

## Overview

Geography influences so much in our lives—where we work, how we live and what we do. In measuring all these activities, Statistics Canada relies on a framework of well-defined geographic areas in collecting, organizing, analyzing and presenting the vast economic and social data the Agency produces about Canada's people and places. Defining these geographic areas—a process called geocoding—is fundamental to how Statistics Canada measures trends in Canadian society.

Geocoding is so fundamental because it links data about Canadians to their geography. Together with census data, geographers can find out how cities are growing, where people are settling, the median age or income of the inhabitants.

By using software to link with postal codes, policy makers can study school districts or

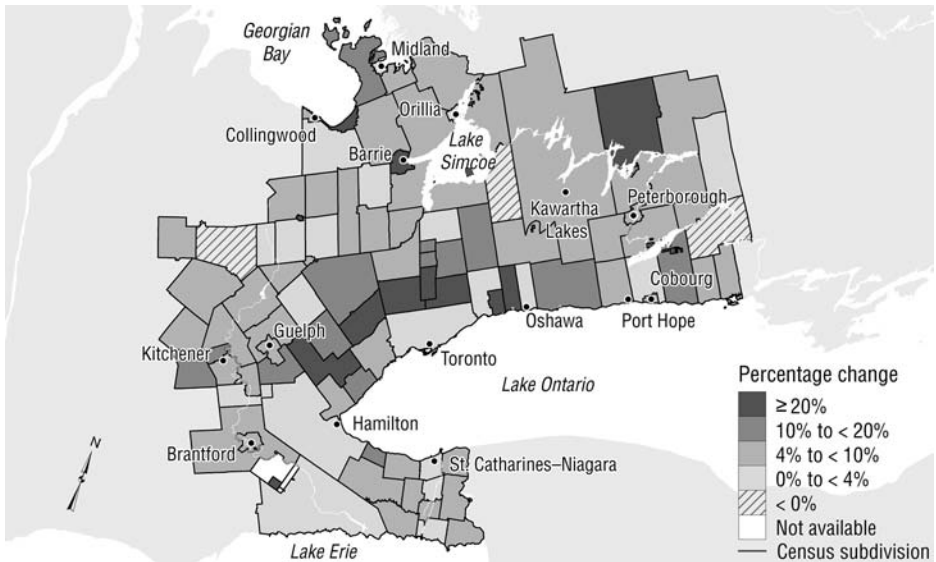
commuting patterns, and governments can use data to determine, for example, transfer payments, or the need for more hospitals or services for seniors.

## Growing more urbanized

The 2006 Census showed that Canada's population continues to grow and gravitate toward larger urban centres. Reflecting this trend, geographers have added six new census metropolitan areas (CMAs) to Canada's list of large urban areas—Moncton, N.B.; Barrie, Brantford, Guelph and Peterborough, Ont.; and Kelowna, B.C.

With these six cities, Canada now has 33 CMAs, which include 68% of the population. This is up from 27 CMAs in 2001 and 25 CMAs in 1996.

**Map 15.1**  
Greater Golden Horseshoe population change from 2001 to 2006, by 2006 census subdivision



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population.

Smaller urban areas are known as census agglomerations (CAs). A CA is defined when an urban core population reaches at least 10,000. For the 2006 Census, there are 111 CAs in Canada, compared with 112 in 1996. Six CAs became CMAs, seven new CAs were defined and two—Gander and Labrador City in Newfoundland and Labrador—were retired because the core population of each dropped below 10,000.

Several factors, including total population, population of the urban core and commuting flows, determine when a CA is promoted to a CMA. One reason that the number of large urban centres increased in 2006 is that the delineation rules for defining a CMA changed.

As of March 2003, a CA is no longer required to have an urban core population of 100,000 to be promoted to the status of a CMA. Instead, a CA assumes the status of a CMA if it attains a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the urban core.

Together, CMAs and CAs contain 80% of Canada’s population, although they cover only 4% of the land area—a sign that we are growing more urbanized.

**Table 15.a**  
**Population of the six new CMAs, 2006**

	number
Barrie, Ontario	177,061
Kelowna, British Columbia	162,276
Guelph, Ontario	127,009
Moncton, New Brunswick	126,424
Brantford, Ontario	124,607
Peterborough, Ontario	116,570

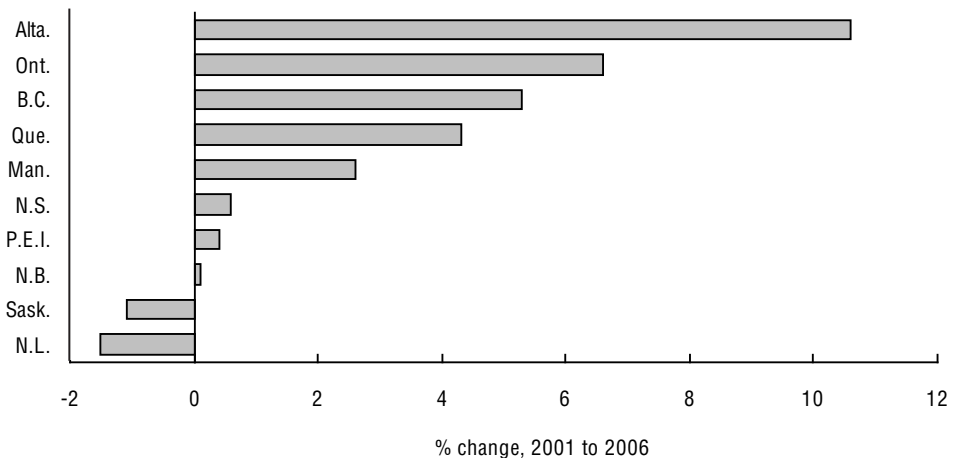
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

### A planning tool

Statistics Canada’s official classification for geographical areas in Canada is the Standard Geographical Classification (SGC). The geographical areas in the SGC—provinces and territories, counties and municipalities—were chosen because Canadians know them and because these entities are significant users of statistics when they plan programs that involve spending public funds.

