

OVERVIEW

Statistics Canada, in keeping with its mandate as Canada's central statistical agency, produces a wealth of information on many aspects of Canadian life. It makes this information available to users in many forms: publications, magnetic tape, disk, microfiche, microfilm and computer terminal access via CANSIM.

CANSIM, the Canadian Socio-Economic Information Management System, is Statistics Canada's computerized database and retrieval service. The CANSIM database contains the latest as well as historical statistical information, including 40,000 social and economic time series, a wide variety of social statistics organized in tables with up to nine levels of cross-classification, and large summary tapes from the 1976 and 1981 Canadian censuses.

TELICHART, developed in 1983, is one of the newest CANSIM facilities using NAPLPS technology. It allows dynamic interface between the time series data in CANSIM and the low-cost colour graphics of NAPLPS terminals or compatible personal computers.

EXPERIENCE

Started in 1966, CANSIM's fully computerized central database is accessible by computer terminals using telephone links in Canada and many other countries. Access to the data is provided through a network of commercial contractors or secondary distributors who maintain a

minibase of approximately 25,000 of the most popular series. Such historical and current information is used primarily by:

- Governments
- Corporate policy analysts and planners
- Market and investment analysts
- Financial officers
- Academic institutions
- Economists
- Statisticians

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

TELICHART is a graphic data display system incorporating database and graphics display language using interactive NAPLPS protocol.

TELICHART shows statistics as coloured graphics. The standard display is a line or bar chart. Combinations of lines, shapes, bars and colours can be shown together, either within the same grid or in split-screen fashion. The display can also be rescaled and actual data values listed.

As a tool for analysis, TELICHART applies standard analytical functions such as moving averages, totals, percent changes and indexing. TELICHART will display a graphic with source data as well as computations on the source data. All commands and features are explained in an on-line tutorial.

TELICHART currently accesses a subset of approximately 5,000 series in CANSIM, covering topics such as:

- Economic indicators
- Population statistics
- GNP
- Labour
- Wages
- Employment
- Prices
- Imports/exports
- Food
- Agriculture
- Fuel
- Power
- Mining

Conventional NAPLPS terminals or microcomputers with NAPLPS decoding software can be used with either printers or film recorders to produce hard-copy output.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS/ TARGET MARKETS

In the future, TELICHART will have additional ways to communicate. It will be able to select a wider set of data and the improvements that go with it, such as thematic mapping. It will be able to translate statistical information into more palatable information.

Since TELICHART, as an application of NAPLPS, is new, the possibilities of data expansion are considerable. Additional data from CANSIM will be considered as TELICHART users' requirements are identified.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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TELICHART