.5	1.0	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.9	7.0
Accommodation, food and beverage services (%)	10.1	8.0	4.0	11.3	6.0	12.3	11.1	8.6
Community, business and personal services (%)	15.5	12.4	7.3	16.6	11.2	14.9	18.2	17.8
Public administration and defense (%)	35.5	48.2	62.0	36.6	45.9	29.5	27.7	28.5

*Based on 1980 Standard Industrial Classification

- T On-reserve Registered Indians reported the highest percentage of their experienced labour force in primary industries such as fishing and trapping and agriculture (12%).
- T The non-Aboriginal experienced labour force in primary industry was employed primarily in agriculture (62%). Inuit of the same population were heavily involved in fishing and trapping (46% of primary industries), followed closely by mining (38% of primary industries).
- T Inuit and On-reserve Registered Indian experienced labour forces have a low percentage of workers employed in manufacturing (3% and 4% respectively).
- T Across all ethnic designations, tertiary or service-related industries account for the greatest percentage of work. The percentage of experienced labour force employed in this sector ranged from 80% (Non-Aboriginal) to 92% (Inuit).
- T Public administration and defense accounts for the largest percentage of employment in tertiary industries among the experienced labour force for each ethnic designation, ranging from 28% (Other Aboriginal) to 62% (On-reserve Registered Indian).

Experienced Labour Force by Occupation..... 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians			Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On reserve	Off reserve				
Total - Occupations*	452,370	152,305	68,785	83,515	13,055	75,985	211,020	13,865,175
Management occupations (%)	6.1	5.7	6.7	4.9	5.5	5.1	6.8	9.1
Business, finance & administration (%)	15.7	13.6	10.9	15.9	13.4	14.5	17.9	19.1
Natural & applied sciences & related (%)	2.9	2.1	1.7	2.4	2.7	2.2	3.8	5.0
Health occupations (%)	3.5	2.8	2.0	3.5	1.9	3.1	4.2	5.1
Occ. in social science, education, government services & religion (%)	7.5	10.1	11.3	9.1	10.2	5.9	6.1	6.8
Occ. in art, culture, recreation & sport (%)	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.7	7.0	2.0	3.1	2.7
Sales & service occupations (%)	29.8	28.6	26.8	30.0	31.3	31.5	30.0	25.9
Trade, transportation & equipment operators & related (%)	18.3	19.4	22.1	17.2	21.2	21.0	16.3	14.0
Occ. unique to primary industry (%)	6.7	9.5	12.9	6.7	3.7	7.9	4.5	4.7
Occ. unique to processing, manufacturing & utilities (%)	6.5	5.7	3.3	7.6	3.0	6.7	7.3	7.7

* Based on 1990 National Occupation Classification

- T For each ethnic designation, the greatest percentage of occupations lie in the *sales and service occupations* category, ranging from 26% (non-Aboriginal) to 32% (Métis).
- T Registered Indians and Inuit reported a greater percentage of occupations in the *social science, education, government services, and religion* area than the other groups.
- T Inuit reported a significantly higher percentage of people working in *occupations in art, culture, recreation, and sport*, at 7%.
- T The non-Aboriginal population was almost twice as likely to report occupations in *natural and applied sciences and related* fields as were Aboriginal groups.
- T Occupations unique to primary industry account for 13% of on-reserve Registered Indian occupations, a proportion much higher than that for other groups.

NEWFOUNDLAND.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	17,975	1,670	505	1,165	2,700	3,325	10,275	419,370
Total labour force	10,465	1,040	415	620	1,580	1,915	5,930	235,595
Employed	7,050	675	260	410	1,125	1,155	4,095	177,280
Unemployed	3,420	370	155	210	455	760	1,835	58,320
Unemployed experienced	2,600	295	150	145	345	650	1,300	42,320
Unemployed inexperienced	820	65	10	60	105	110	535	15,995
Not in the labour force	7,505	635	85	545	1,120	1,410	4,340	183,775
Participation rate (%)	58	62	82	53	59	58	58	56
Unemployment rate (%)	33	36	37	34	29	40	31	25
Employment/population ratio	39	40	52	35	42	35	40	42

- T The Total Aboriginal population 15 years and above in Newfoundland is 17,975 people, comprising 4.11 % of the total provincial population in this age group.
- T Registered Indians living on reserves have the highest rate of participation in the labour force, at 82%.
- T Of all the Aboriginal groups in Newfoundland, Inuit experienced the lowest unemployment rate at 29%. This compares with a rate of 25% for the non-Aboriginal population.
- T On-reserve Registered Indians have the highest unemployment rate (37%) among the Aboriginal groups in Newfoundland.
- T Registered Indians living on reserves also have the highest employment/population ratio, of 52%. This is 10% higher than the statistic for the non-Aboriginal population.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	1,585	475	125	345	0	45	1,065	102,165
Total labour force	1,210	340	85	255	0	40	825	69,605
Employed	925	250	55	200	0	20	650	60,130
Unemployed	285	90	35	55	0	20	180	9,475
Unemployed experienced	240	60	25	35	0	10	165	8,110
Unemployed inexperienced	45	30	10	15	0	10	10	1,365
Not in the labour force	375	130	40	95	0	0	240	32,560
Participation rate	76	72	68	74	0	89	78	68
Unemployment rate	24	27	41	22	0	50	22	14
Employment/population ratio	58	53	44	58	0	44	61	59

Note: Inuit numbers are too small to generate reliable labour force statistics. Métis labour force rates may be inflated due to small population size.

- T There were 1,585 Aboriginal people aged 15 and over in Prince Edward Island, representing 1.5% of the total population in that age group.
- T The participation rate among Aboriginal people was highest for the Métis, at 89%.
- T The Total Aboriginal population's unemployment rate was 24%. This compares with a rate of 14% for the non-Aboriginal population.
- T The Aboriginal group with the highest unemployment rate was the Métis (50%), while the off-reserve Registered Indians and Other Aboriginal population had the lowest unemployment rate, at 22%.
- T Employment/population ratios were similar for the Total Aboriginal population, Other Aboriginal Population, and the non-Aboriginal population, at 58, 61, and 59% respectively.

NOVA SCOTIA.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	18,775	5,985	4,200	1,780	135	480	12,170	701,200
Total labour force	11,685	3,200	2,070	1,130	85	295	8,105	427,285
Employed	9,305	2,330	1,435	895	70	230	6,675	371,480
Unemployed	2,380	865	640	230	10	65	1,430	55,800
Unemployed experienced	1,595	530	370	155	10	55	1,005	42,435
Unemployed inexperienced	780	340	265	80	0	10	425	13,365
Not in the labour force	7,085	2,785	2,130	650	50	185	4,065	273,915
Participation rate (%)	62	54	49	64	63	62	67	61
Unemployment rate (%)	20	27	31	20	12	22	18	13
Employment/population ratio	50	39	34	50	52	48	55	53

- T The Total Aboriginal population 15 and over accounted for 2.6% of Nova Scotia's labour force population, with 18,775 people.
- T Other Aboriginal people accounted for 69% of the Aboriginal labour force in Nova Scotia.
- T The Other Aboriginal population experienced the highest rate of participation in the labour force, at 67%.
- T The on-reserve Registered Indian population lagged behind other Aboriginal groups in terms of participation rate. They experienced 49% participation, while the other Aboriginal groups had a rate in the 60% range.
- T The employment/population ratio ranged from 34% (on-reserve Registered Indian population) to 55% (Other Aboriginal population).

NEW BRUNSWICK.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	12,495	5,350	3,385	1,970	55	475	6,610	572,530
Total labour force	8,235	3,350	2,135	1,215	40	255	4,585	355,865
Employed	6,115	2,235	1,390	840	25	185	3,665	301,715
Unemployed	2,120	1,120	745	375	15	75	915	54,145
Unemployed experienced	1,490	755	530	225	15	65	665	42,925
Unemployed inexperienced	625	365	215	150	0	10	250	11,215
Not in the labour force	4,255	2,000	1,245	755	10	220	2,025	216,665
Participation rate (%)	66	63	63	62	73	54	69	62
Unemployment rate (%)	26	33	35	31	38	29	20	15
Employment/population ratio	49	42	41	43	46	39	55	53

Note: For Inuit, labour force rates may be inflated due to a small population size.

- T 2.1% of the labour force population of New Brunswick is comprised of Aboriginal people, with a count of 12,495.
- T The Métis had the lowest participation rate, at 54%. Consequently, they also experienced the lowest employment/population ratio of the Aboriginal groups, 39%.
- T All of the Aboriginal groups except for the Métis experienced a higher participation rate than the non-Aboriginal population in this province.
- T Unemployment was lowest with the non-Aboriginal population (15%), followed by the Other Aboriginal (20%) and Total Aboriginal (26%) populations.
- T On-reserve Registered Indians had a slightly lower employment/population ratio than those living off reserves (41% verses 43%).

QUEBEC.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	108,195	30,250	18,115	12,135	4,605	8,385	64,945	5,565,270
Total labour force	69,500	16,590	9,640	6,950	2,775	5,080	45,060	3,466,700
Employed	56,480	12,200	6,915	5,290	2,295	3,805	38,185	3,062,650
Unemployed	13,020	4,390	2,730	1,660	485	1,275	6,875	404,050
Unemployed experienced	7,945	2,825	1,795	1,030	340	725	4,050	250,965
Unemployed inexperienced	5,075	1,560	930	630	145	550	2,820	153,090
Not in the labour force	38,695	13,665	8,475	5,185	1,830	3,310	19,885	2,098,570
Participation rate (%)	64	55	53	57	60	61	69	62
Unemployment rate (%)	19	27	28	24	18	25	15	12
Employment/population ratio	52	40	38	44	50	45	59	55

- T There are 108,195 individuals comprising the Total Aboriginal count aged 15 and over in Quebec. This group accounts for 1.9% of the total labour force population.
- T The on-reserve Registered Indian population has a lower participation rate than the other Aboriginal groups.
- T Out of all of the Aboriginal groups, Other Aboriginal people reported the lowest unemployment rate, of 15%. On-reserve Registered Indians reported the highest unemployment rate, at 28%.
- T The unemployment rate for the Total Aboriginal population was 19%, seven percentage points greater than the figure reported for the non-Aboriginal population in Quebec.
- T The employment/population ratio ranged from 38% for on-reserve Registered Indians, to 59% for the Other Aboriginal population.

ONTARIO.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	179,715	62,850	20,325	42,525	740	12,885	103,240	8,249,500
Total labour force	118,830	36,390	11,110	25,280	475	8,755	73,205	5,468,145
Employed	99,160	28,090	8,310	19,780	360	7,275	63,435	4,978,510
Unemployed	19,670	8,305	2,805	5,505	115	1,475	9,770	489,635
Unemployed experienced	12,285	5,145	1,840	3,300	70	970	6,095	311,445
Unemployed inexperienced	7,385	3,160	960	2,200	40	505	3,675	178,190
Not in the labour force	60,880	26,455	9,210	17,240	260	4,130	30,030	2,781,355
Participation rate	66	58	55	59	64	68	71	66
Unemployment rate	17	23	25	22	24	17	13	9
Employment/population ratio	55	45	41	47	49	57	61	60

- T The Total Aboriginal population aged 15 and over accounted for 2.1% of the labour force population in Ontario.
- T Out of all of the Aboriginal groups, the Other Aboriginal population reported the highest participation rate, at 71%.
- T Unemployment rates for Aboriginal groups ranged from 13% (Other Aboriginal) to 25% (on-reserve Registered Indians)
- T In Ontario, the unemployment rate for the Total Aboriginal population (17%) is higher than that for non-Aboriginals, which is at 9%.
- T The Total Aboriginal employment/population ratio was at 55%, ten percentage points greater than the ratio for the Total Registered Indian population.

MANITOBA.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	92,835	48,660	27,945	20,715	145	28,245	15,780	763,045
Total labour force	52,870	22,755	12,735	10,020	105	18,445	11,560	514,955
Employed	40,960	15,790	8,910	6,875	80	14,790	10,300	482,250
Unemployed	11,910	6,965	3,820	3,140	25	3,660	1,260	32,705
Unemployed experienced	6,940	3,820	2,125	1,695	15	2,285	820	23,720
Unemployed inexperienced	4,965	3,145	1,700	1,445	10	1,375	435	8,985
Not in the labour force	39,965	25,900	15,210	10,690	40	9,795	4,220	248,090
Participation rate	57	47	46	48	72	65	73	68
Unemployment rate	23	31	30	31	24	20	11	6
Employment/population ratio	44	32	32	33	55	52	65	63

- T 10.8% of Manitoba's total labour force population (aged 15 and over) is comprised of Aboriginal people.
- T The Other Aboriginal population experienced a high rate of participation in the labour force, at 73%.
- T Unemployment rates for all Aboriginal groups (except for the Other Aboriginal population) were at least three times the rate for the non-Aboriginal population (6%).
- T The range of unemployment rates for Aboriginal groups was from 11% (Other Aboriginal) to 31% (off-reserve Registered Indians).
- T Other Aboriginal people enjoyed the highest employment/population ratio (65%), and the Registered Indian population experienced the lowest (32%).