The 10 provinces and 3 territories—the primary political subdivision of Canada—are at the top of the SGC hierarchy. Next are census divisions, which the SGC defines as a group of neighbouring municipalities. Usually, they exist for regional planning and

**Chart 15.1**  
**Population growth, by province**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

managing common services, such as policing. Often, a census division will correspond to a county or a regional district.

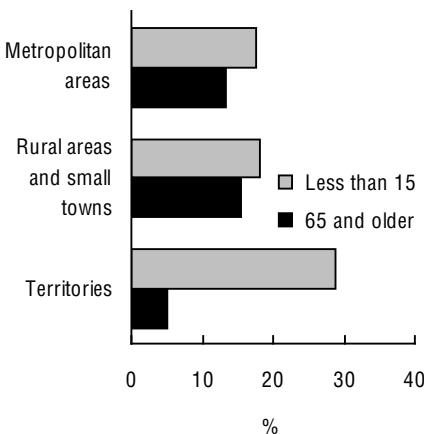
Census divisions are relatively stable geographic areas, which makes it easier to follow trends over time. For the 2006 Census, Statistics Canada delineated 288 census divisions in Canada, unchanged from the 1996 and 2001 censuses.

Census subdivisions are the smallest geographic area in the SGC. Generally, a census subdivision is a single municipality or its equivalent for statistical purposes, such as an Indian reserve. Census subdivisions can change, however, because of municipal restructuring or amalgamation. For the 2006 Census, there were 5,418 census subdivisions, compared with 5,600 in 2001.

## Zones and regions

Like peering through a microscope, the SGC allows demographers to look at Canada from the widest focus—national, provincial and territorial data—right down to the narrowest focus—data from a census subdivision's suburbs, exurbs and neighbourhoods.

**Chart 15.2**  
**Population aged 15 and younger and aged 65 and older, by area type, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

A recent concept in geography, the metropolitan-influenced zone (MIZ), uses data on Canadians' commuting flows to and from work to reveal patterns and degrees of social and economic integration between urban areas and the census subdivisions not included in any CMA or CA—these non-CMA/CA census subdivisions are sometimes described as 'rural and small town Canada.'

The influence of any nearby CMA or CA on rural and small town Canada can be either strong, moderate, weak or not at all. For example, a student might use the MIZ concept to closely compare the population characteristics of a rural area near Toronto with the population characteristics of the rural outskirts of Whitehorse, Yukon—perhaps comparing to what degree rents or unemployment rates are influenced by the two very different nearby CMAs.

Economic Regions (ERs) are another way to look at Canada's geography—they are made by grouping census divisions. As the name implies, Canada's 76 ERs describe regional economic activity. The ER is a geographic unit small enough to permit regional analysis, yet large enough to include enough respondents so that a broad range of economic statistics can be collected—for example, the Labour Force Survey uses economic regions in some provinces when collecting its data.

## Selected sources

### Statistics Canada

- *Agriculture and Rural Working Paper Series*. Occasional. 21-601-MIE
- *Geography Working Paper Series*. Occasional. 92F0138MIE
- *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin*. Occasional. 21-006-XIE
- *Standard Geographical Classification*. Occasional. 12-571-XWE

## Regional context of community growth

Some regions have boomed in recent years, while some communities within those regions have experienced demographic decline.

One in three communities was in continuous demographic decline from 1981 to 2001, and most of those (65%) were also in regions with a shrinking population. In 2001, 9% of Canada's population lived in these declining communities.

A recent study took standard geographic units—census divisions to represent regions and census consolidated sub-divisions to represent communities—and analysed community population trends in relation to regional population trends and regional context. Demographic decline means the population fell in at least three of the four censuses taken from 1981 to 2001.

Regional context matters. In 2001, 43% of the population of Newfoundland and

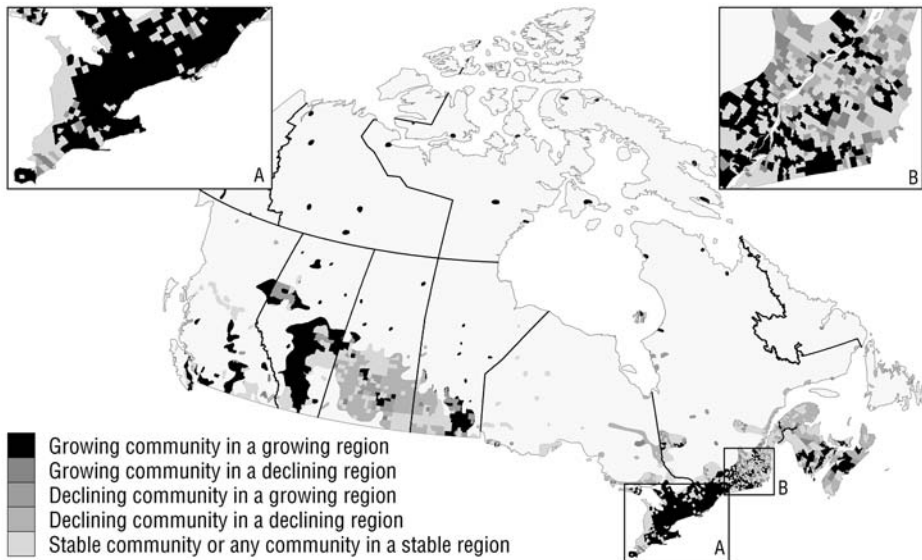
Labrador resided in declining communities within declining regions. Communities in rural regions not adjacent to metropolitan areas and in rural northern regions are not as likely to be growing. In Canada's rural north, nearly two out of three communities are located in regions showing demographic decline.

