

# CANADIAN RELOCATION "CANADA IN FIVE MINUTE'S"

## Geography of Canada

Location:	Northern North America, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean on the east, North Pacific Ocean on the west, and the Arctic Ocean on the north, north of the conterminous US
Coordinates:	60 00 N, 95 00 W
Area:	total: 9,976,140 sq km land: 9,220,970 sq km water: 755,170 sq km
Area comparative:	somewhat larger than the US
Land boundaries:	total: 8,893 km border countries: US 8,893 km (includes 2,477 km with Alaska)
Coastline:	202,080 km
Maritime claims:	contiguous zone: 24 NM territorial sea: 12 NM continental shelf: 200 NM or to the edge of the continental margin exclusive economic zone: 200 NM
Climate:	varies from temperate in south to subarctic and arctic in north
Terrain:	mostly plains with mountains in west and lowlands in southeast
Elevation extremes:	lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 m highest point: Mount Logan 5,959 m
Natural resources:	iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, potash, diamonds, silver, fish, timber, wildlife, coal, petroleum, natural gas, hydropower
Natural hazards:	continuous permafrost in north is a serious obstacle to development; cyclonic storms form east of the Rocky Mountains, a result of the mixing of air masses from the Arctic, Pacific, and North American interior, and produce most of the country's rain and snow east of the mountains
Environment - current issues:	air pollution and resulting acid rain severely affecting lakes and damaging forests; metal smelting, coal-burning utilities, and vehicle emissions impacting on agricultural and forest productivity; ocean waters becoming contaminated due to agricultural, industrial, mining, and forestry activities
Geography - note:	second-largest country in world (after Russia); strategic location between Russia and US via north polar route; approximately 85% of the population is concentrated within 300 km of the US border

## Population of Canada

Population:	36,390,141 (July 2012 est.)
Age structure:	0-14 years: 17.6% (male 2,992,811/female 2,848,388) 15-64 years: 69% (male 11,482,452/female 11,368,286) 65 years and over: 13.3% (male 1,883,008/female 2,523,987)

Median age: 38.9 years  
Growth rate: 0.88%  
Infant mortality: 4.69 deaths/1,000 live births  
Life expectancy total population: 80.22 years  
at birth: male: 76.86 years  
female: 83.74 years  
Total fertility rate: 1.61 children born/woman  
Nationality: noun: Canadian(s)  
adjective: Canadian  
Ethnic groups: British Isles origin 28%, French origin 23%, other European 15%, Amerindian 2%, other, mostly Asian, African, Arab 6%, mixed background 26%  
Religions: Roman Catholic 46%, Protestant 36%, other 18%  
note: based on the 1991 census  
Languages: English 59.3% (official), French 23.2% (official), other 17.5%  
Literacy: definition: age 15 and over can read and write  
total population: 99%

## Government

Government type: confederation with parliamentary democracy  
Capital: Ottawa  
Administrative divisions: 10 provinces and 3 territories\*; Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories\*, Nova Scotia, Nunavut\*, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territory\*  
Independence: 1 July 1867 (from UK)  
National holiday: Canada Day, 1 July (1867)  
Constitution: 17 April 1982 (Constitution Act); originally, the machinery of the government was set up in the British North America Act of 1867; charter of rights and unwritten customs  
Legal system: based on English common law, except in Quebec, where civil law system based on French law prevails; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations  
Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal  
Executive branch: chief of state: Queen ELIZABETH II , represented by Governor General Michaëlle JEAN  
head of government: Prime Minister Stephen HARPER  
cabinet: Federal Ministry chosen by the prime minister usually from among the members of his own party sitting in Parliament  
elections: none; the monarchy is hereditary; governor general appointed by the monarch on the advice of the prime minister for a five-year term; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or the leader of the majority coalition in the House of Commons is automatically designated prime minister by the governor general.

Legislative branch: bicameral Parliament or Parlement consists of the Senate or Senat (members appointed by the governor general with the advice of the prime minister and serve until reaching 75 years of age; its normal limit is 105 senators) and the House of Commons or Chambre des Communes (308 seats; members elected by direct, popular vote to serve for up to five-year terms)

Judicial branch: Supreme Court of Canada (judges are appointed by the prime minister through the governor general); Federal Court of Canada; Federal Court of Appeal; Provincial Courts (these are named variously Court of Appeal, Court of Queens Bench, Superior Court, Supreme Court, and Court of Justice).

### Economy

As an affluent, high-tech industrial society in the trillion dollar class, Canada resembles the US in its market-oriented economic system, pattern of production, and affluent living standards. Since World War II, the impressive growth of the manufacturing, mining, and service sectors has transformed the nation from a largely rural economy into one primarily industrial and urban. The 1989 US-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) (which includes Mexico) touched off a dramatic increase in trade and economic integration with the US. Given its great natural resources, skilled labor force, and modern capital plant, Canada enjoys solid economic prospects. Top-notch fiscal management has produced consecutive balanced budgets since 1997, although public debate continues over how to manage the rising cost of the publicly funded healthcare system. Exports account for roughly a third of GDP. Canada enjoys a substantial trade surplus with its principal trading partner, the US, which absorbs more than 85% of Canadian exports. Canada is the US' largest foreign supplier of energy, including oil, gas, uranium, and electric power.

GDP: \$1.178 trillion (2006 est.)

GDP growth

rate: 2.9%

GDP per capita: \$34,000

GDP composition by industry: 2.2%

sector: agriculture: 29.4%

services: 68.4%

Inflation rate: 2.2%

Labor force: 16.3 million

Labor force - by occupation: agriculture 2%, manufacturing 14%, construction 5%, services 75%, other 3%

Unemployment: 6.8%

Budget: revenues: \$159.6 billion  
expenditures: \$152.6 billion

Electricity production by source: fossil fuel: 28%

hydro: 57.9%

other: 1.3%

nuclear: 12.9%

Industries: transportation equipment, chemicals, processed and unprocessed minerals, food products; wood and paper products; fish products, petroleum, natural gas, tourism

Agriculture: wheat, barley, oilseed, tobacco, fruits, vegetables; dairy products; forest products; fish

Exports: motor vehicles and parts, industrial machinery, aircraft, telecommunications equipment; chemicals, plastics, fertilizers; wood pulp, timber, crude petroleum, natural gas, electricity, aluminum

Export partners: US 84.1%, Japan 2.1%, UK 1.8%

Imports: machinery and equipment, motor vehicles and parts, crude oil, chemicals, electricity, durable consumer goods

Import partners: US 57.5%, China 7.4%, Mexico 3.8%

Currency: Canadian dollar (CAD)

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