In general, information available as of 1 January 2003 was used in the preparation of The World Factbook 2003.

This page was last updated on 18 December, 2003.
A land of vast distances and rich natural resources, Canada became a self-governing dominion in 1867 while retaining ties to the British crown. Economically and technologically the nation has developed in parallel with the US, its neighbor to the south across an unfortified border. Its paramount political problem continues to be the relationship of the province of Quebec, with its French-speaking residents and unique culture, to the remainder of the country.

**Geography**

**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.

**Geographic coordinates:**
60 00 N, 95 00 W

**Map references:**
North America

**Area:**
- total: 9,984,670 sq km
- land: 9,093,507 sq km
- water: 891,163 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

**Land use:**
- arable land: 4.94%
- permanent crops: 0.02%
- other: 95.04% (1998 est.)
Irrigated land: 7,200 sq km (1998 est.)

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

People

Canada

Population: 32,207,113 (July 2003 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 18.5% (male 3,052,005; female 2,903,007)

15-64 years: 68.6% (male 11,099,907; female 10,984,903)

65 years and over: 12.9% (male 1,774,262; female 2,393,029) (2003 est.)

Median age:

total: 37.8 years
male: 36.9 years
female: 38.8 years (2002)

Population growth rate: 0.94% (2003 est.)

Birth rate: 10.99 births/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Death rate: 7.61 deaths/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Net migration rate: 6.01 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2003 est.)
Sex ratio:
- At birth: 1.05 male(s)/female
- Under 15 years: 1.05 male(s)/female
- 15-64 years: 1.01 male(s)/female
- 65 years and over: 0.74 male(s)/female
- Total population: 0.98 male(s)/female (2003 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
- Total: 4.88 deaths/1,000 live births
- Female: 4.39 deaths/1,000 live births (2003 est.)
- Male: 5.36 deaths/1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth:
- Total population: 79.83 years
- Male: 76.44 years
- Female: 83.38 years (2003 est.)

Total fertility rate:
- 1.61 children born/woman (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
- 0.3% (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
- 55,000 (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths:
- Less than 500 (2001 est.)

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: 97% (1986 est.)
- Male: NA%
- Female: NA%

Government:
- Country name: Canada
- Conventional long form: none
- Conventional short form: Canada
- Government type: Confederation with parliamentary democracy

Note: Based on the 1991 census.
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 (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General Adrienne CLARKSON (since 7 October 1999)
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
head of government: Prime Minister Paul MARTIN (since 12 December 2003);
Deputy Prime Minister Anne MCLELLAN (since 12 December 2003)
cabinet: Federal Ministry chosen by the prime minister from among the members of his own party sitting in Parliament

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 (301 seats; members elected by direct, popular vote to serve for up to five-year terms)
elections: House of Commons - last held 27 November 2000 (next to be held by 2005)

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)

Political parties and leaders: Bloc Quebecois [Gilles DUCPEPPE]; Canadian Alliance [Stephen HARPER]; Liberal Party [Paul MARTIN]; New Democratic Party [Jack LAYTON]; Progressive Conservative Party [Peter MACKAY]

Political pressure groups and leaders: NA

International organization participation: ACCT, AfDB, APEC, ARF (dialogue partner), AsDB, ASEAN (dialogue partner), Australia Group, BIS, C, CDB, CE (observer), EAPC, EBRD, ECE, ECLAC, ESA (cooperating state), FAO, G-7, G-8, G-10, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCt, ICFTU, ICRL, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, MINURCA, MIPONUH, MONUC, NAM (guest), NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS, OECD, OPCW, OSCE, PCA, UN, UNAMSIL, UNCTAD, UNDOF, UNESCO, UNIFCYP, UNHCR, UNMEE, UNMIK, UNMOP, UNMOVIC, UNTSO, UNU, UPU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, WTrO, ZC


Diplomatic representation from the US: chief of mission: Ambassador Paul CELLUCCI embassy: 490 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1G8 mailing address: P. O. Box 5000, Ogdensburg, NY 13669-0430 telephone: [1] (613) 238-5335, 4470 FAX: [1] (613) 688-3097 consulate(s) general: Calgary, Halifax, Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, and Vancouver

Flag description: two vertical bands of red (hoist and fly side, half width), with white square between them; an 11-pointed red maple leaf is centered in the white square; the official colors of Canada are red and white

Economy - Canada

Economy - overview: As an affluent, high-tech industrial society, Canada today closely resembles the US in its market-oriented economic system, pattern of production, and high 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. As a
result of the close cross-border relationship, the economic sluggishness in the United States in 2001-02 had a negative impact on the Canadian economy. Real growth averaged nearly 3% during 1993-2000, but declined in 2001, with moderate recovery in 2002. Unemployment is up, with contraction in the manufacturing and natural resource sectors. Nevertheless, given its great natural resources, skilled labor force, and modern capital plant Canada enjoys solid economic prospects. Two shadows loom, the first being the continuing constitutional impasse between English- and French-speaking areas, which has been raising the specter of a split in the federation. Another long-term concern is the flow south to the US of professionals lured by higher pay, lower taxes, and the immense high-tech infrastructure. A key strength in the economy is the substantial trade surplus.

GDP: purchasing power parity - $934.1 billion (2002 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 3.3% (2002 est.)

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - $29,300 (2002 est.)

GDP - composition by sector:
- agriculture: 2.3%
- industry: 26.5%
- services: 71.2% (2001 est.)

Population below poverty line: NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share:
- lowest 10%: 2.8%
- highest 10%: 23.8% (1994)

Distribution of family income - Gini index: 31.5 (1994)

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 2.2% (2002 est.)

Labor force: 16.4 million (2001 est.)