But not all communities mirror the pattern of their region. For example, even though only 20% of the communities in the rural north are in a growing region, 29% of them are growing, due in part to the rising Aboriginal population.

Declining communities have a high share of their work force in primary industries, such as agriculture, and in manufacturing related to natural resources. Both are substituting machinery for labour and shedding jobs, which contributes to the demographic decline of these communities.

### Map 15.2

#### Canada's growing/declining communities in growing/declining regions, 1981 to 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population.

## Where might manure affect us?

Manure is a prime source of fertilizer for crops, one of the world's oldest examples of recycling waste products. However, if not managed properly, manure can be a source of pollution. It is important to know not only where manure is produced, but also how it affects the surrounding drainage area.

Analysts determine this connection by using the geographic unit known as the sub-sub-drainage area (SSDA) to map livestock manure production, which they estimate from Census of Agriculture livestock numbers, to the surrounding catchment area.

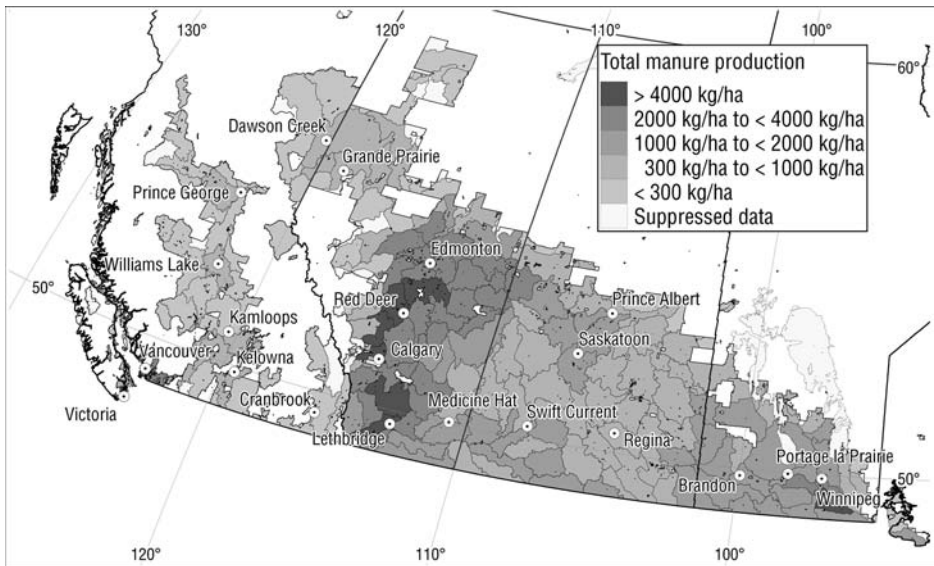
The SSDA is valuable because it reflects fixed physical features of the land, rather than changing political or administrative boundaries. It also presents local information that is environmentally relevant. There are 978 SSDAs in Canada. In 2001, livestock production occurred in fewer than 400.

Manure production is concentrated in five major areas: central and southern Alberta, southern Manitoba, southern Ontario, southeastern Quebec and Prince Edward Island. Two other significant areas are the Lower Fraser Valley in British Columbia and the Annapolis area in Nova Scotia.

Ontario was home to the three highest manure-producing SSDAs in 2001. A high number of SSDAs in Alberta had the largest increases in manure production from 1981 to 2001. One-third of the manure produced in 2001 came from beef cows.

As part of a natural cycle, nitrogen in manure turns into a nitrate form, which can compromise drinking water and lead to human health problems. Phosphorus in manure can cause excessive algae growth in our lakes and streams, leaving them uninhabitable for fish and other aquatic life.

**Map 15.3**  
Western Canada, livestock manure production, by sub-sub-drainage area, 2001



**Note:** Kilograms per hectare.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture.

## Watershed pressures

A boil-water advisory surprised millions of Vancouverites in 2006 and contaminated drinking water killed seven and sickened hundreds in Walkerton, Ontario in 2000. Such events have generated debate about how best to manage our watersheds.

A watershed is a region of interconnected waterways that function as a single system—upstream activities may affect downstream quantity and quality. Geographers have defined 164 geographic units in Canada called sub-basins. These watersheds are the drainage areas of the smaller rivers that flow into Canada’s major rivers.

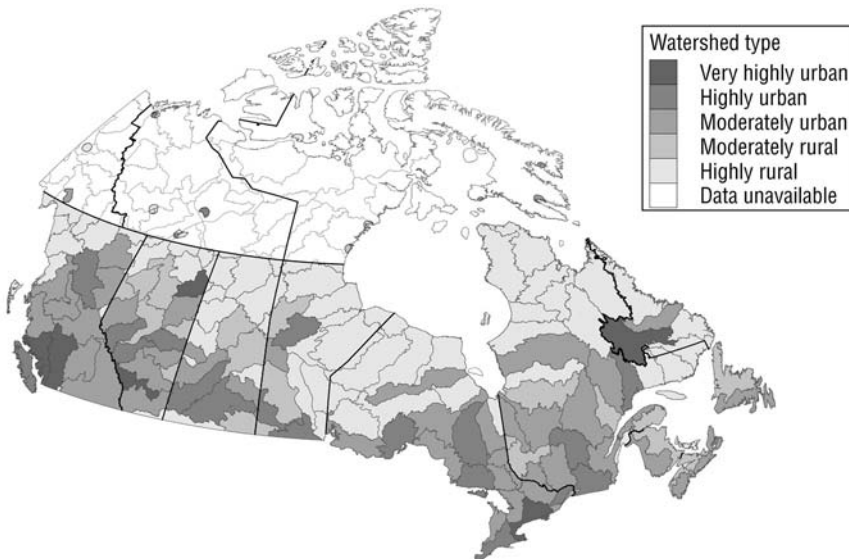
In 2001, 10 million people resided in six watersheds, making them our most urban watersheds. These cover just 3% of Canada’s land area. From 1981 to 2001, the population of these watersheds grew 45%, or by three million people. This reflects the

