

World Factbook–Style Country Report

Canada

ATLAS Reference Edition – North America Series

Version 1.0 | August 2026

Canada

Conventional Long Form

Canada

Conventional Short Form

Canada

Capital

Ottawa

Major Cities

- Toronto
- Montréal
- Vancouver
- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Ottawa
- Winnipeg
- Québec City
- Halifax

National Flag

- Red-white-red vertical triband
- Eleven-point red maple leaf centered on white field

- Symbolizes unity, peace, and national identity.
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National Motto

A Mari Usque Ad Mare
("From Sea to Sea")

National Anthem

O Canada

Government

Type

Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy.

Head of State

King Charles III (represented by the Governor General)

Head of Government

Prime Minister

Legislature

Parliament of Canada

- Senate
 - House of Commons
-

Administrative Divisions

10 Provinces

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba

- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- Prince Edward Island
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan

3 Territories

- Yukon
- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut

Geography

Area

Approximately **9.98 million km²**

Second-largest country in the world.

Land Boundaries

United States

Approximately **8,891 km**

(The world's longest international land border.)

Coastline

Approximately **202,000 km**

Longest coastline of any nation.

Terrain

- Arctic tundra
- Boreal forests

- Canadian Shield
- Rocky Mountains
- Prairie plains
- Great Lakes basin
- Atlantic and Pacific coastal ranges

Highest Point

Mount Logan

5,959 meters

Climate

Highly variable.

- Arctic climate in the north
 - Continental interior
 - Maritime climate on Atlantic and Pacific coasts
 - Temperate southern regions
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Population

Approximately **41 million**

Population density remains among the lowest globally.

Ethnic Composition

Highly multicultural.

Largest ancestral groups include:

- English
- French
- Scottish

- Irish
 - German
 - Indigenous Peoples
 - Chinese
 - South Asian
 - Filipino
 - Ukrainian
-

Languages

Official

- English
- French

Quebec is predominantly French-speaking.

Religion

Predominantly Christian with rapidly growing secular population.

Major groups include:

- Roman Catholic
 - Protestant
 - Muslim
 - Hindu
 - Sikh
 - Jewish
 - Buddhist
 - No religious affiliation
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Economy

GDP (Nominal)

Approximately **US\$2.4 trillion**

One of the world's largest advanced economies.

Currency

Canadian Dollar (CAD)

Principal Industries

- Energy
 - Banking
 - Mining
 - Forestry
 - Agriculture
 - Aerospace
 - Automotive manufacturing
 - Artificial intelligence
 - Telecommunications
 - Advanced manufacturing
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Major Natural Resources

- Oil
- Natural gas
- Uranium
- