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FranceN Dataset: Cantons, 1806-96

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This dataset contains a record for every canton that existed in France during the specified period. ID numbers contain 5 digits that reflect the canton's position in the official administrative hierarchy. The first two digits encode the département (with initial 0s for départements numbered 1-9), the third encodes the arrondissement, and the fourth and fifth encode the canton. These ID numbers are keyed to a 1:1 million GIS map of France with coverages for different years.

This is a cross-time datafile that must take into account changes in the territorial extent of cantons and in the arrondissements to which they belong. In theory a given ID pertains to an unchanged piece of territory whose position in the field administrative system also remains unchanged. Whenever we have been able to document a significant change in the territorial extent of a canton during an intercensal period, we change the last two digits to yield a distinctive ID, and we do this even when there has been no change in name. A canton whose territorial extent (and hence whose polygon in the GIS boundary files) remains unchanged over a period of time keeps the same ID number, even when its name changes, provided it has not been transferred from one arrondissement to another. When a canton has been transferred to another arrondissement during an intercensal period, we assign a different ID reflecting the new administrative affiliation.

A municipal canton (MC), defined as one of 2+ cantons enveloping a single city, is to be distinguished from an ordinary canton. The 2-digit canton codes for MC units take the form 7X: 71 72 when there are only two MC units, 71 72 73 when there are three, etc. We have created merged units each consisting of the municipal cantons enveloping a given city; these are referred to as MMCs (merged muncipal cantons). A special convention governs the IDs of MMC. Even though the MCs in an MMC may be reconfigured from one census to the next (and the territorial extent of the MMC thereby enlarged), we maintain the same ID number for the MMC in which a given central city falls. And for cities that were divided only after 1806, the canton containing that city from 1806 on has the same ID as the subsequent MMC. The net effect is that the administrative “unit” that wholly contains any city that was ever divided in the 19th century will have the same ID (ending 01) throughout the century, whether that “unit” was an ordinary canton or an MMC. The only exception is Genève, an MMC is 1806 that was lost to France a decade later and never restored. The cantonal-level reconfigurations involved in changing urban administrative geography are all taken into account in the records for individual MCs. Unit-control variables have been introduced to help keep track of name changes, boundary changes, and changes in the canton's place in the administrative hierarchy.

The territorial extent of France also changed during the 19th century. 1815 saw major territorial losses along France's eastern and northern borders. These included two whole départements (73 Savoie and 74 Haute-Savoie), five arrondissements (062 Puget-Théniers, 064 San Remo, 684 Delémont, 685 Porrentruy, and 745 Leman), and particular cantons or parts of

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cantons in four other arrondissements (061 Nice, 083 Rocroy, 574 Thionville, and 674 Wissembourg). The départements of 73 Savoie and 74 Haute-Savoie, the arrondissement of

062 Puget-Théniers, and most of 061 Nice were regained in 1860, but with many changes in internal boundaries. In 1871 the Alsace-Lorraine area was ceded to Germany; these losses included the entire département of 67 Bas-Rhin, all of seven arrondissements (541 Château-Salins, 544 Sarrebourg, 572 Metz, 573 Sarreguemines, 574 Thionville, 681 Mulhouse, 683 Colmar), and particular cantons in two others (682 Belfort and 881 Saint-Dié). Unit-control variables have been introduced to help keep track of these territorial gains and losses

The short designation of any variable is a number preceded by n (for caNton), which is to be distinguished from datasets devoted to adjacent administrative levels: FranceA for Arrondissements and FranceM for coMunes. (We have also developed a dataset for central places, FranceC.) Blocks of variable numbers in FranceN are allocated as follows:

Unit-control variables	n1-99
Raw data variables	n101-799
Regional systems variables	n800-999
Analytical variables	n1001-1999

UNIT-CONTROL VARIABLES

n1 ID number (5 digits)
n2 Usual name as of 1861 (If other versions/spellings of the name, including German-French equivalents, are in use during the century, append them separated by /.)
n3 Name other than n2 (not just a spelling difference) applicable at any time 1806-1861
n4 Name other than n2 (not just a spelling difference) applicable at any time 1861-96
n5 Type of units as of 1806 and 1861. NB: A municipal canton (MC) is one of 2+ cantons enveloping a single "divided" city. Ordinary cantons refers to all others. MMC refers to a merged unit comprising all of the MCs enveloping a given city.)

- 01 Ordinary canton in existence in 1806 and 1861 with the same territory and same administrative position (name may change).
- 02 Ordinary canton in existence in 1806 and in existence as an ordinary canton in 1861 but with different territory and/or different administrative position.
- 03 Ordinary canton in existence in 1806 but not in existence as an ordinary canton in 1861
- 04 Ordinary canton in existence in 1861 but not 1806
- 05 Ordinary canton in 1806 but divided into 2+ MCs by 1861
- 06 MC in existence in 1806 and 1861 with same territory (name may change)
- 07 MC in existence in 1806 and in 1861 but with different territory
- 08 MC in 1806 but dropped from the municipal configuration by 1861
- 09 MC created through the subdivision of an ordinary canton after 1806 and by 1861
- 10 MMC in existence in 1806 and in 1861 (territory may change)
- 11 MMC created from an ordinary canton after 1806 and by 1861
- 12 Arrondissement treated as a canton (Seine département only)

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n6 First census year (last two digits only) when a cantonal unit goes out of existence

n7 First census year (other than 1806) when a cantonal unit comes into existence

Operational rules for n6 and n7: If the cantonal unit exists in 1806 but later goes out of existence, then n6 should show the first census year (two digits only) when it no longer exists. If that unit per se is never resurrected, then n7=00. If it is resurrected, then n7 should show the first census year when it resumes existence. If a cantonal unit does not exist in 1806, then n7 should show the first census year when it comes into existence. If that unit later goes out of existence, then n6 should show the census year when it no longer exists. If that unit remains in existence through 1896, then n6=00. Cantonal units that exist without break from 1806 through 1896 are coded n6=99 n7=99. Two cantons that went out of existence between 1806 and 1831 (73402 Aiguebelle and 73405 Modane) were subsequently restored and then went out of existence a second time; in these cases the second "disappearance (1876 for Aiguebelle and 1896 for Modane) is not coded in n6. By convention, MMCs (and their predecessor ordinary cantons, if any) keep the same n1 across time and are coded n6=99 and n7=99.

n8 Status of cantons that were lost, suppressed, or changed territorial extent 1806-21

1 Lost/suppressed and never regained/restored
2 Lost/suppressed and regained/restored by 1861 but with different boundaries (so new ID)
3 Lost-suppressed and regained/restored by 1861 with same boundaries (and same ID)
4 Lost/suppressed and regained/restored 1862-96 but with different boundaries (so new ID)
5 Lost/suppressed and regained/restored 1862-96 with same boundaries (and same ID)
6 Territorial extent changed 1806-21 (so new ID)
7 MCs that were reconfigured 1806-21 (so new ID)
0 Canton not lost or suppressed or changed in territorial extent 1806-21

n9 Status of cantons lost in 1871

1 Entire canton lost in 1871
2 Part of canton lost in 1871
3 The remaining part of a canton partially lost in 1871
0 Canton not involved in 1871 territorial losses

n11 Datafile control scheme for 1806/09 (MMC datafile vs. MC dtafile) for

	MMC	MC
1	x	x
2	x	
3		x

n12 Datafile control scheme for 1831
n13 " 1836
n14 " 1841
n15 " 1846
n16 " 1851
n17 " 1856
n18 " 1861
n19 " 1866
n20 " 1872