urban character of Canada’s population and underlines the pressure on specific fresh water sources and the infrastructures that supply and treat freshwater.

Ontario stands out—six million people reside in just one watershed, covering the greater Toronto area, the Golden Horseshoe and the Niagara Peninsula. In British Columbia, 2.3 million people live in two watersheds covering Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Another one million reside in very highly urbanized watersheds in Calgary and Fort McMurray, where the oil and gas industry’s water use is raising concerns.

Only 19% of Canada’s entire rural population lives in a watershed where rural residents are the majority. This highlights a challenge facing rural and urban Canadians as they negotiate water-management solutions.

**Map 15.4**  
Canada’s watersheds, by the degree of rurality of the population, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population..

## Mapping the data patterns

Statistics Canada gathers an enormous amount of data about our population, society and culture when it conducts its many surveys and, every five years, the census. Analysts use not only tables, charts and plain language writing to convey their findings from all that census data, they also use maps and mapping tools—available for everyone to use free at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca) under Maps and geography. These include reference maps, thematic maps and interactive maps.

Reference maps show the location of the geographic areas using census geography. These maps display boundaries, names and statistical codes of standard geographic areas. Reference maps show the major visible features, such as roads, railroads, coastlines, lakes and rivers.

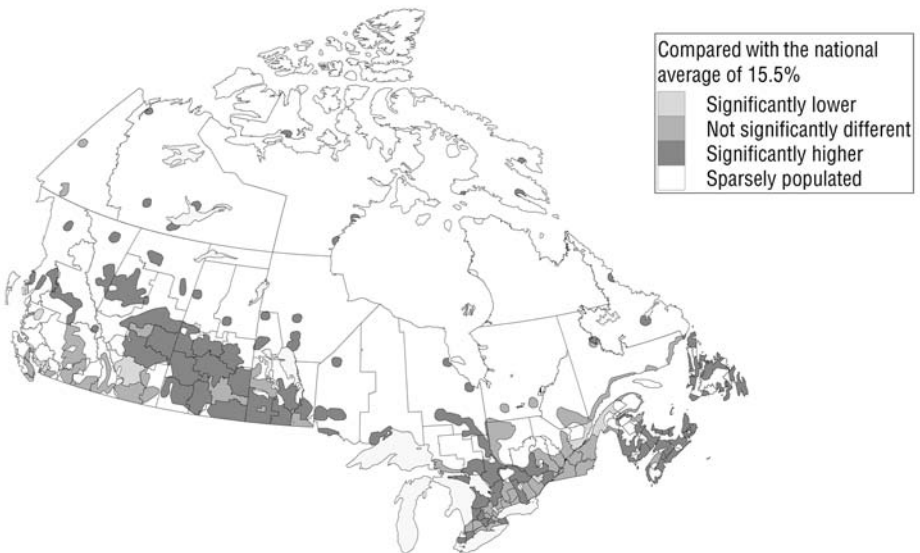
Thematic maps make data easier to understand. They let users see the data's

spatial patterns. Geographers use data from the census and surveys to create thematic maps for a range of subjects, such as land cover by major drainage areas, the proportion of the population by level of education and by census division, and the proportion of obese people by health region.

Interactive maps show places on a map and give the latest trove of census and other data for those places. Statistics Canada maintains 10 categories of interactive mapping tools, including Community Profiles, Crop Conditions, Federal Electoral Districts and a mapping tool called GeoSearch, which makes it easy to see basic geographic and census data for any place in Canada.

All these mapping tools transform data into pictures to help us better understand what the numbers mean and who we are as a nation.

**Map 15.5**  
**Adult obesity, by health region, 2005**



**Note:** Proportion of the population aged 18 and older with body mass index classified as obese.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey.

