

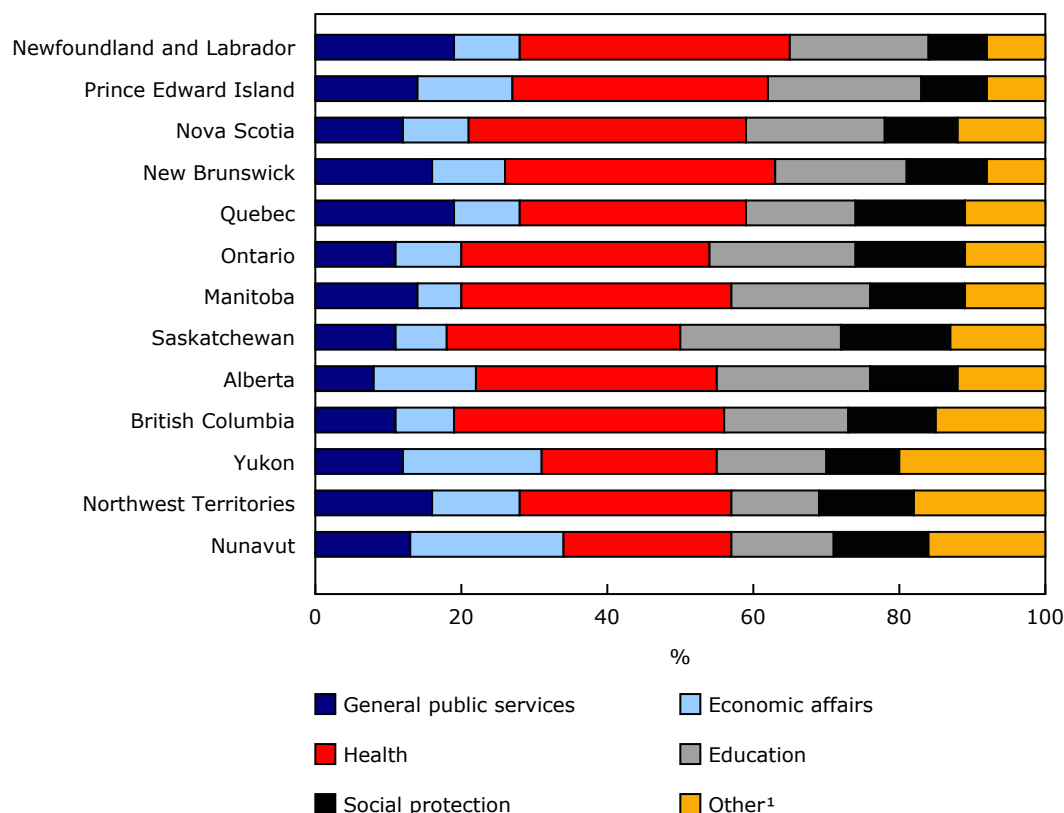
Canadian Classification of Functions of Government, 2017

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Canadian general government—federal, provincial-territorial and local combined—spent \$177.3 billion or \$4,830 per person in 2017 on social protection, which includes programs to help children, the elderly, those in low income, the unemployed and the disabled. This was the consolidated governments' largest expense, and marked the second time in a decade that spending on social protection exceeded health care spending.

Higher spending on federally administered programs and services related to sickness and disability (\$1.1 billion) and old age (\$2.7 billion), combined with increased provincial-territorial and local government (PTLG) spending on family and children services (\$2.2 billion), explains the significant increase in social protection spending in 2017.

Chart 1
Share of consolidated provincial-territorial and local government expenses by function, 2017



1. The category "Other" includes defence, public order and safety, environmental protection, housing and community amenities, and recreation, culture, and religion.
Source(s): Table 10-10-0005-01.

Social protection expenses are lowest in Atlantic Canada

Combined provincial-territorial and local governments spent \$69 billion or \$1,879 per person in 2017 on social protection.

