

Canadian business counts, December 2019

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Nationally, there were 1,311,397 active businesses with employees in December. Provincially, Ontario reported the highest number of active businesses with employees (484,399), followed by Quebec (268,797), British Columbia (206,496) and Alberta (175,385).

The three industry sectors in Canada with the most business locations with employees were construction (149,912), professional, scientific and technical services (149,108), and retail trade (145,128).

In addition, there were 2,835,732 active businesses without employees and with annual revenues greater than \$30,000.

The Canadian business counts can be used to compare the number of active businesses by province and territory (and other geographies, by request) for many industry categories.

Record snowfall impacts a number of businesses in the northeast Avalon Peninsula

Among the impacts of [January's major snowstorm in Newfoundland and Labrador](#) were those on businesses, their customers and employees.

In the northeast Avalon Peninsula, there were approximately 18,100 business locations in the areas identified as those hit hardest by the storm. This included 11,100 business locations in the St. John's census subdivision, and 7,000 in other municipalities such as Mount Pearl, Conception Bay South and Paradise.

In total, this represented 43% of all Newfoundland and Labrador business locations.

The businesses in the identified areas were mostly in the real estate and rental and leasing sector (18%), the professional, scientific and technical services sector (10%), and the construction sector (10%).

Almost 8,000 of the business locations were employer businesses, with 44% employing at least five people.



Table 1
Business location counts, for Newfoundland and Labrador and census subdivisions in the northeast Avalon Peninsula most affected by the January 2020 snowstorm

	Total business locations	Business locations in most affected areas	Share of business locations in most affected areas
	number		%
Newfoundland and Labrador	42,006	18,134	43
St. John's	11,181	11,118	99
Mount Pearl	2,013	2,013	100
Conception Bay South	1,621	1,614	100
Paradise	1,473	1,472	100
Portugal Cove-St. Philip's	628	628	100
Torbay	493	491	100
Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove	227	222	98
Bay Bulls	131	131	100
Witless Bay	104	104	100
Flatrock	104	101	97
Wabana	81	81	100
Pouch Cove	76	76	100
Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove	67	67	100
Bauline	17	16	94
Others	23,790	0	0

Source(s): Business Register (1105).

Note to readers

Canadian business counts—previously called Canadian business patterns—provide counts of active businesses by industry classification and employment-size categories for Canada and the provinces and territories. Canadian business counts are based on the same criteria that were used to calculate Canadian business patterns.

The counts are compiled from the Business Register, Statistics Canada's central listing of Canadian businesses. They are based on the statistical concept of "location." Each operating location is counted separately, including cases where one business comprises multiple locations. For example, a retail business with 10 stores represents 10 businesses in the Canadian business counts. Generally, among all Canadian businesses, 95% are single-location enterprises.

Changes to the Business Register's methodology or to business industrial classification strategies can cause increases or decreases in the number of active businesses reported in the Canadian business counts. As a result, the data do not represent changes in the business population over time. Statistics Canada recommends that users not use the data as a time series.

Because of new criteria for identifying businesses that have become inactive, the figures released today reflect a downward correction to the number of businesses, especially those without employees. More information is available on request.

To identify businesses in the areas affected by the snowstorm, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador provided Statistics Canada with a map that identified the scope of the areas that were most affected. With this geospatial information, the agency was able to produce geo-enabled socioeconomic statistics for 334 dissemination areas, spread across 16 municipalities.

Available tables: [33-10-0222-01](#) and [33-10-0223-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [1105](#).

Custom data products for other geographic levels can be ordered on a cost-recovery basis. Data prior to December 2011 are also available upon request on a cost-recovery basis.

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).