**Table 15.1 Weather conditions, by selected urban centres**

	Extreme maximum temperature		Extreme minimum temperature		Rainfall <sup>1</sup>	Snowfall <sup>1,2</sup>	Precipitation <sup>2,3</sup>
	degrees Celsius	years	degrees Celsius	years	millimetres	centimetres	millimetres
St. John's	31.5	1983	-23.8	1986	1,191.0	322.3	1,513.7
Charlottetown	34.4	1944	-30.5	1982	880.4	311.9	1,173.3
Halifax	35.0	1995	-28.5	1993	1,238.9	230.5	1,452.2
Saint John	34.4	1976	-36.7	1948	1,147.9	256.9	1,390.3
Fredericton	37.2	1975	-37.2	1962	885.5	276.5	1,143.3
Québec	35.6	1953	-36.1	1962	923.8	315.9	1,230.3
Sherbrooke	33.7	1983	-40.0	1979	873.9	294.3	1,144.1
Trois-Rivières	36.1	1975	-41.1	1976	858.6	241.4	1,099.8
Montréal	35.6	1955	-37.2	1933	819.7	220.5	1,046.2
Ottawa	37.8	1944	-36.1	1943	732.0	235.7	943.5
Kingston	34.3	1983	-34.5	1981	794.6	181.0	968.4
Oshawa	36.5	1988	-30.5	1981	759.5	118.4	877.9
Toronto	38.3	1948	-31.3	1981	684.6	115.4	792.7
Hamilton	37.4	1988	-28.0	1994	764.8	161.8	910.1
St. Catharines	37.4	1988	-25.7	1979	745.7	136.6	873.6
London	38.2	1988	-31.7	1970	817.9	202.4	987.1
Windsor	40.2	1988	-29.1	1994	805.2	126.6	918.3
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	38.3	1975	-39.3	1982	656.5	274.4	899.3
Thunder Bay	40.3	1983	-41.1	1951	559.0	187.6	711.6
Winnipeg	40.6	1949	-45.0	1966	415.6	110.6	513.7
Regina	43.3	1937	-50.0	1885	304.4	105.9	388.1
Saskatoon	40.6	1988	-50.0	1893	265.2	97.2	350.0
Edmonton	34.5	1998	-48.3	1938	365.7	123.5	476.9
Calgary	36.1	1919	-45.0	1893	320.6	126.7	412.6
Abbotsford	37.8	1958	-21.1	1950	1,507.5	63.5	1,573.2
Vancouver	33.3	1960	-17.8	1950	1,154.7	48.2	1,199.0
Victoria	36.1	1941	-15.6	1950	841.4	43.8	883.3
Whitehorse	34.4	1969	-52.2	1947	163.1	145.0	267.4
Yellowknife	32.5	1989	-51.2	1947	164.5	151.8	280.7
Iqaluit	25.8	2001	-45.6	1967	198.3	235.8	412.1

1. Annual average.

2. On average, one centimetre of snow equals one millimetre of rain.

3. Totals may not add up because of different densities of snow.

**Source:** Environment Canada, Climate Normals and Averages, 1971 to 2001.



Table 15.2 Major sea islands, by region

	Area square kilometres		Area square kilometres
Baffin Island	507,451	<b>Arctic islands south of Queen Elizabeth Islands (but north of the Arctic Circle)<sup>1</sup> (concluded)</b>	
<b>Queen Elizabeth Islands</b>		Richards	2,165
Ellesmere	196,236	Air Force	1,720
Devon	55,247	Wales	1,137
Axel Heiberg	43,178	Rowley	1,090
Melville	42,149	<b>Northwest Territories and Nunavut south of the Arctic Circle</b>	
Bathurst	16,042	Southampton <sup>2</sup>	41,214
Prince Patrick	15,848	Coats <sup>2</sup>	5,498
Ellef Ringnes	11,295	Mansel <sup>2</sup>	3,180
Cornwallis	6,995	Akimiski <sup>2</sup>	3,001
Amund Ringnes	5,255	Flaherty <sup>2</sup>	1,585
Mackenzie King	5,048	Nottingham <sup>3</sup>	1,372
Borden	2,794	Resolution <sup>3</sup>	1,015
Cornwall	2,358	<b>Pacific Coast</b>	
Eglinton	1,541	Vancouver	31,285
Graham	1,378	Graham	6,361
Lougheed	1,308	Moresby	2,608
Byam Martin	1,150	Princess Royal	2,251
Île Vanier	1,126	Pitt	1,375
Cameron	1,059	<b>Atlantic Coast and Gulf of St. Lawrence</b>	
<b>Arctic islands south of Queen Elizabeth Islands (but north of the Arctic Circle)<sup>1</sup></b>		Newfoundland and Labrador (main island)	108,860
Victoria	217,291	<b>Gulf of St. Lawrence</b>	
Banks	70,028	Cape Breton	10,311
Prince of Wales	33,339	Anticosti	7,941
Somerset	24,786	Prince Edward	5,620
King William	13,111	<b>Bay of Fundy</b>	
Bylot	11,067	Grand Manan	137
Prince Charles	9,521		
Stefansson	4,463		

**Note:** A major island has a land area greater than 130 square kilometres.

1. There are no islands over 130 square kilometres in Yukon.
2. Formerly the District of Keewatin.
3. Formerly the District of Franklin.

