

This data is published on a per station basis in order to provide the most granular data available for public analysis. However, in order to protect the identity of the individual stations we have systematically anonymized the stations included.

Our inclusion criteria for stations were such that these numbers could be compared with the financial summaries that are published annually. As such there are separate datasets for:

- Commercial Radio stations not including CBC run and non-commercial stations;
- Commercial Conventional TV not including CBC run and non-commercial stations; and
- Discretionary services not including On Demand services.

To anonymize the data, all undertakings across the 5 year period were put into a list, duplicates were removed and the RAND() function in Excel was used to generate and assign a random value to each station undertaking number. The list was then sorted, based on the randomly generated number, from least to greatest. Based on this new order the stations were assigned a label in increasing order (for example, Station 001, 002, 003, 004). This label was then used to replace the undertaking number as the station identifier and all other identifying information was removed. This label is unique to each undertaking within each sector but is not necessarily unique across sectors (that is anonymized ID labels used in Radio could have been reused in Conventional TV). This method does not allow for identification of any individual stations/services or company reporting.

To further add granularity to the data and allow for the most comparison to the Financial Summaries, for the Radio and Conventional TV data, the stations are subdivided into categories based on regions. Should there be any regions with less than three Ultimate Owners within them the region was aggregated into a larger region in order to protect the anonymity of the owners and stations. This regional information was not included for Discretionary services as they are National by nature.

For further questions regarding the methodology of the preparation of this data, please contact: [validation@crtc.gc.ca](mailto:validation@crtc.gc.ca)