SASKATCHEWAN.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians			Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On-reserve	Off-reserve				
Total - Labour Force Activity	71,890	41,330	21,800	19,530	105	21,205	9,245	676,240
Total labour force	38,195	18,240	9,185	9,055	65	13,400	6,490	465,305
Employed	29,090	12,720	6,500	6,220	60	10,650	5,655	438,200
Unemployed	9,105	5,515	2,685	2,830	10	2,750	835	27,105
Unemployed experienced	5,485	3,080	1,635	1,450	0	1,820	575	20,660
Unemployed inexperienced	3,620	2,430	1,045	1,380	0	925	260	6,450
Not in the labour force	33,695	23,095	12,615	10,480	40	7,805	2,760	210,935
Participation rate (%)	53	44	42	46	62	63	70	69
Unemployment rate (%)	24	30	29	31	15	21	13	6
Employment/population ratio	41	31	30	32	57	50	61	65

- T In Saskatchewan, the Aboriginal population 15 and over accounted for 9.6% of the labour force population.
- T The highest participation rate was experienced by the Other Aboriginal population (70%), while the Registered Indian rate was lowest, at 44%.
- T On-reserve Registered Indians experienced a participation rate of 42%, while the off-reserve Registered Indian population experienced a participation rate of 46%.
- T Unemployment rates for Aboriginal groups ranged from 13% for the Other Aboriginal population, to 31% for off-reserve Registered Indians.
- T The employment/population ratio for the Total Aboriginal population was 41%. This figure is twenty-four percentage points less than that reported for the non-Aboriginal population (65%).

ALBERTA.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	104,565	40,645	17,095	23,550	380	29,825	33,715	1,950,455
Total labour force	68,830	22,455	8,375	14,080	255	20,390	25,735	1,418,150
Employed	56,845	16,865	6,095	10,770	205	16,765	23,015	1,322,860
Unemployed	11,980	5,590	2,280	3,310	45	3,625	2,720	95,290
Unemployed experienced	8,305	3,590	1,400	2,190	25	2,655	2,035	73,345
Unemployed inexperienced	3,675	2,000	880	1,115	20	970	680	21,945
Not in the labour force	35,735	18,185	8,715	9,470	125	9,435	7,980	532,305
Participation rate (%)	66	55	49	60	67	68	76	73
Unemployment rate (%)	17	25	27	24	18	18	11	7
Employment/population ratio	54	42	36	46	54	56	68	68

- T In Alberta, there were 104,565 Aboriginal people 15 and over, comprising 5.1% of the Albertan population.
- T The participation rate for Registered Indians (55%) was at least ten percentage points less than that for the other Aboriginal groups.
- T The unemployment rate for Aboriginal groups ranged from 11% (Other Aboriginal) to 27% (Registered Indians living on reserves).
- T Non-Aboriginals in Alberta experienced an unemployment rate 10% lower than the Total Aboriginal population.
- T Of all the Aboriginal groups, the employment/population ratio was highest for the Other Aboriginal population (68%).

BRITISH COLUMBIA.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	133,845	64,060	27,960	36,100	380	15,945	53,460	2,820,860
Total labour force	88,240	38,000	16,455	21,545	280	10,875	39,080	1,872,420
Employed	69,435	27,055	11,605	15,450	230	8,820	33,335	1,703,850
Unemployed	18,805	10,950	4,855	6,090	55	2,055	5,745	168,570
Unemployed experienced	12,730	7,405	3,620	3,785	30	1,370	3,925	118,495
Unemployed inexperienced	6,075	3,540	1,230	2,310	25	685	1,820	50,075
Not in the labour force	45,605	26,055	11,505	14,550	95	5,070	14,380	948,440
Participation rate	66	59	59	60	74	68	73	66
Unemployment rate	21	29	30	28	20	19	15	9
Employment/population ratio	52	42	42	43	61	55	62	60

- T The Total Aboriginal count aged 15 and over was 133,845. This accounted for 4.5% of the total labour force population in British Columbia.
- T The range for rates of participation in the labour force among Aboriginal groups was from 59% (on-reserve Registered Indians) to 74% (Inuit).
- T Labour force rates for Registered Indians living on and off reserves were quite similar in this region.
- T On-reserve Registered Indians experienced the highest unemployment rate, at 30%. The lowest among Aboriginal groups occurred among the Other Aboriginal population (15%).
- T The unemployment rate for the Total Aboriginal population was 21%, twelve percentage points greater than that for non-Aboriginals.
- T Among Aboriginal groups, the employment/population ratio ranged from 42% (on-reserve Registered Indians) to 62% (Other Aboriginal).

YUKON.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On-reserve				
Total - Labour Force Activity	4,710	3,500	1,230	2,270	65	255	18,560
Total labour force	3,450	2,415	860	1,550	55	225	15,480
Employed	2,605	1,725	595	1,125	45	190	14,240
Unemployed	840	690	265	425	10	35	1,245
Unemployed experienced	660	540	220	320	10	30	1,030
Unemployed inexperienced	180	145	45	105	0	10	215
Not in the labour force	1,260	1,085	365	720	15	30	3,075
Participation rate (%)	73	69	70	68	85	88	83
Unemployment rate (%)	24	29	31	27	18	16	8
Employment/population ratio	55	49	48	50	69	75	77

Note: For Inuit, labour force rates may be inflated due to a small population size.

- T The Total Aboriginal population aged 15 and over comprised 20% of the labour force population in the Yukon.
- T Métis people experienced the highest rate of participation in the labour force, at 88%.
- T The unemployment rate for the Total Aboriginal population was three times that of the non-Aboriginal population in the Yukon.
- T Registered Indians living on reserves experienced an unemployment rate of 31%, 4 percentage points greater than those living off reserves.
- T The lowest employment/population ratio was for Registered Indians living on reserves, while the highest (75%) was for the Métis population.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES*Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

* Boundaries before the creation of Nunavut in 1999

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal
		Total	On-reserve				
Total - Labour Force Activity	24,435	7,635	5,470	2,165	13,945	1,985	18,710
Total labour force	14,995	4,610	3,225	1,390	8,235	1,500	16,670
Employed	11,725	3,415	2,300	1,110	6,470	1,270	15,870
Unemployed	3,270	1,195	920	280	1,765	230	800
Unemployed experienced	2,385	915	705	205	1,225	190	680
Unemployed inexperienced	890	285	215	75	545	35	125
Not in the labour force	9,440	3,025	2,250	770	5,710	485	2,040
Participation rate (%)	61	60	59	64	59	76	89
Unemployment rate (%)	22	26	29	20	21	15	5
Employment/population ratio	48	45	42	51	46	64	85

- T The Total Aboriginal Population accounted for 57% of the labour force population in Northwest Territories.
- T Participation rates varied across a range of 17% for the Aboriginal groups. Registered Indians living on reserves experienced the lowest participation rate (59%), while the Métis experienced the highest participation rate (76%).
- T The unemployment rate for the Total Aboriginal Population (22%) was four times higher than that for the non-Aboriginal population (5%).
- T The on-reserve Registered Indian population had an unemployment rate 9% higher than Registered Indians living off reserves (20%).
- T Métis and Other Aboriginal people experienced employment/population ratios considerably higher than the other Aboriginal groups, but still lower than the non-Aboriginal population.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES*Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

* Boundaries after the creation of Nunavut in 1999

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	12,220	7,550	5,470	2,080	2,000	1,930	730	15,480
Total labour force	7,790	4,560	3,225	1,335	1,240	1,455	540	13,635
Employed	6,000	3,360	2,305	1,060	940	1,225	465	12,920
Unemployed	1,795	1,195	925	275	295	230	80	715
Unemployed experienced	1,375	910	705	205	225	195	50	615
Unemployed inexperienced	415	290	210	70	70	35	25	105
Not in the labour force	4,425	3,000	2,250	750	765	475	190	1,845
Participation rate (%)	64	60	59	64	62	75	74	88
Unemployment rate (%)	23	26	29	21	24	16	15	5
Employment/population ratio	49	45	42	51	47	64	64	84

- T The labour force population of Northwest Territories (post-Nunavut boundaries) included 12,220 Aboriginal people, comprising 44% of the total (aged 15 and over).
- T On-reserve Registered Indians had the lowest participation rate, at 59%.
- T The unemployment rates for Aboriginal groups ranged from 15% (Other Aboriginal) to 29% (on-reserve Registered Indians).
- T Métis and Other Aboriginal people experienced the highest employment/population ratio of the Aboriginal groups, at 64%.
- T A gap of 35% exists between the employment/population ratio for the Total Aboriginal population (49%) and the non-Aboriginal population (84%).

NUNAVUT.....Labour Force Characteristics, 1996

	Total Aboriginal	Registered Indians		Inuit	Métis	Other Aboriginal	Non- Aboriginal	
		Total	On-reserve					Off-reserve
Total - Labour Force Activity	12,215	80	0	80	11,940	55	140	3,225
Total labour force	7,205	55	0	55	6,995	45	110	3,030
Employed	5,725	50	0	55	5,525	45	105	2,950
Unemployed	1,480	0	0	0	1,465	0	0	85
Unemployed experienced	1,010	0	0	10	1,000	0	0	65
Unemployed inexperienced	470	0	0	0	470	0	0	20
Not in the labour force	5,010	30	0	30	4,950	10	35	190
Participation rate (%)	59	69	0	69	59	82	79	94
Unemployment rate (%)	21	0	0	0	21	0	0	3
Employment/population ratio	47	63	0	69	46	82	75	92

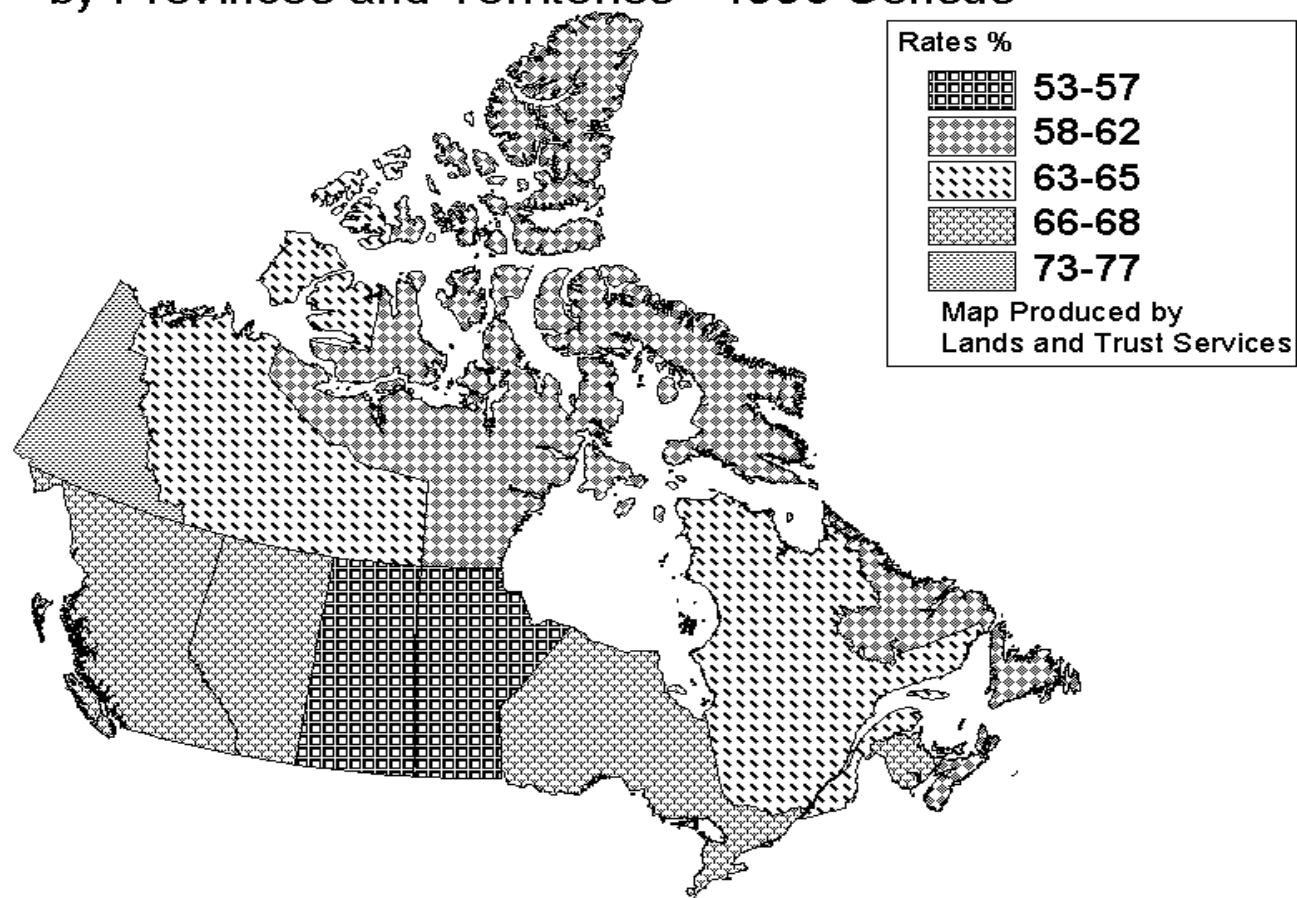
Note: For the Métis in Nunavut, labour force rates may be inflated due to small population sizes.