Labor force - by occupation: services 74%, manufacturing 15%, construction 5%, agriculture 3%, other 3% (2000)

Unemployment rate: 7.6% (2002 est.)

Budget:
- revenues: $178.6 billion
- expenditures: $161.4 billion, including capital expenditures of $NA (FY 00/01 est.)

Industries:
- transportation equipment, chemicals, processed and unprocessed minerals, food products; wood and paper products; fish products, petroleum and natural gas
growth rate: 2.2% (2002 est.)

Electricity - production: 566.3 billion kWh (2001)

Electricity - production by source:
fossil fuel: 28%
hydro: 57.9%
other: 1.3% (2001)
nuclear: 12.9%

Electricity - consumption: 504.4 billion kWh (2001)

Electricity - exports: 38.4 billion kWh (2001)

Electricity - imports: 16.11 billion kWh (2001)

Oil - production: 2.738 million bbl/day (2001 est.)

Oil - consumption: 1.703 million bbl/day (2001 est.)

Oil - exports: 2.008 million bbl/day (2001)

Oil - imports: 1.145 million bbl/day (2001)

Oil - proved reserves: 5.112 billion bbl (37257)

Natural gas - production: 186.8 billion cu m (2001 est.)

Natural gas - consumption: 82.25 billion cu m (2001 est.)

Natural gas - exports: 109 billion cu m (2001 est.)

Natural gas - imports: 4.46 billion cu m (2001 est.)

Natural gas - proved reserves: 1.691 trillion cu m (37257)

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

Exports: $260.5 billion f.o.b. (2002 est.)

Exports - commodities: motor vehicles and parts, industrial machinery, aircraft, telecommunications equipment; chemicals, plastics, fertilizers; wood pulp, timber, crude petroleum, natural gas, electricity, aluminum
Exports - partners: US 87.7%, Japan 2%, UK 1.1% (2002)

Imports: $229 billion f.o.b. (2002 est.)

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

Imports - partners: US 62.6%, China 4.6%, Japan 4.4% (2002)

Debt - external: $1.9 billion $NA (2000)

Economic aid - donor: ODA, $1.3 billion (1999)

Currency: Canadian dollar (CAD)

Currency code: CAD


Fiscal year: 1 April - 31 March

Communications

Telephones - main lines in use: 20,802,900 (1999)

Telephones - mobile cellular: 8,751,300 (1997)

Telephone system: excellent service provided by modern technology

general assessment: domestic: domestic satellite system with about 300 earth stations

international: 5 coaxial submarine cables; satellite earth stations - 5 Intelsat (4 Atlantic Ocean and 1 Pacific Ocean) and 2 Intersputnik (Atlantic Ocean region)


Television broadcast stations: 80 (plus many repeaters) (1997)

Internet country code: .ca

Internet Service Providers (ISPs): 760 (2000 est.)

Internet users: 16.84 million (2002)
Transportation

Canada

Railways:
- total: 49,422 km
- standard gauge: 49,422 km (1.435-m gauge, 129 km electrified) (2002)

Highways:
- total: 1.408 million km
- paved: 497,306 km (including 16,900 km of expressways)
- unpaved: 911,494 km (2002)

Waterways:
- 3,000 km (including Saint Lawrence Seaway)

Pipelines:
- crude and refined oil 23,564 km; natural gas 74,980 km

Ports and harbors:
- Becancour (Quebec), Churchill, Halifax, Hamilton, Montreal, New Westminster, Prince Rupert, Quebec, Saint John (New Brunswick), St. John's (Newfoundland), Sept Isles, Sydney, Trois-Rivieres, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Vancouver, Windsor

Merchant marine:
- total: 122 ships (1,000 GRT or over) 1,840,272 GRT/2,740,864 DWT
- ships by type: barge carrier 1, bulk 64, cargo 11, chemical tanker 6, combination bulk 2, combination ore/oil 1, container 1, passenger 2, passenger/cargo 1, petroleum tanker 18, railcar carrier 2, roll on/roll off 9, short-sea passenger 3, specialized tanker 1
- note: includes some foreign-owned ships registered here as a flag of convenience: Germany 3, Monaco 16, United Kingdom 1, United States 1 (2002 est.)

Airports:
- 1,389 (2002)

Airports - with paved runways:
- total: 507
  - over 3,047 m: 18
  - 2,438 to 3,047 m: 15
  - 914 to 1,523 m: 245
  - under 914 m: 80 (2002)
  - 1,524 to 2,437 m: 149

Airports - with unpaved runways:
- total: 882
  - 1,524 to 2,437 m: 73
  - 914 to 1,523 m: 363
  - under 914 m: 446 (2002)

Heliports:
- 12 (2002)

Military

Canada

Military branches:
- Canadian Armed Forces (comprising Land Forces Command, Maritime Command, Air Command, Communications Command, Training Command)
manpower - military age: 16 years of age (2003 est.)


Military manpower - reaching military age annually: males: 216,488 (2003 est.)

Military expenditures - dollar figure: $7.861 billion (FY01/02)

Military expenditures - percent of GDP: 1.1% (FY01/02)

Transnational Issues

Canada

Disputes - international: managed maritime boundary disputes with the US at Dixon Entrance, Beaufort Sea, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and around the disputed Machias Seal Island and North Rock; uncontested dispute with Denmark over Hans Island sovereignty in the Kennedy Channel between Ellesmere Island and Greenland

Illicit drugs: illicit producer of cannabis for the domestic drug market; use of hydroponics technology permits growers to plant large quantities of high-quality marijuana indoors; transit point for heroin and cocaine entering the US market; vulnerable to narcotics money laundering because of its mature financial services sector

This page was last updated on 18 December, 2003