**Source:** Natural Resources Canada, *Atlas of Canada*.

**Table 15.3 Principal heights, by province and territory**

	Elevation metres		Elevation metres		Elevation metres		Elevation metres
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>		<b>Quebec</b> (concluded)		<b>Alberta</b> (concluded)		<b>Yukon</b> (concluded)	
Torngat Mountains		Monts Otish		Mount King Edward (on Alta.–B.C. boundary)	3,490	Mount Lucania	5,226
Mount Caubvik <sup>1,2</sup> (on N.L.–Que. boundary)	1,652	Unnamed peak (52°19', 71°27')	1,135	Mount Kitchener	3,490	King Peak	5,173
Cirque Mountain	1,568	Collines Montérégiennes		<b>British Columbia</b>		Mount Steele	5,067
Mount Cladonia	1,453	Mont Brome	533	St. Elias Mountains		Mount Wood	4,838
Mount Eliot	1,356	<b>Ontario</b>		Fairweather Mountain <sup>2</sup> (on Alaska–B.C. boundary)	4,663	Mount Vancouver (on Alaska–Yukon boundary)	4,785
Mount Tetragona	1,356	Ishpatina Ridge <sup>2</sup>	693	Mount Quincy Adams (on Alaska–B.C. boundary)	4,133	Mount Macaulay	4,663
Quartzite Mountain	1,186	Ogidaki Mountain	665	Mount Root (on Alaska–B.C. boundary)	3,901	Mount Slaggard	4,663
Blow Me Down Mountain	1,183	Batchawana Mountain	653	Coast Mountains		Mount Hubbard (on Alaska–Yukon boundary)	4,577
Mealy Mountains		Tip Top Mountain	640	Mount Waddington	4,016	<b>Northwest Territories</b>	
Unnamed peak (53°37', 58°33')	1,176	Niagara Escarpment	600	Mount Tiedemann	3,848	Mackenzie Mountains	
Kaumajet Mountains		Blue Mountains	541	Combatant Mountain	3,756	Unnamed peak (61°52', 127°42') <sup>2</sup>	2,773
Bishops Mitre	1,113	Osler Bluff	526	Asperity	3,716	Mount Sir James MacBrien	2,762
Long Range Mountains		Caledon Mountain	427	Serra Peaks	3,642	Franklin Mountains	
Lewis Hills	814	<b>Manitoba</b>		Monarch Mountain	3,459	Cap Mountain	1,577
Gros Morne	806	Baldy Mountain <sup>2</sup>	832	Rocky Mountains		Mount Clark	1,462
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>		Highest point in Porcupine Hills	823	Mount Robson	3,954	Pointed Mountain	1,405
Queen's County (46°20', 63°25') <sup>2</sup>	142	Riding Mountain	610	Mount Columbia (on Alta.–B.C. boundary)	3,747	Nahanni Butte	1,396
<b>Nova Scotia</b>		<b>Saskatchewan</b>		Mount Clemenceau	3,642	Melville Island	
Cape Breton Highlands (46°42', 60°36') <sup>2</sup>	532	Cypress Hills <sup>2</sup>	1,468	Mount Assiniboine (on Alta.–B.C. boundary)	3,618	Unnamed peak (75°25', 114°47')	776
<b>New Brunswick</b>		Wood Mountain	1,013	Mount Goodsir, North Tower	3,581	Banks Island	
Mount Carleton <sup>2</sup>	817	Vermilion Hills	785	Mount Goodsir, South Tower	3,520	Durham Heights	732
Wilkinson Mountain	785	<b>Alberta</b>		Snow Dome (on Alta.–B.C. boundary)	3,520	Victoria Island	
<b>Quebec</b>		Rocky Mountains		Mount Bryce	3,507	Unnamed peak (71°51', 112°36')	655
Monts Torngat		Mount Columbia <sup>2</sup> (on Alta.–B.C. boundary)	3,747	Selkirk Mountains		<b>Nunavut</b>	
Mont D'Iberville <sup>1,2</sup> (on N.L.–Que. boundary)	1,652	North Twin	3,733	Mount Sir Sandford	3,522	Axel Heiberg Island	
Les Appalaches		Mount Alberta	3,620	Cariboo Mountains		Outlook Peak	2,210
Mont Jacques-Cartier	1,268	Mount Assiniboine (on Alta.–B.C. boundary)	3,618	Mount Sir Wilfrid Laurier	3,520	Baffin Island	
Mont Gosford	1,192	Mount Forbes	3,612	Purcell Mountains		Mount Odin	2,147
Mont Richardson	1,185	South Twin	3,581	Mount Farnham	3,481	Devon Island	
Mont Mégantic	1,105	Mount Temple	3,547	Monashee Mountains		Summit Devon Ice Cap	1,908
Les Laurentides		Mount Brazeau	3,525	Torii Mountain	3,429	Ellesmere Island	
Unnamed peak (47°19', 70°50')	1,166	Snow Dome (on Alta.–B.C. boundary)	3,520	<b>Yukon</b>		Barbeau Peak <sup>2</sup>	2,616
Mont Tremblant	968	Mount Lyell (on Alta.–B.C. boundary)	3,504	St. Elias Mountains			
Mont Sainte-Anne	800	Hungabee Mountain (on Alta.–B.C. boundary)	3,492	Mount Logan <sup>2,3</sup>	5,959		
Mont Sir-Wilfrid	783	Mount Athabasca	3,491	Mount St. Elias (on Alaska–Yukon boundary)	5,489		

1. Known as Mont D'Iberville in Quebec and as Mount Caubvik in Newfoundland and Labrador.

2. Highest point in province or territory.

3. Highest point in Canada.

Source: Natural Resources Canada, *Atlas of Canada*.