- T The Total Aboriginal population accounted for 79% of the population 15 and over in Nunavut (the labour force population).
- T Inuit account for 97% of the Aboriginal labour force in Nunavut. Furthermore, they account for 97% of persons employed and 99% of those unemployed.
- T Métis people experienced the highest participation rate, of 82%.
- T The unemployment rate for Registered Indians and Métis was 0%, while it stood at 21% for the Inuit.
- T Employment/population ratios ranged from 46% (Inuit) to 82% (Métis).

Section 2:

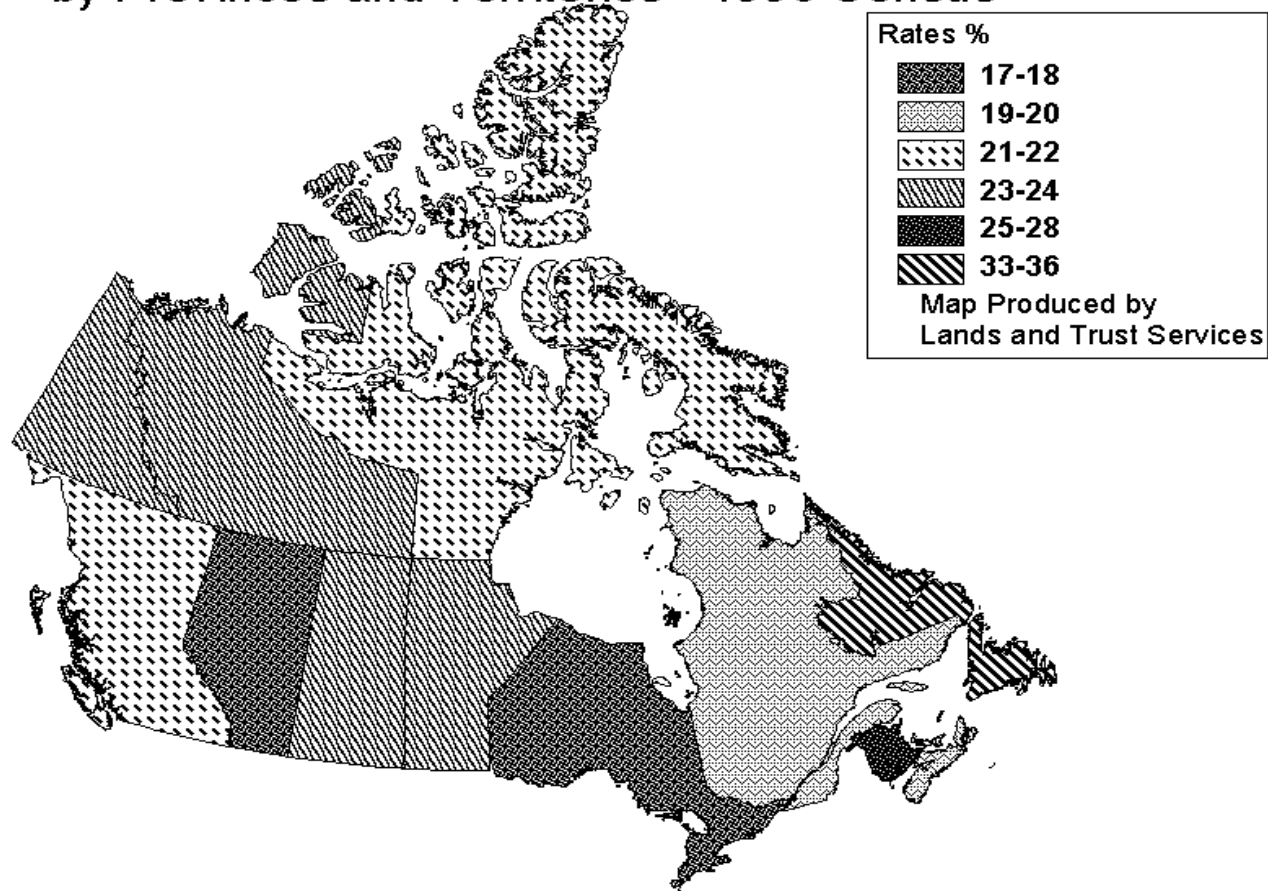
Labour Force Characteristics
by Province
(Maps)

Labour Force Participation Rates for the Total Aboriginal Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



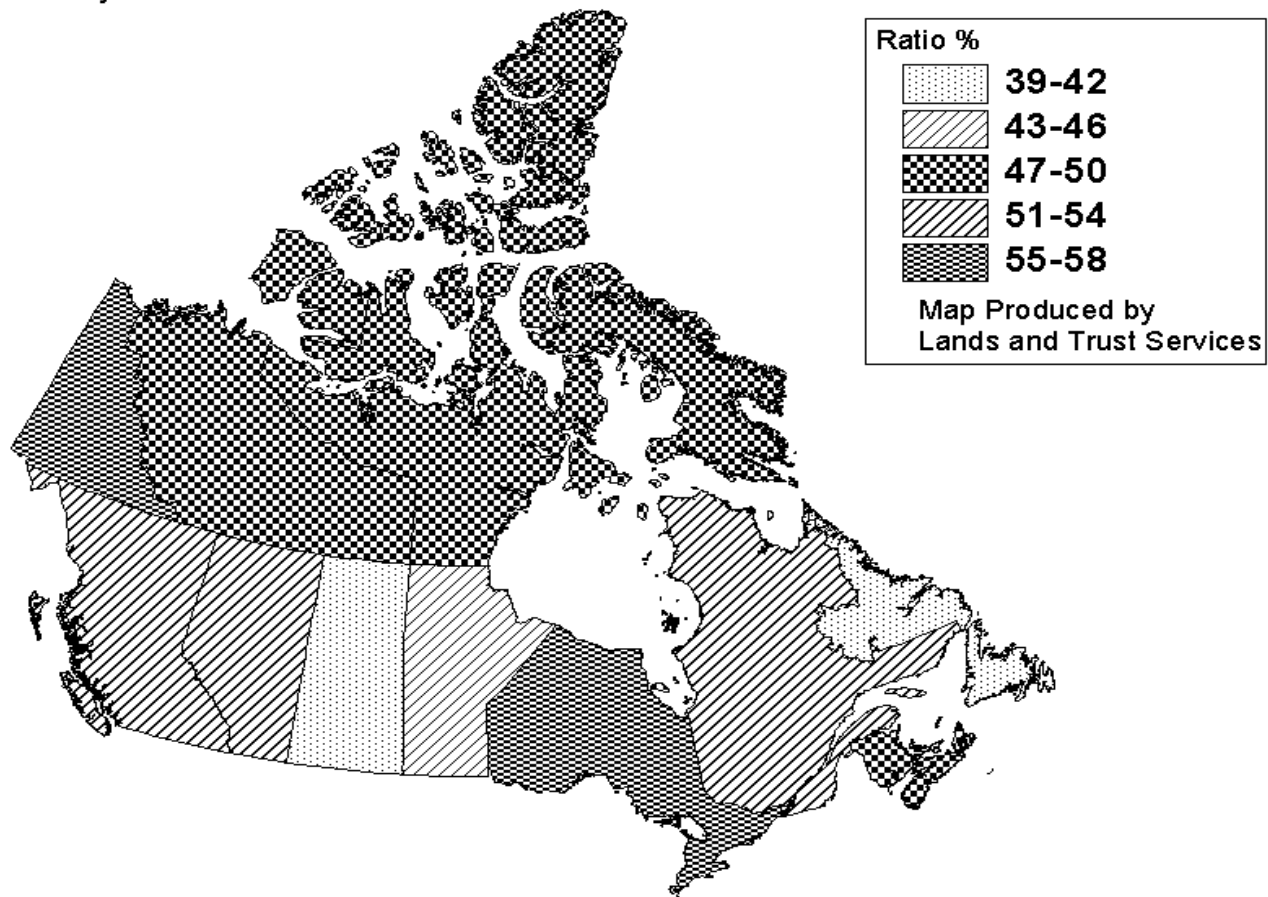
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Unemployment Rates for the Total Aboriginal Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



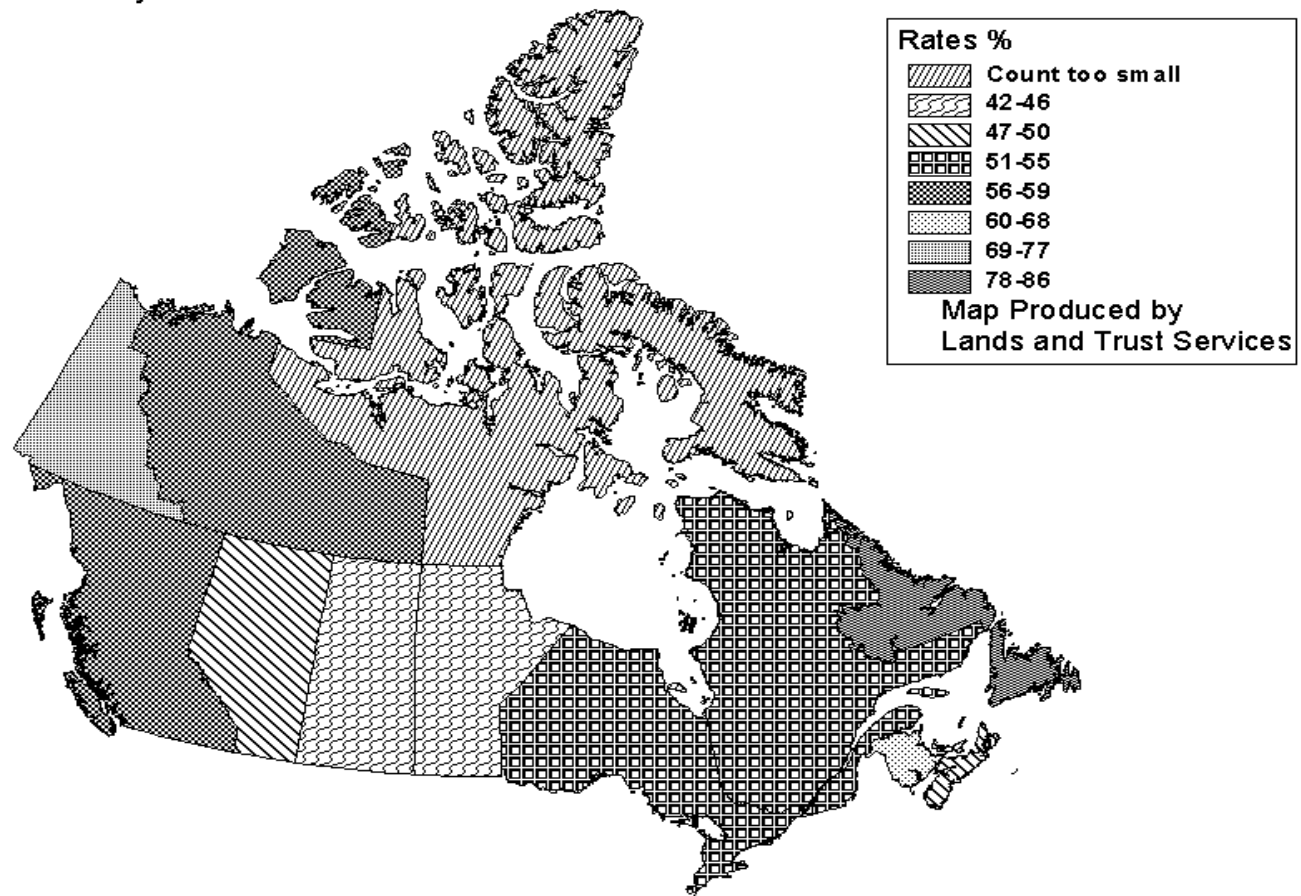
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Employment/Population Ratios for the
Total Aboriginal Population
by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



