

Canada



Capital: Ottawa

Population: 35.000.000

Form of government: Federal parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy¹

Currency: Canadian dollar (CAD)

Indipendence: Dic. 11, 1931

Canada (capital Ottawa, largest city Toronto) occupies most of northern North America, extending from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west and northward into the Arctic Ocean. It limits with the United States in the south and northwest. Canada, a federation formed by ten provinces and three territories, is a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy, with Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state. It is a bilingual and multicultural country, with both English and French as official languages both at the federal level and in the province of New Brunswick. It is one of the world's highly developed countries in the world.



Canada has an extensive coastline on its north, east, and west. The vastness and variety of Canada's geography, ecology, vegetation and landforms have given rise to a wide variety of climates throughout the country. Also because of its vast size, Canada has more lakes than any other country. These lakes contain much of the world's fresh water.

The most important rivers are St. Mary's River, St. Claire River, Detroit River, Niagara River including the Niagara Falls and St. Lawrence River.

The **Great Lakes** are a collection of freshwater lakes located in eastern North America, on the Canada – United States border. Consisting of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, they form the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth.

Moraine Lake in Alberta's Banff National Park are the country's oldest national parks.

Climate

Average winter and summer high temperatures across Canada vary according to the location. Winters can be harsh in many regions of the country, and can drop below $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($-40.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) with severe wind chills. In non coastal regions, snow can cover the ground almost six months of the year (more in the north). Coastal British Columbia is an exception; it enjoys a temperate climate, with a mild and rainy winter.

Canada is also geologically active, having many earthquakes and potentially active volcanoes.

Economy.

In the past century, the growth of the manufacturing, mining, and service sectors has transformed the nation from a largely rural economy to a more industrial and urban one. Like other First World nations, the Canadian economy is dominated by the service industry, which employs about three quarters of Canadians. Canada is important for its primary sector, with the logging (the process in which certain trees are cut down for forest management and timber) and petroleum industries.

Canada is one of the few developed nations that are net exporters of energy.

Atlantic Canada has vast offshore deposits of natural gas, and large oil and gas resources are centred in Alberta

Canada is one of the world's most important suppliers of agricultural products, with the Canadian Prairies being one of the most important suppliers of wheat, canola, and other grains.

Canada is the largest producer of zinc and uranium, and is an important global producer of many other natural resources, such as gold, nickel, aluminium, and lead. Canada also has an important manufacturing sector in southern Ontario and Quebec, with automobiles and aeronautics.

Demographics

The most important cities are: Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Quebec City, Winnipeg and Hamilton.

The largest ethnic group is English, followed by French, Scottish, Irish, German, Italian (5%), Chinese and Ukrainian.

Flag

The National flag of Canada, also known as the Maple Leaf, (and Unifolié) is a red flag with a white square in its centre, featuring a stylized 11-pointed red maple leaf.

The flag made its first appearance on February 15, 1965; the date is now celebrated annually as National Flag of Canada Day.

The number of points on the leaf has no significance on the flag: they do not represent the 10 provinces plus one point for the territories, such as the Australian Commonwealth Star denotes.

In 1921, King George V proclaimed the official colours of Canada as red, from Saint George's Cross, and white, from the French royal emblem since King Charles VII.