**Table 15.4 Principal rivers and their tributaries**

	Drainage area	Length		Drainage area	Length		Drainage area	Length		Drainage area	Length
	square kilometres	kilo-metres		square kilometres	kilo-metres		square kilometres	kilo-metres		square kilometres	kilo-metres
<b>Flowing into the Pacific Ocean</b>			<b>Flowing into the Arctic Ocean</b>			<b>Flowing into Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait (continued)</b>			<b>Flowing into Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait (concluded)</b>		
Yukon (mouth to head of Nisutlin)	..	3,185	(concluded)			English	52,300	615	Innuksuac	11,400	385
(International boundary to head of Nisutlin)	323,800	1,149	Liard	277,100	1,115	Fairford (to head of Manitoba Red Deer)	80,300	684	Petite rivière de la Baleine	15,900	380
Porcupine	61,400	721	South Nahanni	36,300	563	Churchill (to head of Churchill Lake)	281,300	1,609	Arnaud	49,500	377
Stewart	51,000	644	Fort Nelson (to head of Sikanni Chief)	55,900	517	Beaver (to outlet of Beaver Lake)	..	491	Nastapoca	13,400	360
Pelly	51,000	608	Petitot	..	404	Severn (to head of Black Birch)	102,800	982	Kogaluc	11,600	304
Teslin	35,500	393	Hay	48,200	702	Albany (to head of Cat)	135,200	982	<b>Flowing into the Atlantic Ocean</b>		
White	38,000	265	Peel (mouth of west Channel to head of Ogilvie)	73,600	684	Thelon	142,400	904	St. Lawrence River	839,200	3,058
Columbia (mouth to head of Columbia Lake)	..	2,000	Arctic Red	..	499	Dubawnt	57,500	842	Nipigon (to head of Ombabika)	25,400	209
(International boundary to head of Columbia Lake)	102,800	801	Slave (from Peace River to Great Slave Lake)	616,400	415	La Grande-Rivière (Fort George River)	97,600	893	Spanish	14,000	338
Kootenay	37,700	780	Fond du Lac (to outlet of Wollaston Lake)	66,800	277	Koksoak (to head of Caniapiscau)	133,400	874	Trent (to head of Irondale)	12,400	402
Kettle (to head of Holmes Lake)	4,700	336	Back (to outlet of Muskox Lake)	106,500	974	Nottaway (via Bell to head of Mégiscane)	65,800	776	Ottawa River	146,300	1,271
Okanagan (to head of Okanagan Lake)	21,600	314	Coppermine	..	845	Rupert (to head of Témiscamie)	43,400	763	Gatineau	23,700	386
Fraser	232,300	1,370	Anderson	..	692	Eastmain	46,400	756	du Lièvre	..	330
Thompson (to head of North Thompson)	55,400	489	Horton	..	618	Attawapiskat (to head of Bow Lake)	50,500	748	Saguenay (to head of Péribonca)	88,000	698
North Thompson	20,700	338	<b>Flowing into Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait</b>			Kazan (to head of Ennadai Lake)	71,500	732	Péribonca	28,200	451
South Thompson (to head of Shuswap)	17,800	332	Nelson (to head of Bow)	892,300	2,575	Grande rivière de la Baleine	42,700	724	Mistassini	21,900	298
Nechako (to head of Eutsuk Lake)	47,100	462	Nelson (to outlet of Lake Winnipeg)	802,900	644	George	41,700	565	Chamouchouane	..	266
Stuart (to head of Driftwood)	16,200	415	Saskatchewan (to head of Bow)	334,100	1,939	Moose (to head of Mattagami)	108,500	547	Saint-Maurice	43,300	563
Skeena	54,400	579	South Saskatchewan (to head of Bow)	144,300	1,392	Abitibi (to head of Louis Lake)	29,500	547	Manicouagan (to head of Mouchalagane)	19,000	499
Stikine	49,800	539	Red Deer	45,100	724	Mattagami (to head of Minisinakwa Lake)	37,000	443	aux Outardes	14,350	496
Nass	21,100	380	Bow	26,200	587	Missinaibi	23,500	426	Romaine	18,700	444
<b>Flowing into the Arctic Ocean</b>			Oldman	26,700	362	Harricana/Harricanaw	29,300	533	Betsiamites (to head of Manouanis)	19,200	410
Mackenzie (to head of Finlay)	1,805,200	4,241	North Saskatchewan	12,800	1,287	Hayes	108,000	483	Moisie	9,900	233
Peace (to head of Finlay)	302,500	1,923	Battle (to head of Pigeon Lake)	30,300	570	aux Feuilles	42,500	480	St-Augustin	3,800	171
Smoky	51,300	492	Red (to head of Sheyenne)	138,600	877	Winisk	67,300	475	Richelieu (to mouth of Lake Champlain)	79,800	856
Athabasca	95,300	1,231	Assiniboine	160,600	1,070	Broadback	20,800	450	Churchill (to head of Ashuanipi)	35,500	673
Pembina	12,900	547	Winnipeg (to head of Firesteel)	106,500	813	à la Baleine	31,900	428	Saint John	19,600	547
						de Povungnituk	28,500	389	Little Mecatina	16,100	410
									Natashquan	16,100	410

Source: Natural Resources Canada, *Atlas of Canada*.