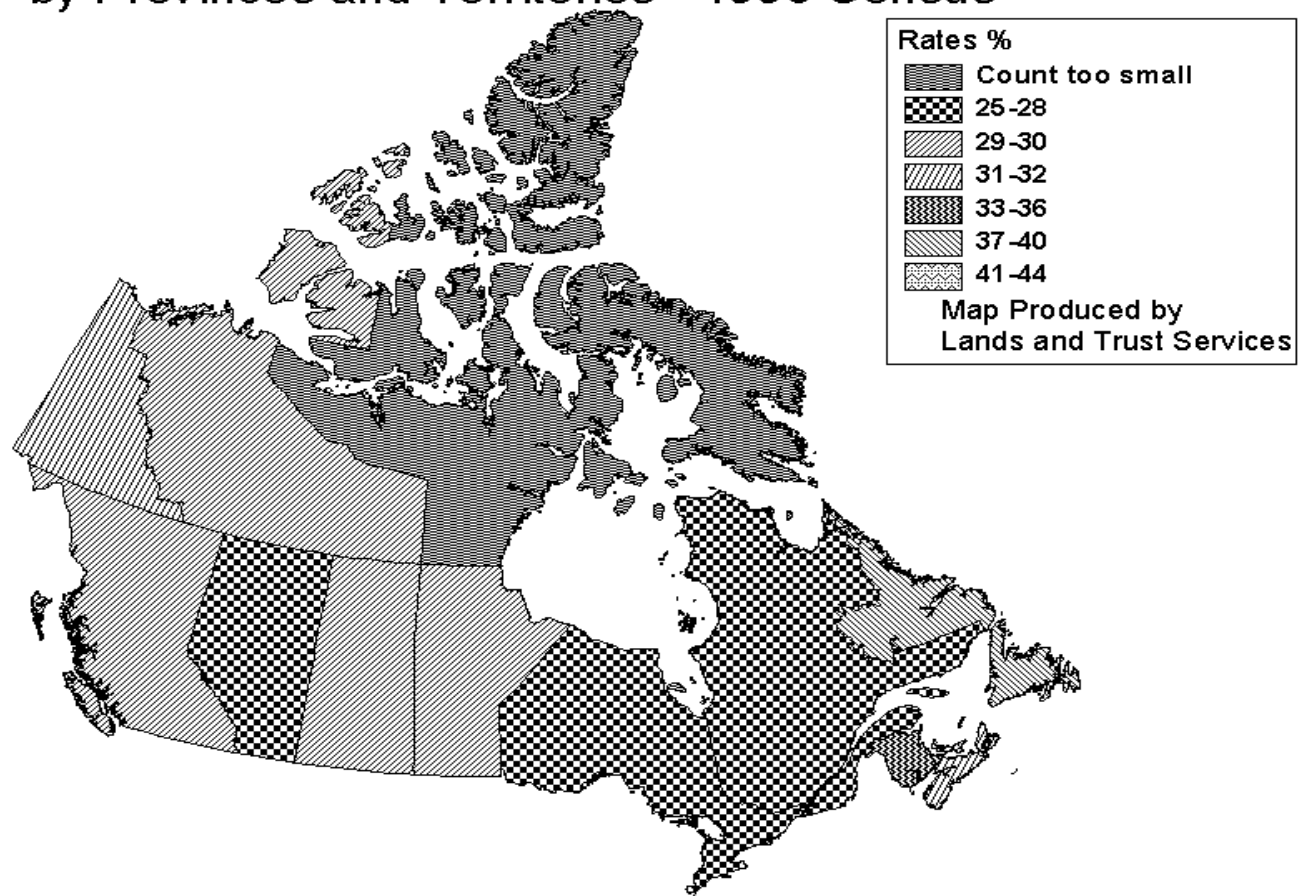
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Labour Force Participation Rates for the On-reserve Registered Indian Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



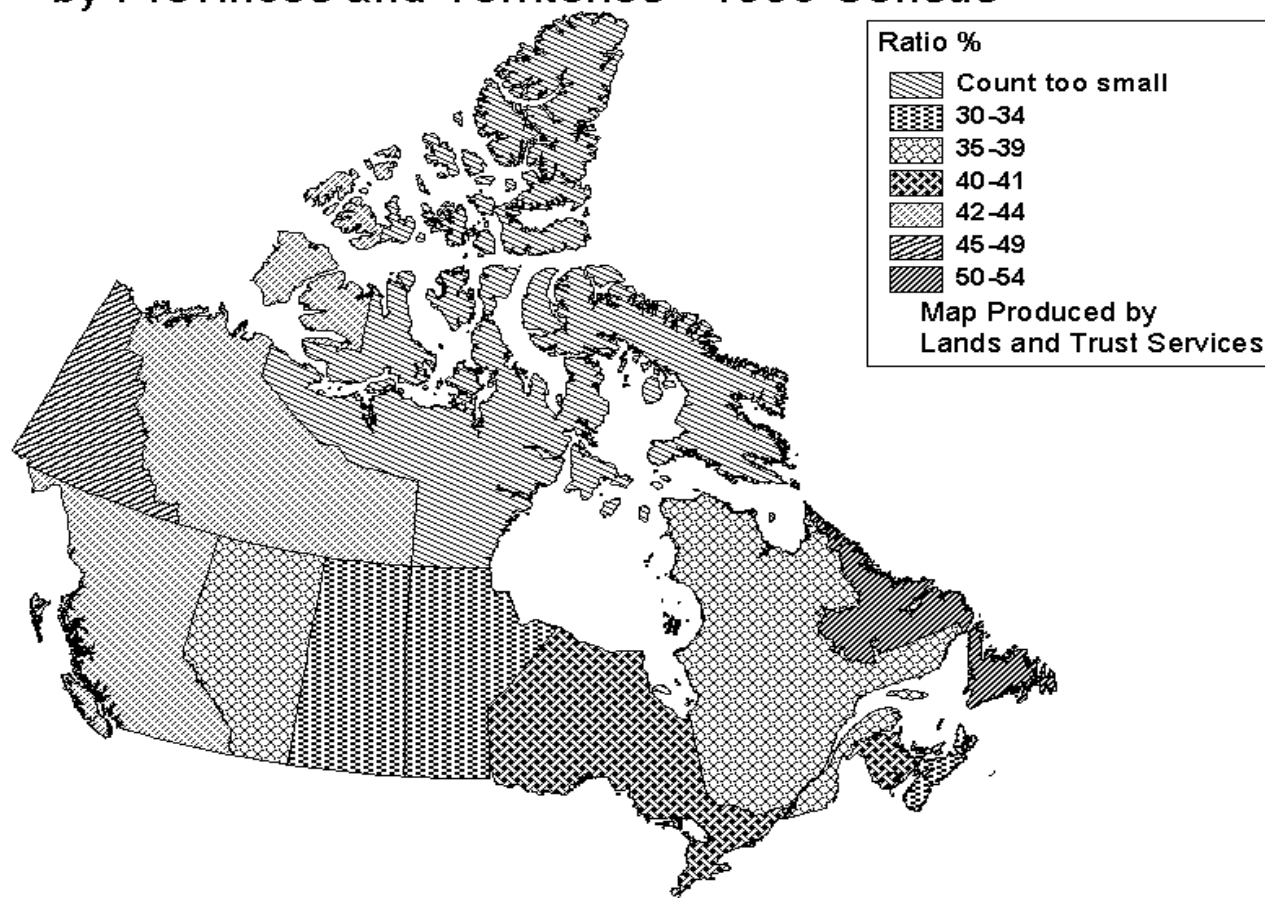
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Unemployment Rates for the On-reserve Registered Indian Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



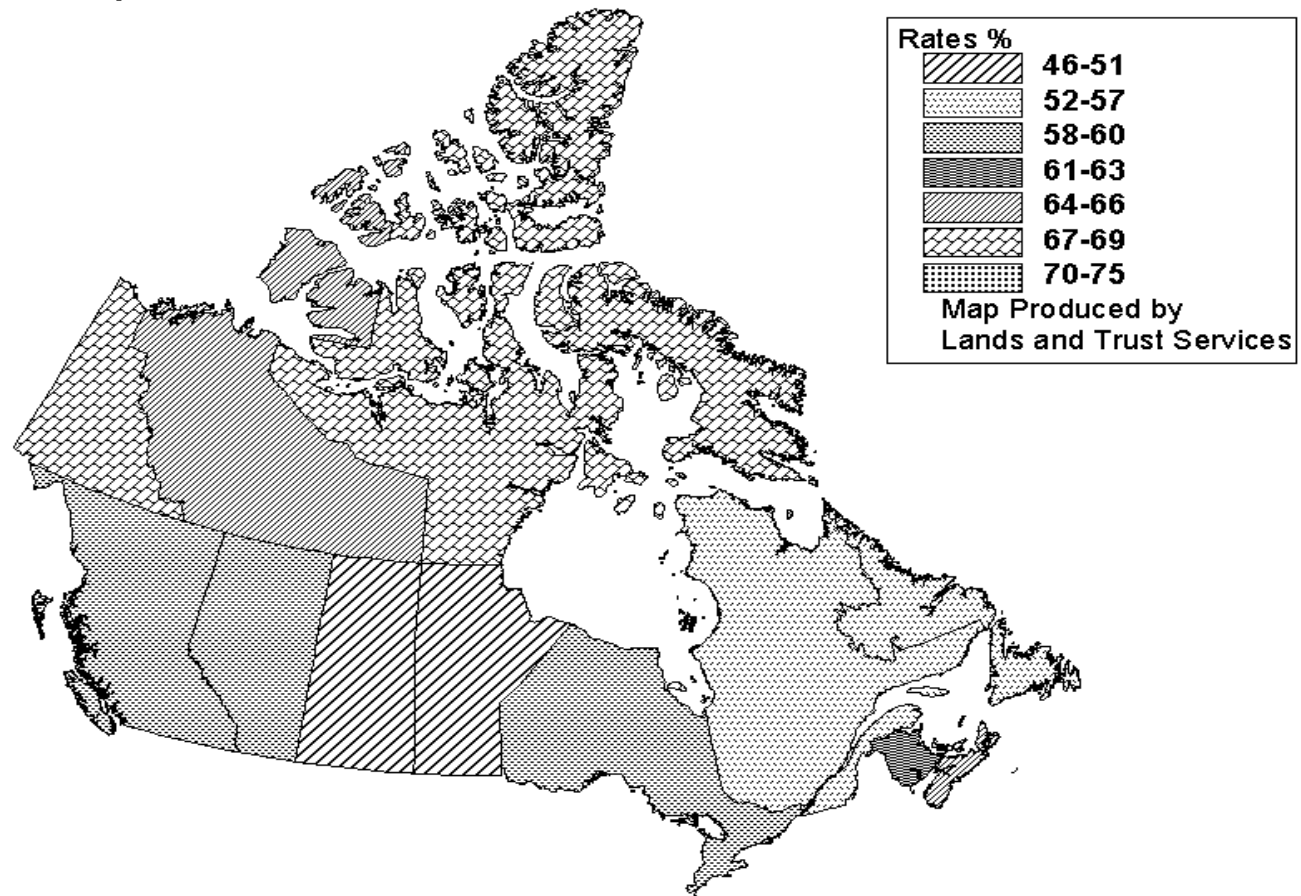
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Employment/Population Ratios for the On-reserve Registered Indian Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



