



# fact sheet

## Canada

Canada is a federation of 10 provinces, each with its own administrative system : Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Québec and Saskatchewan. Canada has three territories : Northwest Territories, the Yukon Territory and Nunavut, its most recent addition.

**Location:**

northern half of North America

**Population:**

32.8 million

**Size:**

9, 984, 670 sq km of land

**Size ranking:**

Second-largest in the world

**Geography:**

Diverse: fertile plains suitable for agriculture, vast mountain ranges, lakes and rivers, wilderness forests and in the far north, Arctic tundra.

**Major cities:**

Toronto, ON; Montreal, QC; Vancouver, BC; Ottawa and the National Capital Region, ON

**Concentration:**

77 percent of Canadians live in cities and towns, most within 200 km (125 mi) of the U.S. border.

**Brand Canada:**

Canada ranks No. 3 worldwide for its influence on global consumers, according to national brands expert Simon Anholt. An *Economist* magazine survey recently ranked Vancouver, BC, Calgary, AB and Toronto, ON as the top three best business travel destinations in the world.

**Standard of living:**

Sixth in the world, behind the U.S., Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany and Japan (according to gross domestic product per capita.)

**Time zones:**

Six

**Government:**

Independent sovereign democracy and federal state

**Official languages:**

English and French

**Currency:**

Canadian dollar

**Location / Size**

Canada is the second-largest country in the world after Russia. The land plus freshwater area of Canada is 9,984,670 sq km (3,855,174 sq mi). With the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans, Canada boasts the longest coastline of any country. To the south, Canada shares an 8,890 km (5,525 mile) boundary with the United States. To the north, the Arctic Islands come within 800 km (497 mi) of the North Pole. Canada's neighbour across the Arctic Ocean is Russia.

To see a table showing the land and freshwater areas for each province and territory, visit the Atlas of Canada:

[www.atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/facts/surfareas.html](http://www.atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/facts/surfareas.html).

For more intriguing facts about Canadian geography, such as the country's longest river or highest mountain, visit the Atlas of Canada:

[www.atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/facts/index.html](http://www.atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/facts/index.html).

**Climate / Seasons**

Canada is a vast land with diverse geography. The climate also varies widely. While the southernmost part of Canada, Point Pelee, is on the same latitude as northern California, the Canadian northland extends deep into the Arctic. Summer in Canada is similar to that of the northern half of the U.S., with warm-to-hot weather from May to October. Vancouver Island, BC residents can play golf year-round. The ski season extends from December to late March in the east, and to May or later in the west. Eastern Canada is famed for its spectacular autumn colours in late September. Canada's most populous regions, along the U.S. border to the south, enjoy four distinct seasons: with daytime temperatures in summer as high as 35 degrees C (95 degrees F) and winter lows of -25 degrees C (-13 degrees F).

## **Population**

Canada is home to more than 32.8 million people in 10 provinces and three territories. The largest Canadian cities are Toronto, ON (5 million in the GTA), Montreal, QC (3.6 million in the CMA), Vancouver, BC (2.2 million in the Lower Mainland), and Ottawa combined with the National Capital Region, ON (1.1 million). You can find the latest population figures on the Statistics Canada website at [www.statcan.ca/start.html](http://www.statcan.ca/start.html).

## **Economy**

With a population of 32.8 million, Canada boasts one of the world's largest economies. Canada enjoys an enviable standard of living, an excellent infrastructure, a highly educated and skilled labour force, plus a well-deserved reputation as a successful trading nation.

## **Standard of living**

Canada's standard of living ranks sixth in the world, behind the U.S., Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany and Japan (according to gross domestic product per capita). The ranking climbs even higher in assessments that consider other factors—such as life expectancy and education—that contribute to the overall quality of life.