Overall, provincial spending on social protection was highest in Saskatchewan (\$2,295 per person) and Quebec (\$2,193 per person). The higher levels in Saskatchewan were due, in part, to extensive sickness, disability and survivor benefit coverage provided by the province's compulsory public auto insurance program. In Quebec, which also has a public auto insurance program, the higher spending was tied, in large part, to the provincially subsidized universal child care program, which was included under family and children expenses.

Expenses on social protection were the lowest in Prince Edward Island (\$1,138 per person) and Newfoundland and Labrador (\$1,386 per person).

Quebec and Manitoba spend significantly more on family and children services

Quebec spent the most on family and children services, with per-capita spending of \$889 or \$7.5 billion in 2017. Manitoba spent the second-highest amount with a per-capita spending of \$670 or \$896 million. On a per capita basis, Manitoba spent nearly 50% more than the next highest province, Ontario. In recent years, Manitoba has increased spending on child protective services and lodging. Overall, the number of children-and-youth-in-care has nearly doubled over the past decade and the budgeted funding for child welfare has nearly tripled.

New Brunswick more than doubled its spending on family and children from 2016 to 2017, largely the result of increased funding for child protection and early child development programs. Spending on family and children as a share of total social protection spending in New Brunswick rose from 20% in 2008 to 26% in 2017, making it slightly higher than the Canadian provincial average of 25%.

Social exclusion spending highest in Quebec

Social exclusion, as defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development / United Nations classification, includes benefits to persons who are at the risk of being socially excluded, such as low-income earners, refugees, and homeless persons. Social exclusion expenses were the highest per capita in Quebec (\$611 or \$5.1 billion), followed by Nova Scotia (\$464 or \$443 million). Quebec's high spending was attributable to significant contributions from the social assistance and social solidarity programs that were aimed at actively supporting low-income individuals in their social and professional integration efforts.

Alberta has spent the least on social exclusion over the past decade, with per-capita spending of \$153. Alberta, however, increased spending by nearly 50% from 2015 to 2017, and has added initiatives aimed at providing income support to low income or destitute persons.

Hospital expenses significantly higher in Atlantic Canada

Health was the largest expense category of provincial-territorial and local governments at \$4,595 per person or \$168.7 billion in 2017, accounting for more than one-third of all expenses. Health expenses across Canada rose from \$3,624 in 2008, and the share of health expenses to the total PTLG spending has also increased over the same period.

Hospital expenses were the highest per capita in Newfoundland and Labrador (\$4,641) and New Brunswick (\$4,420) in 2017. This was tied to the higher wages paid compared with the Canadian average and higher employment in the hospital sector in these provinces.

Ontario spent the least per capita at \$2,468, nearly 15% less than the next lowest province, British Columbia (\$2,894).

British Columbia spent the most on outpatient services with per-capita spending of \$802 or \$3.9 billion in 2017. Generally, British Columbia and Ontario have spent the most on outpatient services over the past decade, with increased expenses related to medical or paramedical services that are delivered at home or through outpatient clinics, such as community care facilities.

Transportation expenses are highest in New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador

Transportation expenses generally account for nearly half of total provincial-territorial and local government spending on the economic affairs category. Transportation expenses include all economic activities related to various modes of transportation, including road, water, air, rail, pipeline and other transportation modes. New Brunswick (\$870) spent the most per capita on transportation in 2017, followed closely by Newfoundland and Labrador (\$834). Over the past decade, these two provinces have generally spent more on transportation expenses than other provinces. Saskatchewan (\$389) and Manitoba (\$439) have generally spent the least per capita.

Crop insurance drives volatility in provincial agriculture spending

Saskatchewan has dominated spending on agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting over the past decade, with per-capita spending of \$459 or \$534 million in 2017, down from \$966 or \$1.1 billion in 2016. Most of the expense volatility can be linked to public agriculture insurance corporations that are responsible for administering programs such as crop insurance, wildlife damage compensation, and various price insurance programs. Crop insurance is purchased by agricultural producers to protect themselves against potential losses due to natural disasters or price declines in agricultural products.