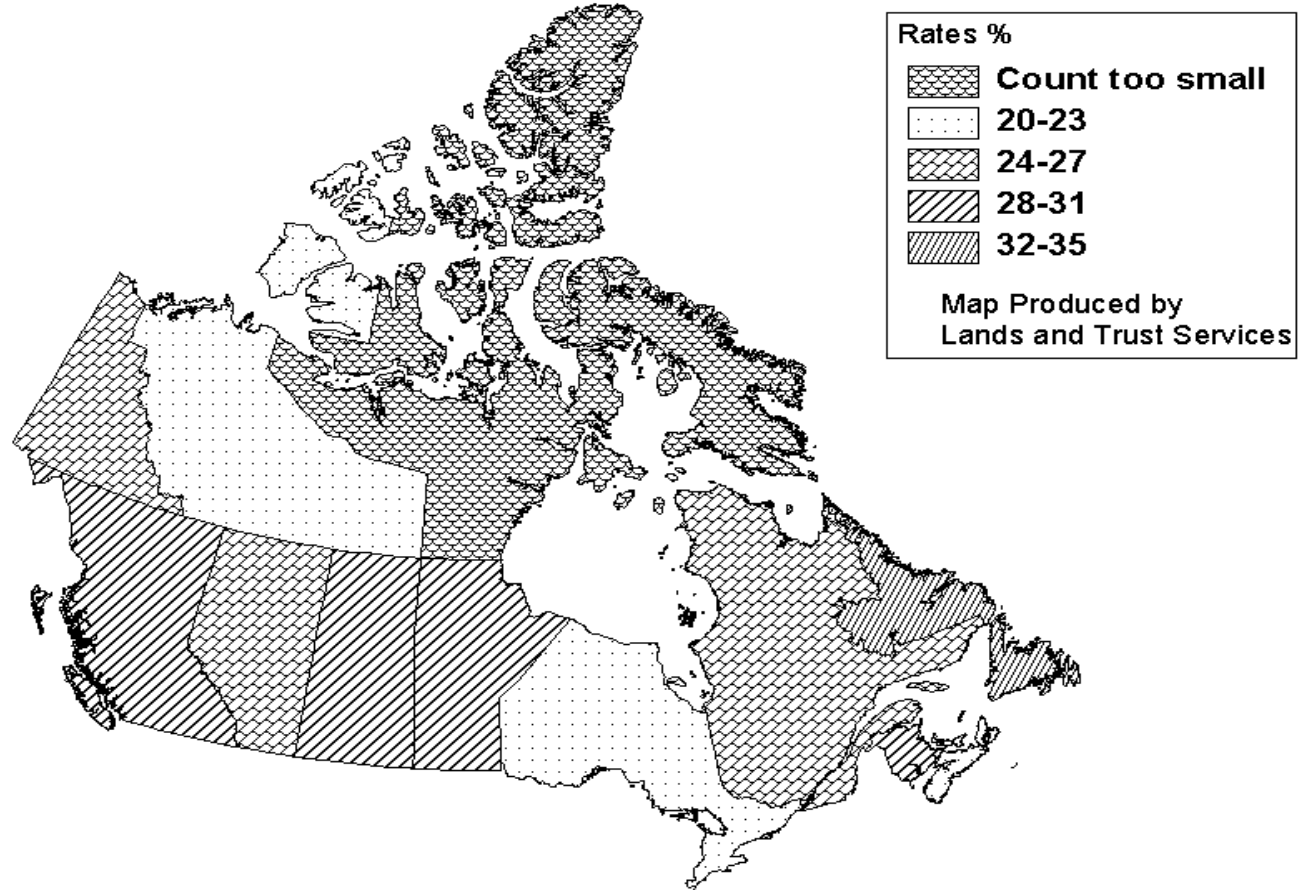
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Labour Force Participation Rates for the Off-reserve Registered Indian Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



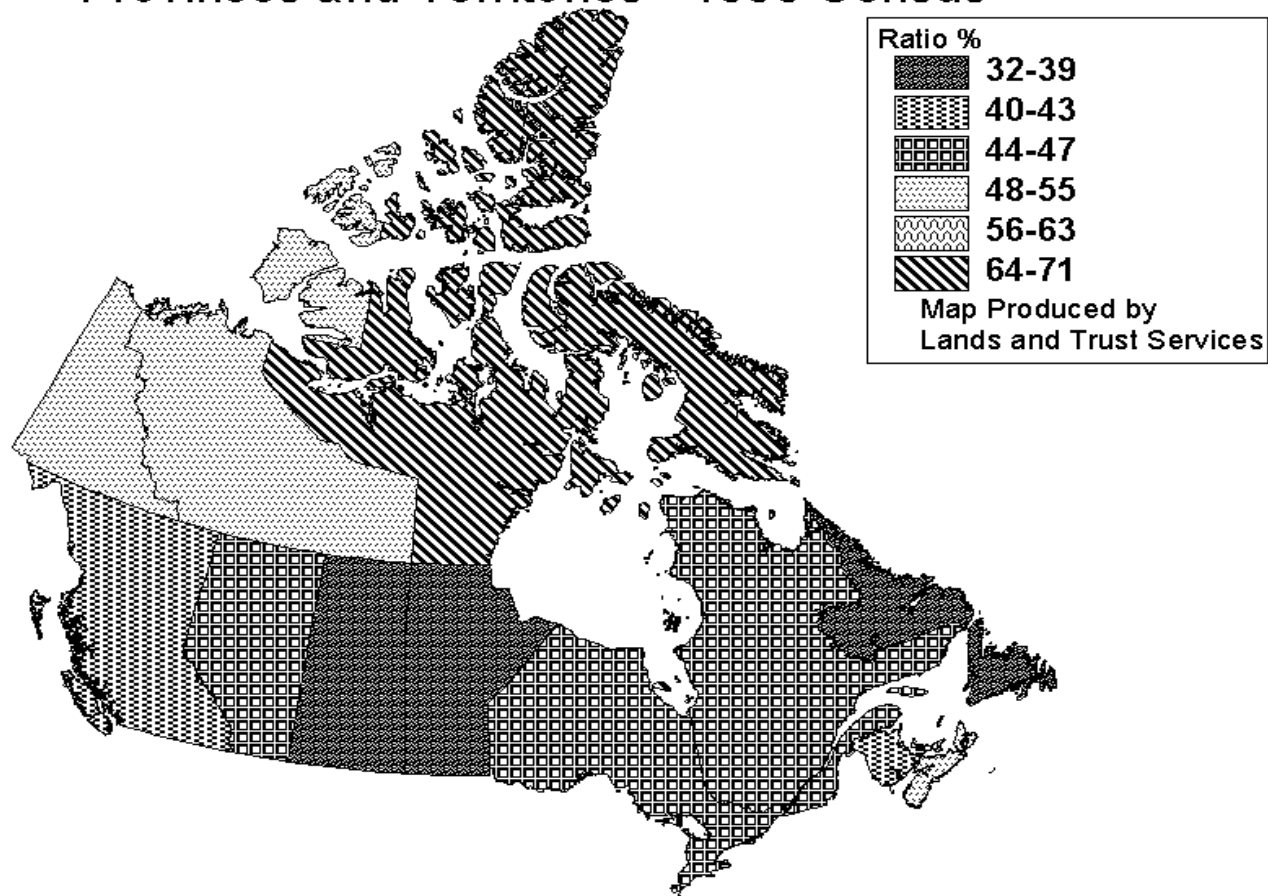
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Unemployment Rates for the Off-reserve Registered Indian Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



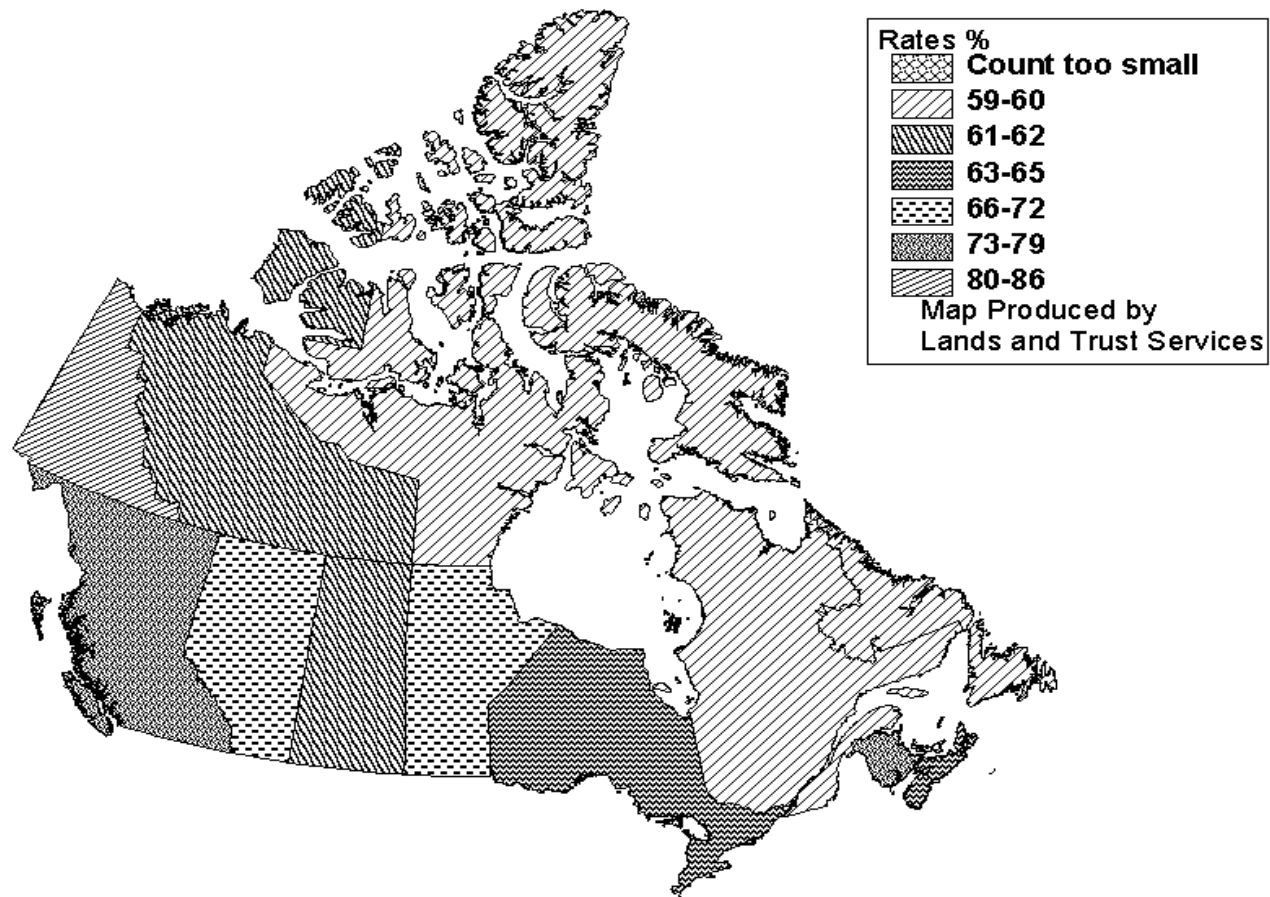
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Employment/Population Ratios for the Off-reserve Registered Indian Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



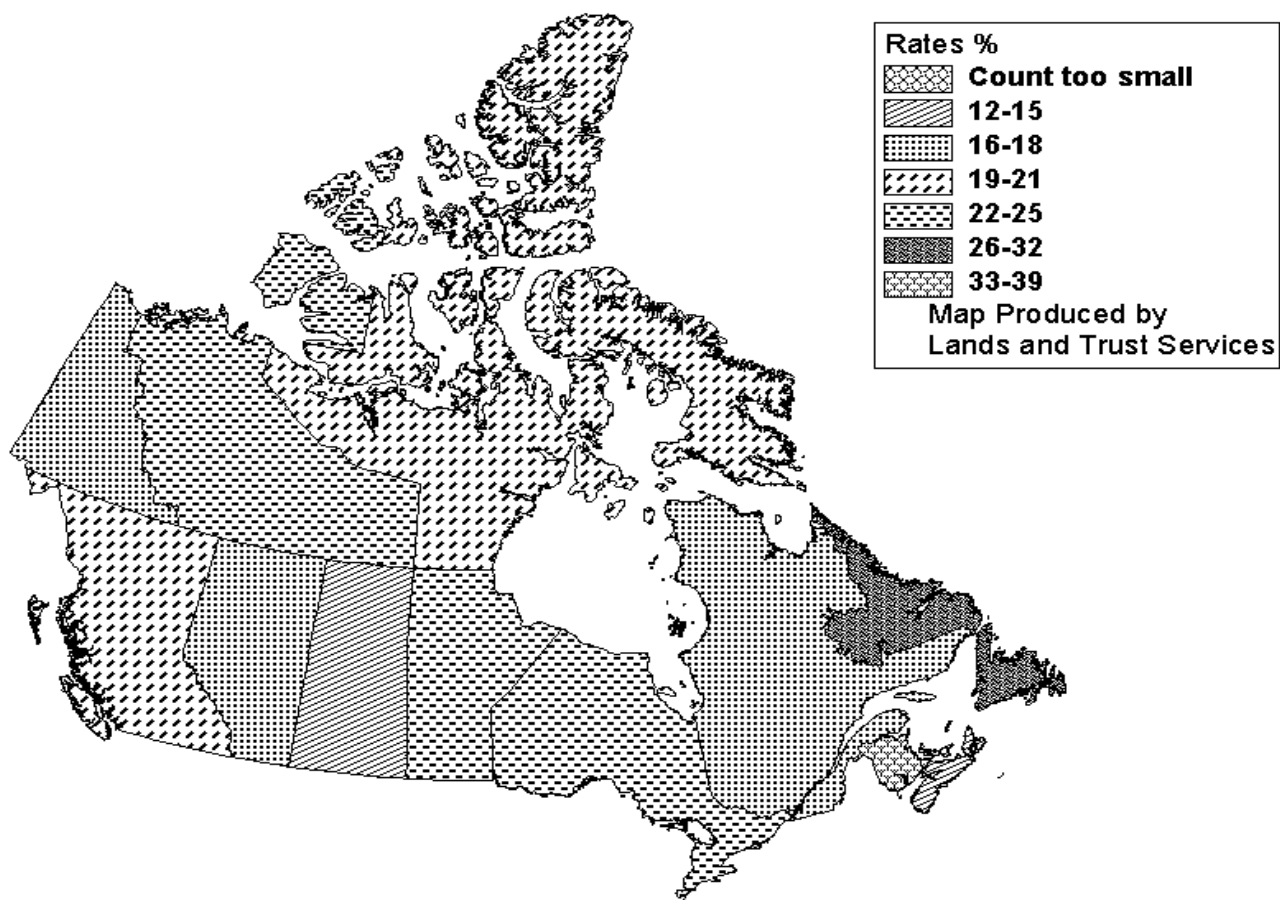
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Labour Force Participation Rates for Inuit by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