**Table 15.5 Principal lakes, elevation and area, by province and territory**

	<u>Elevation</u> metres	<u>Area</u> square kilometres		<u>Elevation</u> metres	<u>Area</u> square kilometres		<u>Elevation</u> metres	<u>Area</u> square kilometres		<u>Elevation</u> metres	<u>Area</u> square kilometres
<b>The Great Lakes<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>Ontario (concluded)</b>			<b>Alberta</b>			<b>Nunavut (concluded)</b>		
Superior	184	28,700	Lake Abitibi <sup>3</sup>	265	931	Lake Clair	213	1,436	Dubawnt Lake	236	3,833
Michigan	176	0	Lake Nipissing	196	832	Lesser Slave Lake	577	1,168	Amadjuak Lake	113	3,115
Huron	177	36,000	Lake Simcoe	219	744	<b>British Columbia</b>			Nueltin Lake <sup>3</sup>	278	2,279
Erie	174	12,800	Rainy Lake <sup>3</sup>	338	741	Williston Lake	671	1,761	Baker Lake	2	1,887
Ontario	75	10,000	Big Trout Lake	213	661	Atlin Lake <sup>3</sup>	668	775	Yathkyed Lake	140	1,449
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>			Lake St. Clair	175	490	<b>Yukon</b>			Aberdeen Lake	80	1,100
Smallwood Reservoir	471	6,527	<b>Manitoba</b>			Kluane Lake	781	409	Napaktulik Lake	381	1,080
Melville Lake	tidal <sup>2</sup>	3,069	Lake Winnipeg	217	24,387	<b>Northwest Territories</b>			Garry Lake	148	976
<b>Nova Scotia</b>			Lake Winnipegosis	254	5,374	Great Bear Lake <sup>3</sup>	156	31,328	Contwoyto Lake	564	957
Bras d'Or Lake	tidal <sup>2</sup>	1,099	Lake Manitoba	248	4,624	Great Slave Lake	156	28,568	Ennadai Lake	311	681
<b>Quebec</b>			Southern Indian Lake	254	2,247	Lac la Martre	265	1,776	Tulemalu Lake	279	668
Lac Mistassini	372	2,335	Cedar Lake	253	1,353	Kasba Lake	336	1,341	Kamilukuak Lake	266	638
Réservoir Manicouagan	360	1,942	Island Lake	227	1,223	MacKay Lake	431	1,061	Kaminak Lake	53	600
Réservoir Gouin	404	1,570	Gods Lake	178	1,151	Hottah Lake	180	918			
Lac à l'Eau-Claire	241	1,383	Cross Lake	207	755	Aylmer Lake	375	847			
Lac Bienville	426	1,249	Playgreen Lake	217	657	Nonacho Lake	354	784			
Lac Saint-Jean	98	1,003	<b>Saskatchewan</b>			Clinton-Colden Lake	375	737			
Réservoir Pipmuacan	396	978	Lake Athabasca <sup>3</sup>	213	7,935	Selwyn Lake	398	717			
Lac Minto	168	761	Reindeer Lake <sup>3</sup>	337	6,650	Point Lake	375	701			
Réservoir Cabonga	361	677	Wollaston Lake	398	2,681	Wholdaia Lake	364	678			
<b>Ontario</b>			Cree Lake	487	1,434	Lac de Gras	396	633			
Lake Nipigon	260	4,848	Lac La Rouge	364	1,413	Buffalo Lake	265	612			
Lake of the Woods <sup>3</sup>	323	3,150	Peter Pond Lake	421	778	<b>Nunavut</b>					
Lac Seul	357	1,657	Doré Lake	459	640	Nettilling Lake	30	5,542			

**Notes:** A principal lake has an area larger than 400 square kilometres.

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have no principle lakes.

1. Data for the Great Lakes represent the area on the Canadian side of the Canada–U.S. border only.
2. Daily, monthly and seasonal variations in the time and heights of tides.
3. Spans provincial or territorial boundary. Listed under province or territory containing larger portion.

**Source:** Natural Resources Canada, *Atlas of Canada*.

**Table 15.6 Land and freshwater area, Canada and selected countries**

	Area	Land	Fresh water
		square kilometres	
Russia	17,075,200	16,995,800	79,400
Canada	9,984,670	9,093,507	891,163
United States	9,826,630	9,161,923	664,707
China	9,596,960	9,326,410	270,550
Brazil	8,511,965	8,456,510	55,455
Australia	7,686,850	7,617,930	68,920
India	3,287,590	2,973,190	314,400
Argentina	2,766,890	2,736,690	30,200
Kazakhstan	2,717,300	2,669,800	47,500
Sudan	2,505,810	2,376,000	129,810
Algeria	2,381,740	2,381,740	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2,345,410	2,267,600	77,810
Saudi Arabia	2,149,690	2,149,690	0
Mexico	1,972,550	1,923,040	49,510
Indonesia	1,919,440	1,826,440	93,000
Libya	1,759,540	1,759,540	0
Iran	1,648,000	1,636,000	12,000
Mongolia	1,564,116	1,564,116	0
Peru	1,285,220	1,280,000	5,220
Chad	1,284,000	1,259,200	24,800

Source: *The World Factbook 2007*, Washington D.C., Central Intelligence Agency, Office of Public Affairs, 2007.

**Table 15.7 Land and freshwater area, by province and territory**

	Area	Area	Land	Fresh water
	%	square kilometres		
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,984,670</b>	<b>9,093,507</b>	<b>891,163</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	4.1	405,212	373,872	31,340
Prince Edward Island	0.1	5,660	5,660	0
Nova Scotia	0.6	55,284	53,338	1,946
New Brunswick	0.7	72,908	71,450	1,458
Quebec	15.4	1,542,056	1,365,128	176,928
Ontario	10.8	1,076,395	917,741	158,654
Manitoba	6.5	647,797	553,556	94,241
Saskatchewan	6.5	651,036	591,670	59,366
Alberta	6.6	661,848	642,317	19,531
British Columbia	9.5	944,735	925,186	19,549
Yukon	4.8	482,443	474,391	8,052
Northwest Territories	13.5	1,346,106	1,183,085	163,021
Nunavut	21.0	2,093,190	1,936,113	157,077

Source: Natural Resources Canada, *Atlas of Canada*.

# Abbreviations and symbols



## Provinces and territories

Newfoundland and Labrador	N.L.
Prince Edward Island	P.E.I.
Nova Scotia	N.S.
New Brunswick	N.B.
Quebec	Que.
Ontario	Ont.
Manitoba	Man.
Saskatchewan	Sask.
Alberta	Alta.
British Columbia	B.C.
Yukon	Y.T.
Northwest Territories	N.W.T.
Nunavut	Nvt.

## Measurements

centimetre	cm
metre	m
kilometre	km
gram	g
kilogram	kg
litre	L
millilitre	mL
hour	h
watt	W
kilowatt	kW
degrees Celsius	°C

The symbols described in this document apply to all data published by Statistics Canada from all origins, including surveys, censuses and administrative sources, as well as straight tabulations and all estimations.

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0<sup>s</sup> value rounded to zero where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- P preliminary
- r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

**Note:** In some tables, figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

When the figure is not accompanied by a data quality symbol, it means that the quality of the data was assessed to be 'acceptable or better' according to the policies and standards of Statistics Canada.

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