Spending on housing and community amenities reaches a record high in British Columbia in 2016

Spending on housing and community amenities were largely driven by local government expenses and accounted for just over 1.5% of total Canadian general government spending or \$10.9 billion in 2017. It is the smallest functional expense category and has been for the past decade. In 2017, Alberta provincial-territorial and local governments spent the most on housing and community amenities per-capita at \$288 or \$1.2 billion, while Prince Edward Island spent the least (\$112 or \$17 million).

The introduction of more detailed Canadian Classifications of Functions of Government shows that in 2016, British Columbia spent more on housing and community development than any other province over the past decade. The provincial government committed over \$500 million through the Housing Priorities Initiative Fund to increase the housing stock and to provide loans and support programs to assist with the maintenance and acquisition of new housing units. The revenue to fund the program was generated through a 15% property transfer tax on foreign buyers that was re-invested back into the economy to equalize the housing market.

Table 1
Consolidated per capita spending by selected Canadian Classification of Functions of Government, 2017

	Canadian general government	Provincial- territorial and local governments	Federal government ¹	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec
	dollars							
General public services	3,163	1,769	2,455	3,209	1,862	1,685	2,268	2,783
Executive and legislative organs, financial and fiscal affairs and external affairs	432	232	202	601	191	140	187	390
Foreign economic aid	112	0	112	0	0	0	0	0
General services	770	447	346	1,284	704	529	979	502
Basic research	61	0	61	0	0	0	0	0
Public debt transactions	1,626	1,010	620	1,314	960	971	1,097	1,694
General public services n.e.c. ²	162	81	1,114	11	7	43	4	198
Defence	500	0	509	0	0	0	0	0
Military defense	442	0	451	0	0	0	0	0
Civil defense	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign military aid	42	0	42	0	0	0	0	0
Defence n.e.c. ²	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Public order and safety	991	735	315	639	513	779	645	598
Police services	471	337	178	272	217	392	338	296
Fire protection services	134	135	0	79	59	128	87	95
Law courts	166	122	49	134	92	169	74	133
Prisons	129	66	69	85	99	68	57	39
Public order and safety n.e.c. ²	91	75	18	68	46	23	90	35
Economic affairs	1,584	1,293	424	1,545	1,625	1,265	1,440	1,350
General economic, commercial, and labour affairs	301	219	167	425	566	533	290	284
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	215	158	83	146	335	128	180	178
Fuel and energy	170	165	13	61	13	71	11	18
Mining, manufacturing and construction	10	10	0	19	7	0	0	25
Transport	693	627	74	834	507	443	870	638
Economic affairs n.e.c. ²	196	114	87	62	191	91	90	207
Environmental protection	348	286	68	191	250	282	190	206
Waste management	107	93	15	125	158	147	74	84
Waste water management	99	100	0	19	46	30	68	66
Pollution abatement	45	23	23	9	13	45	12	16
Protection of biodiversity and landscape	57	41	17	15	13	22	24	15
Environmental protection n.e.c. ²	40	29	12	23	13	38	12	24
Housing and community amenities	297	219	119	206	112	218	172	144
Housing and community development	78	74	5	40	39	49	53	50
Water supply	120	122	0	123	53	118	84	69
Street lighting	17	17	0	25	13	39	34	15
Housing and community amenities n.e.c. ²	82	6	115	17	13	12	1	12
Health	4,769	4,595	1,162	6,112	4,565	5,264	5,348	4,508
Medical products, appliances and equipment	345	345	0	316	230	66	299	464
Outpatient services	684	654	31	596	638	747	295	648
Hospital services	3,004	3,004	0	4,641	3,407	3,856	4,420	3,076
Public health services	231	219	13	252	132	404	65	108
Health n.e.c. ²	506	373	1,118	306	151	190	271	212
Recreation, culture and religion	501	372	142	223	184	327	226	391
Recreational and sporting services	183	169	16	100	92	175	126	155
Cultural services	163	108	64	85	86	140	84	140
Broadcasting and publishing services	104	44	60	0	0	0	0	8
Recreation, culture and religion n.e.c. ²	52	50	2	38	7	12	14	87
Education	2,673	2,531	162	3,150	2,710	2,693	2,591	2,159
Primary and secondary education	1,639	1,605	42	2,103	1,605	1,603	1,580	1,448
College education	356	300	58	246	388	227	221	360
University education	661	603	59	758	645	834	582	345
Education n.e.c. ²	17	23	4	43	79	29	207	6
Social protection	4,830	1,879	3,111	1,386	1,138	1,408	1,551	2,193
Sickness and disability	805	669	139	373	507	542	599	457
Old age	1,479	68	1,411	2	0	2	20	58
Family and children	1,384	537	872	361	184	225	404	889
Unemployment	411	26	407	0	0	0	0	24
Housing	166	159	80	193	99	174	142	129
Social exclusions	512	369	161	439	316	464	309	611
Social protection n.e.c. ²	73	51	41	17	20	0	78	27
	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewa n	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
	dollars							