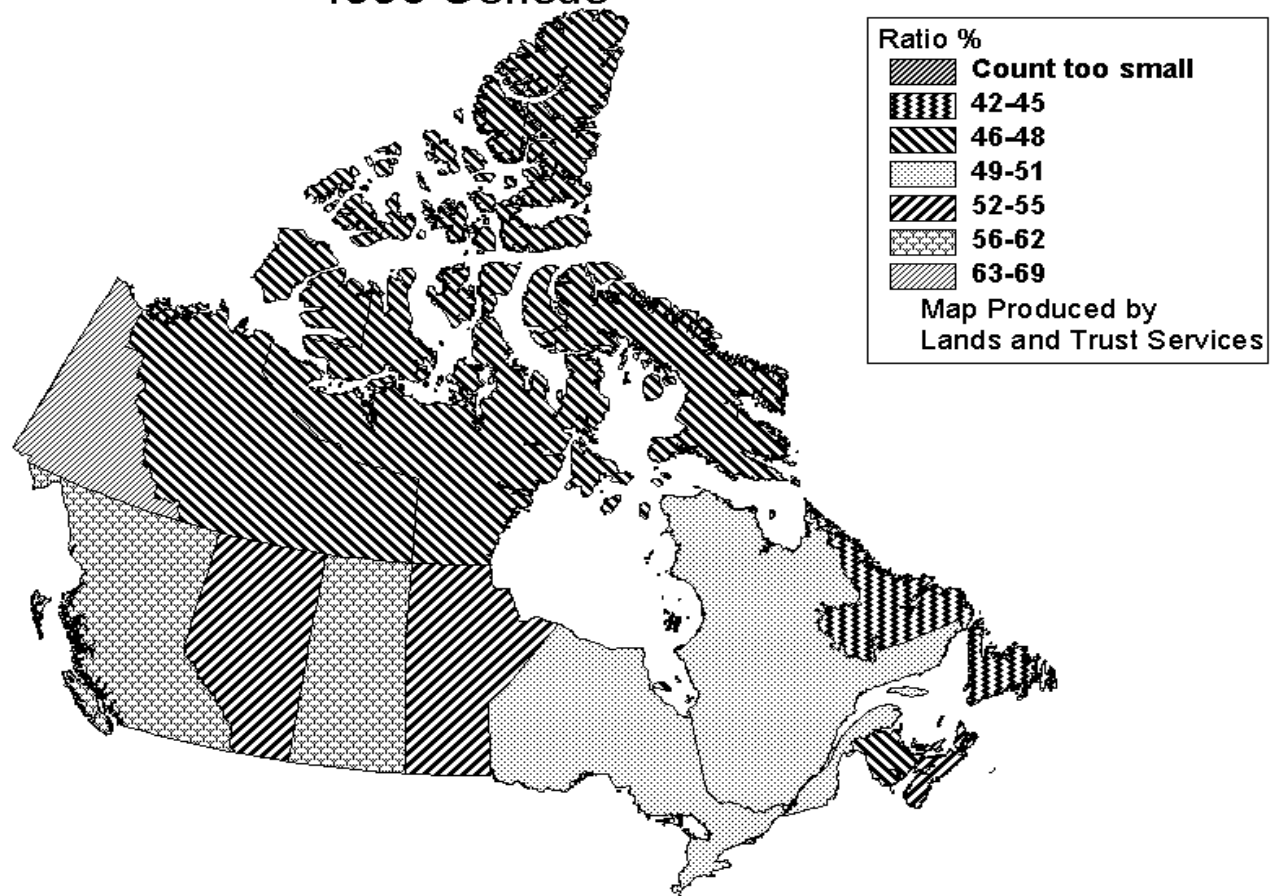
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Unemployment Rates for Inuit by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



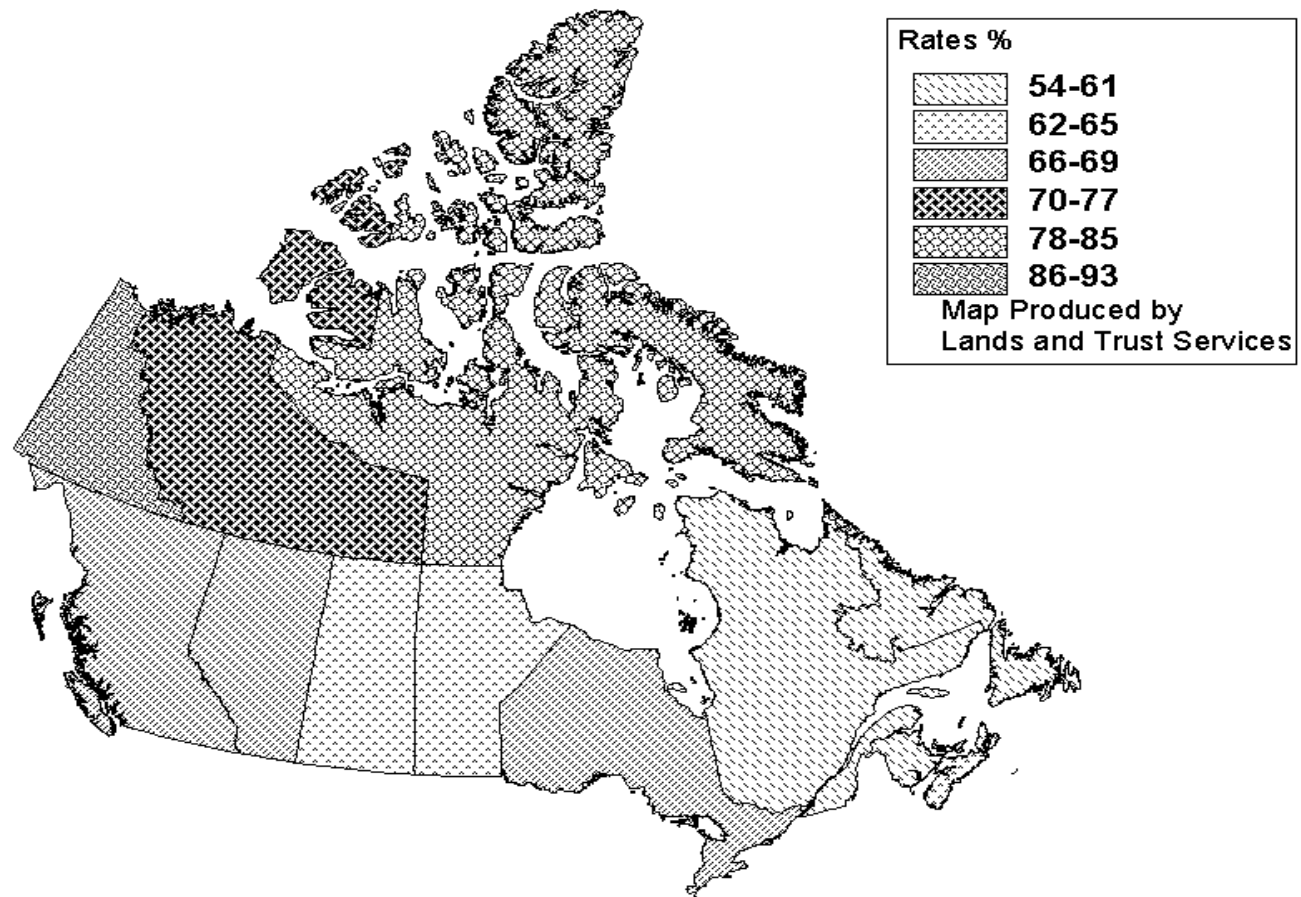
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Employment/Population Ratios for Inuit by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



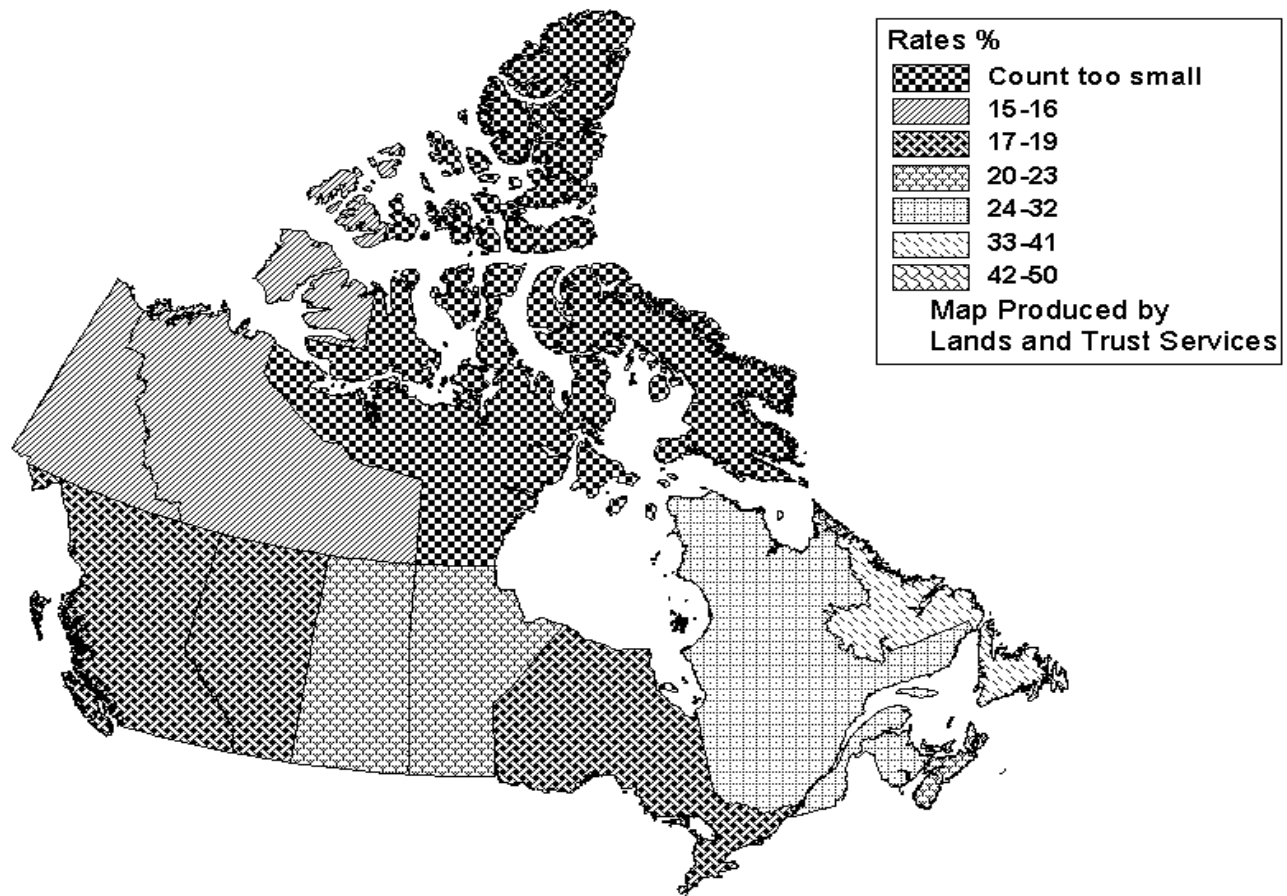
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Labour Force Participation Rates for the Métis Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



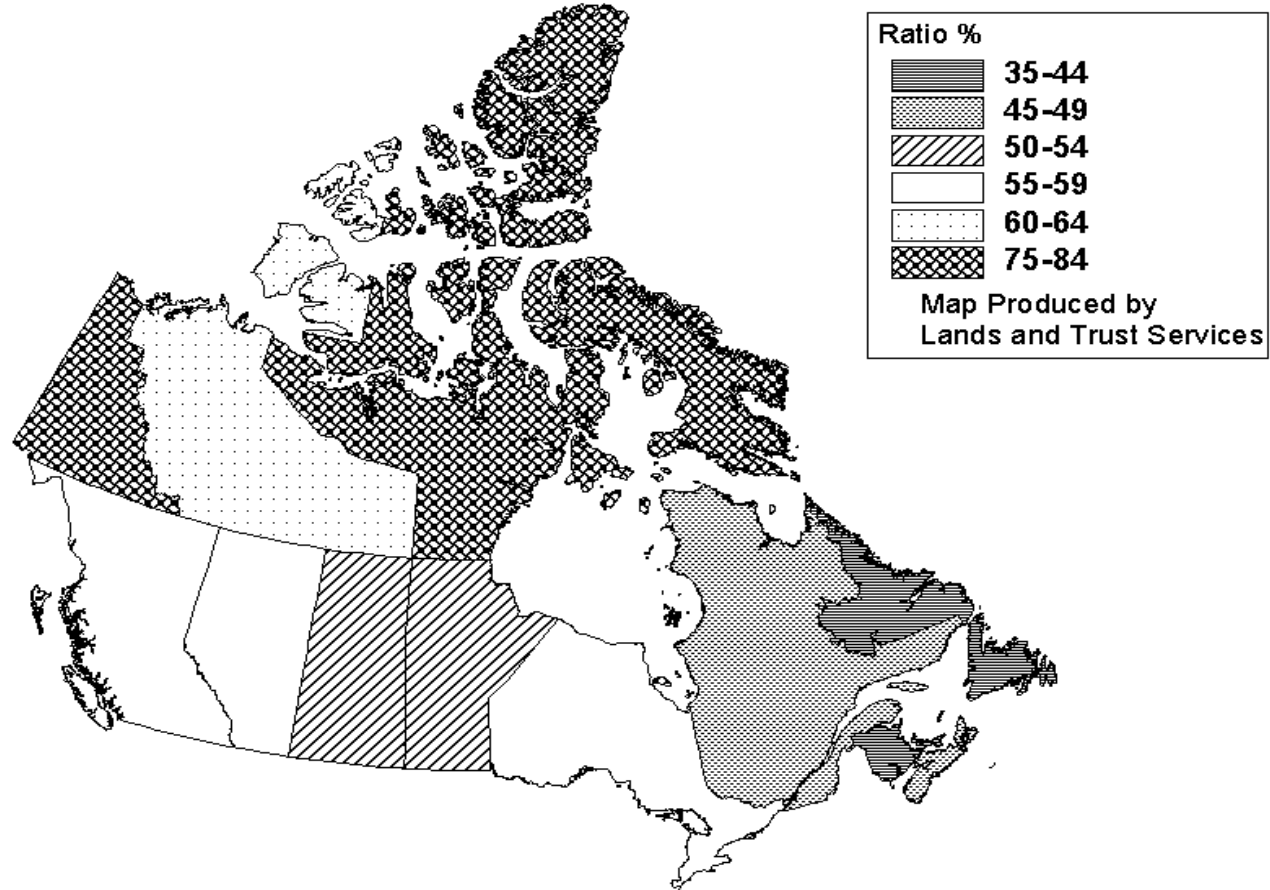
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Unemployment Rates for the Métis Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



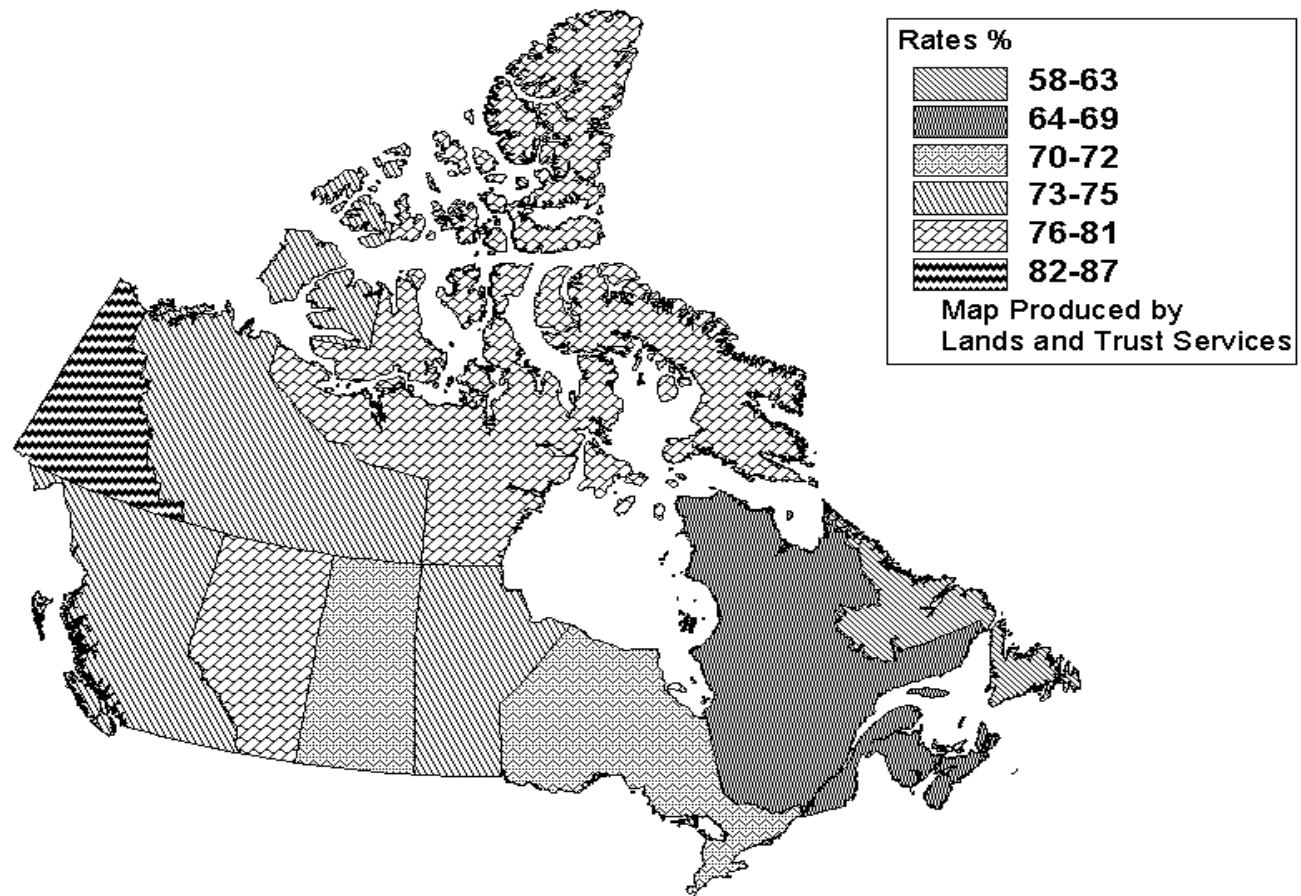
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Employment/Population Ratios for the Métis Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



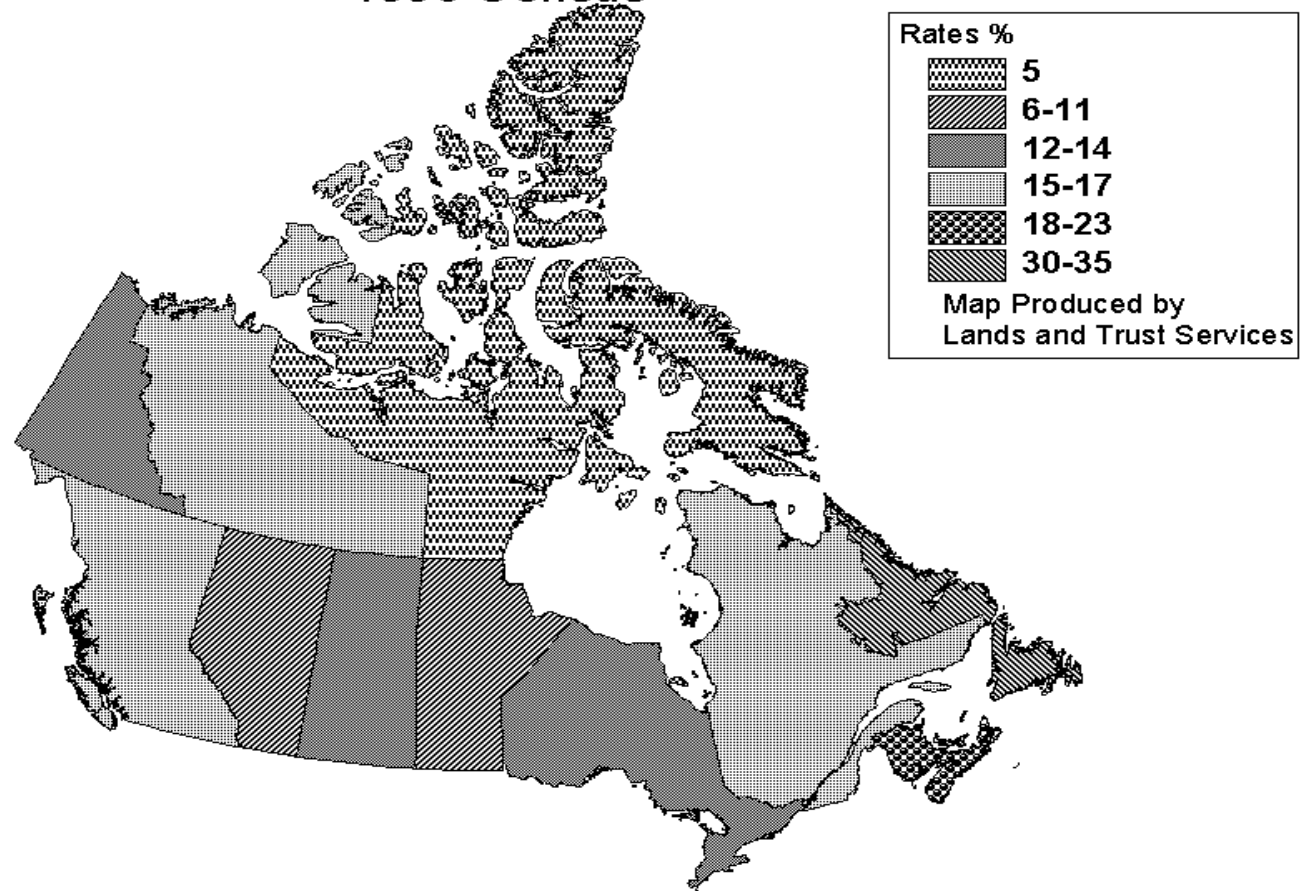
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Labour Force Participation Rates for the Other Aboriginal Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



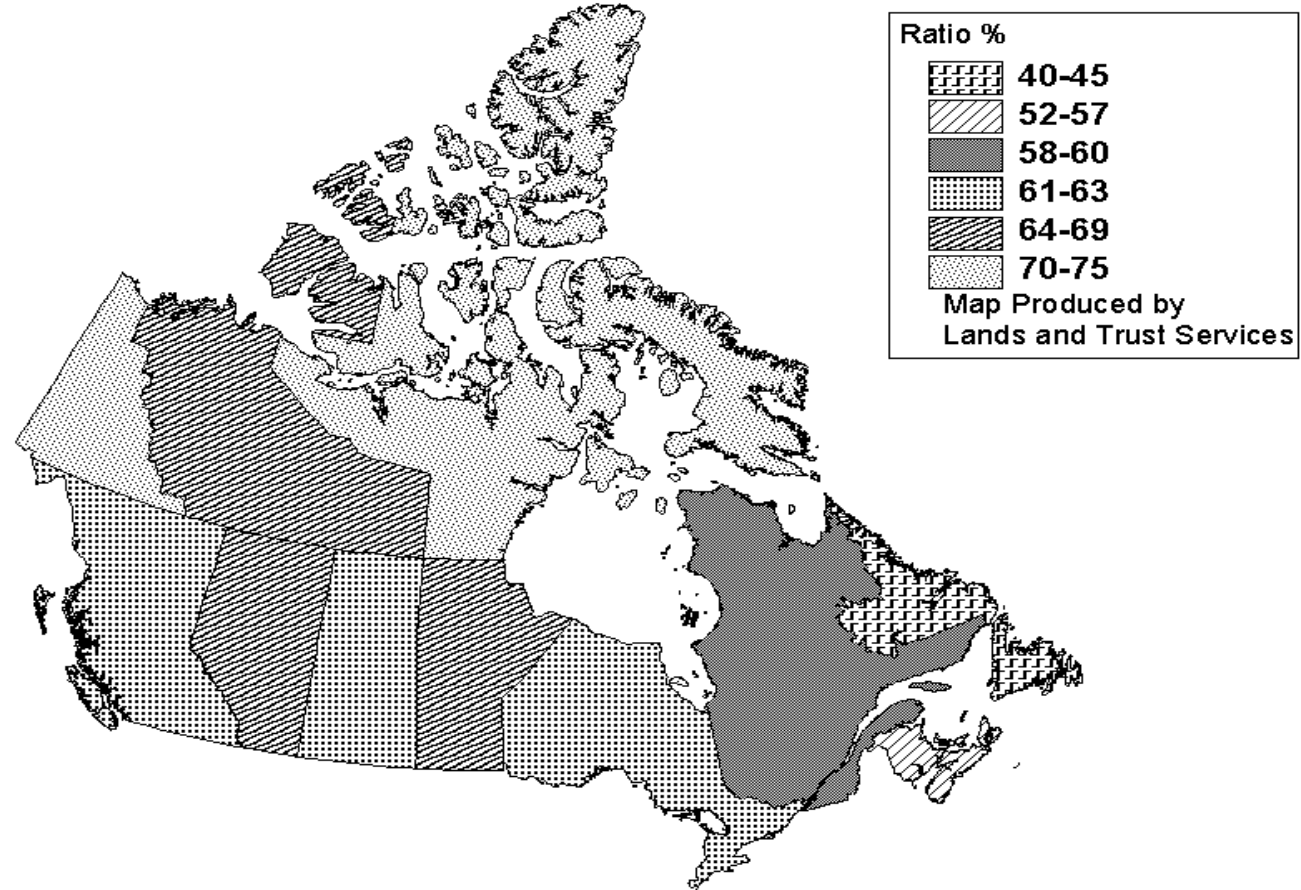
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Unemployment Rates for the Other Aboriginal Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