	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
General public services	1,367	1,945	1,684	1,130	1,394	4,264	7,345	7,080
Executive and legislative organs, financial and fiscal affairs and external affairs	86	130	213	271	326	1,118	2,134	2,790
Foreign economic aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General services	301	431	769	507	372	2,912	4,717	3,606
Basic research	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public debt transactions	934	1,380	681	317	616	208	292	105
General public services n.e.c. ²	46	3	20	36	80	26	202	579
Defence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Military defense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civil defense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign military aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defence n.e.c. ²	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public order and safety	763	838	903	764	769	2,132	3,032	3,264
Police services	364	279	370	314	345	676	1,033	1,079
Fire protection services	144	138	137	194	145	78	45	53
Law courts	114	110	126	110	127	390	651	816
Prisons	59	238	153	65	45	416	786	974
Public order and safety n.e.c. ²	82	72	117	82	107	546	517	316
Economic affairs	1,092	889	1,115	2,144	974	6,422	5,458	11,133
General economic, commercial and labour affairs	181	96	101	200	166	338	1,011	2,053
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	33	261	459	276	268	702	1,033	421
Fuel and energy	130	0	56	852	1	312	764	4,922
Mining, manufacturing and construction	3	9	9	0	7	676	180	0
Transport	647	439	389	738	480	3,276	2,291	3,579
Economic affairs n.e.c. ²	97	83	101	77	51	1,118	157	184
Environmental protection	302	199	294	414	283	2,288	1,774	500
Waste management	86	28	73	123	110	78	225	53
Waste water management	112	52	158	133	123	208	225	26
Pollution abatement	24	4	5	42	19	416	135	0
Protection of biodiversity and landscape	61	25	16	70	11	1,118	337	158
Environmental protection n.e.c. ²	20	89	41	46	22	442	876	263
Housing and community amenities	201	276	272	288	265	1,508	2,628	3,369
Housing and community development	66	113	79	85	90	1,144	1,662	2,027
Water supply	119	144	158	167	157	312	898	1,290
Street lighting	14	19	31	19	17	26	67	53
Housing and community amenities n.e.c. ²	2	0	3	17	1	0	22	26
Health	4,311	5,316	4,869	4,983	4,493	8,139	13,500	12,133
Medical products, appliances and equipment	365	275	327	214	290	104	337	132
Outpatient services	626	733	637	582	802	1,144	2,224	4,974
Hospital services	2,468	3,781	3,380	3,658	2,894	5,902	8,468	6,290
Public health services	296	273	354	186	151	234	337	553
Health n.e.c. ²	556	254	171	343	357	728	2,134	184
Recreation, culture and religion	324	210	304	481	472	1,066	1,190	1,553
Recreational and sporting services	162	72	165	283	143	520	651	632
Cultural services	96	118	88	114	78	494	247	553
Broadcasting and publishing services	55	15	0	10	146	0	22	0
Recreation, culture, and religion n.e.c. ²	11	5	50	73	105	52	270	395
Education	2,566	2,689	3,335	3,098	2,131	5,122	5,705	7,185
Primary and secondary education	1,587	1,927	2,157	2,026	1,228	3,042	3,886	4,237
College education	286	223	281	317	243	1,456	1,303	1,763
University education	677	522	856	727	642	52	135	26
Education n.e.c. ²	16	16	42	28	18	598	404	1,184
Social protection	1,894	1,815	2,295	1,761	1,441	3,380	6,289	6,869
Sickness and disability	774	742	1,379	868	423	1,014	2,111	211
Old age	108	0	0	101	5	130	90	79
Family and children	452	670	339	431	383	832	921	1,079
Unemployment	21	30	45	83	0	0	0	105
Housing	158	167	195	113	194	624	1,932	4,185
Social exclusions	304	176	238	153	379	702	1,213	1,237
Social protection n.e.c. ²	77	31	99	13	56	26	0	0