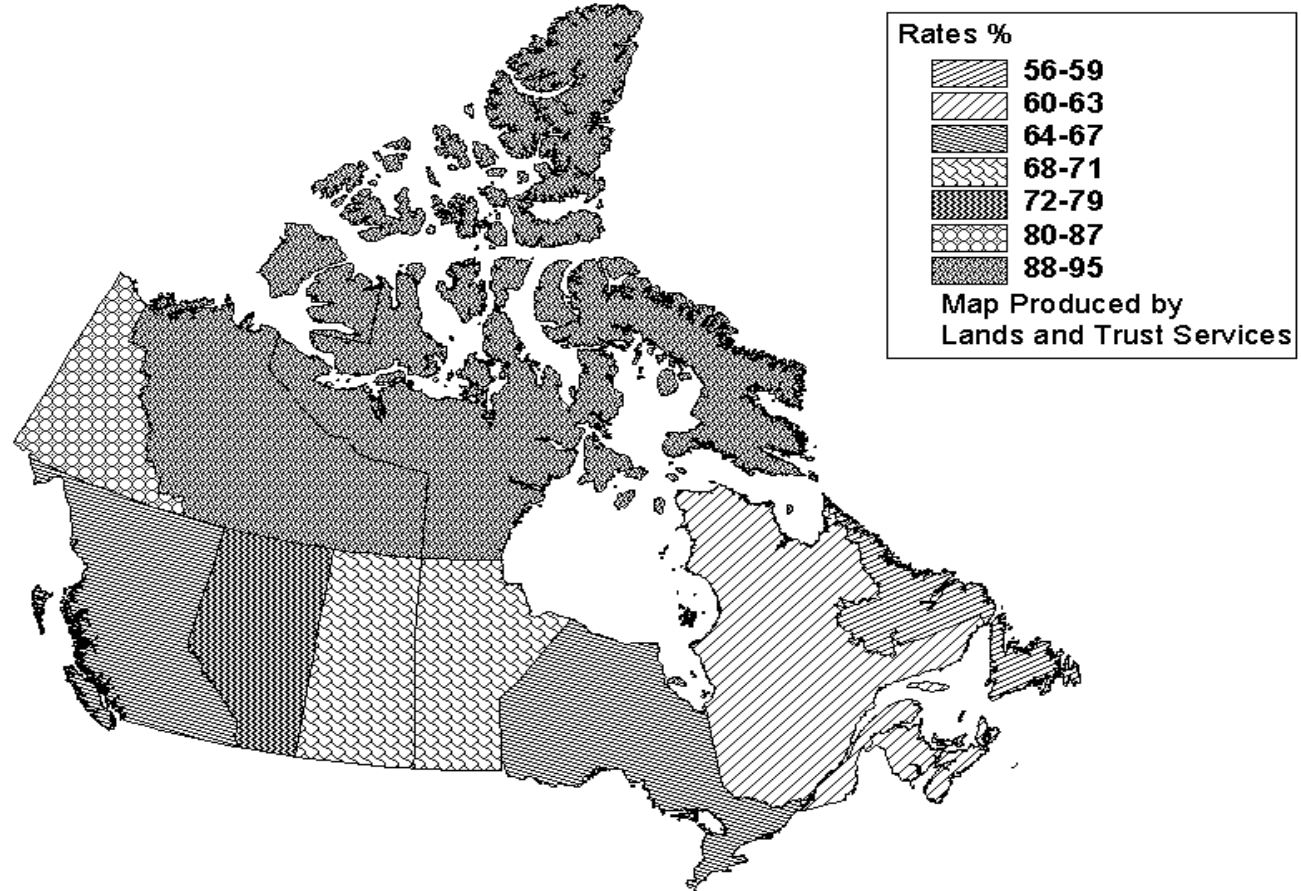
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Employment/Population Ratios for the Other Aboriginal Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



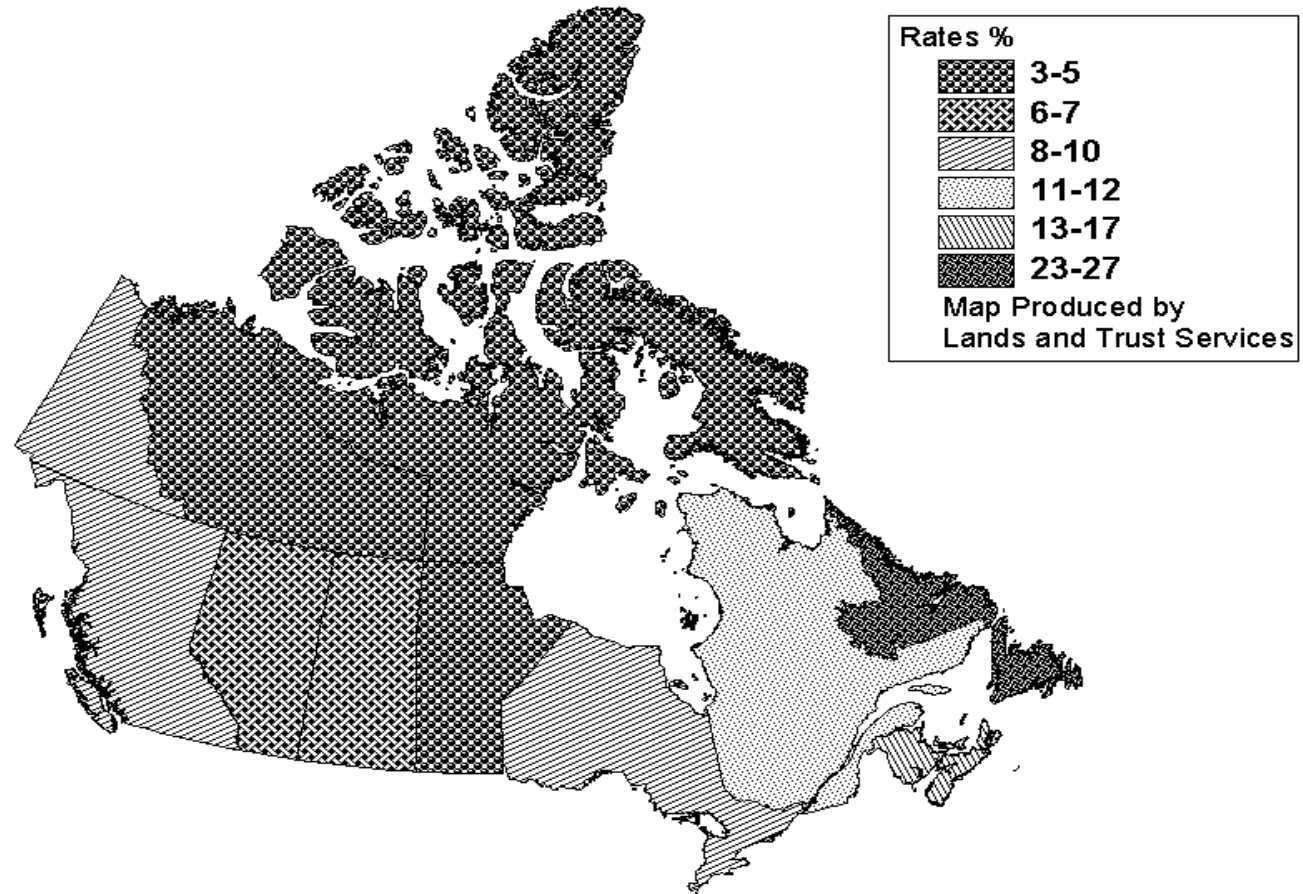
* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Labour Force Participation Rates for the Non-Aboriginal Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

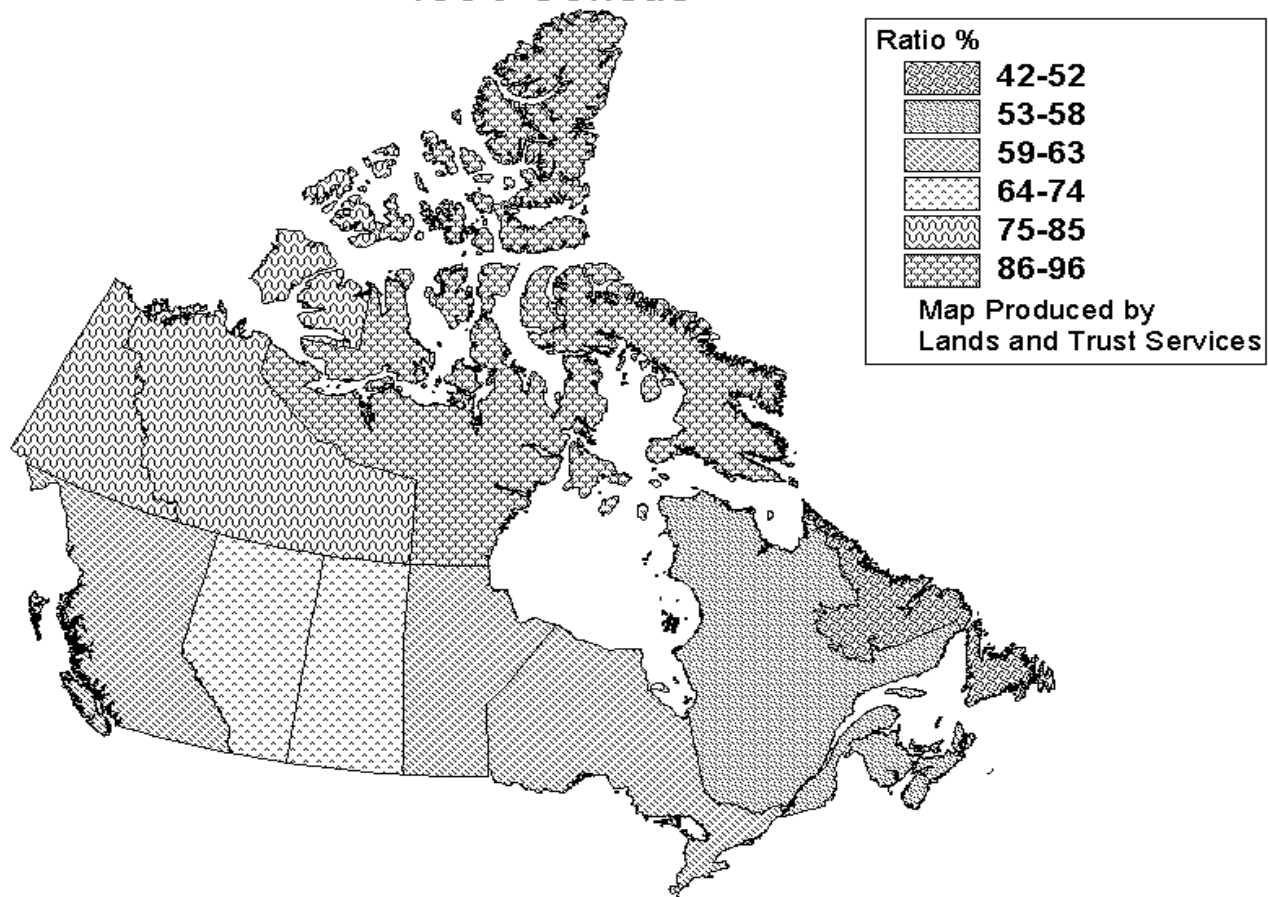
Unemployment Rates for the Non-Aboriginal Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



Rates %
3-5
6-7
8-10
11-12
13-17
23-27
Map Produced by
Lands and Trust Services

* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.

Employment/Population Ratios for the Non-Aboriginal Population by Provinces and Territories - 1996 Census



* Note: In certain regions, labour force statistics are based on very small populations. Use caution when interpreting these statistics and refer back to the provincial table for the complete data.