1. Federal government data are not consolidated.

2. n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified.

Source(s): Tables [17-10-0005-01](#), [10-10-0024-01](#) and [10-10-0005-01](#).

Sustainable Development Goals

On January 1, 2016, the world officially began implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)—the United Nations' transformative plan of action that addresses urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The plan is based on 17 specific sustainable development goals.

The Canadian Classifications of Functions of Government is an example of how Statistics Canada supports the reporting on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. This release will be used in helping to measure the following goals:



Note to readers

Government expenses can be presented by their main socioeconomic functions according to the Canadian Classifications of Functions of Government (CCOFOG). The information then provides an important picture of the role governments play in delivering services. This release focuses on the expansion of CCOFOG statistics to include functional expenses related to general public services, defence, economic affairs, housing and community affairs, health, and social protection. Data for all sub-divisions or classes are now available for the first time from 2008 to 2017 inclusively.

CCOFOG is a variant of the international functional expenditure classification that was developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This information provides an important picture of the role governments play in delivering services and allows international comparisons regardless of organizational differences of governments.

The expansion of the CCOFOG program is a result of an ongoing collaborative process with specialized subject-matter partners and stakeholders. Continued data improvements will include the functionalization of capital expenditures and the consumption of fixed capital, which should be available in 2019. Currently, CCOFOG data excludes the acquisitions of non-financial assets and consumption of fixed capital expenses.

This release primarily focuses on provincial–territorial and local government (PTLG) since it permits data to be compared across provinces and territories. Consolidation takes into account differences in administrative structures and the delivery of government services by removing the effects of internal public sector transactions between jurisdictions.

Consolidated data are released for the PTLGs, which include provincial and territorial governments, health and social service institutions, universities and colleges, municipalities and other local public administrations, and school boards.

The constitutional framework of PTLGs in the territories differs from that in the provinces, leading to differences in the roles and financial authorities of government. These differences, as well as other geographic, demographic and socioeconomic dissimilarities between the North and the rest of Canada, give rise to marked disparities in government finance statistics.

Consolidated data are also released for the Canadian General Government, which combines federal government data with PTLG data, but excludes data for the Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan.

Detailed groups of functional expenses are available on a non-consolidated basis for the federal government to allow the analysis of the role of central government in delivering services to Canadians.

Because PTLG finance statistics vary significantly across jurisdictions in Canada due to size differences, per capita data are used to allow comparisons. Per capita data are based on population estimates for Canada, the provinces and the territories, available in table [10-10-0005-01](#).

Annual data correspond to the end of the fiscal year closest to December 31. For example, data for the federal government fiscal year ending on March 31, 2018 (fiscal year 2017/2018), are reported for the 2017 reference year.

Available tables: [10-10-0005-01](#) and [10-10-0024-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5218](#).

The [Canadian Government Finance Statistics 2014](#) classification structure is now available under the *Related information* module of our website.

Additional information can be found in the *Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts (13-605-X)*. The *User Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts (13-606-G)* is also available. This publication has been updated with [Chapter 9. Government sector accounts in the Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).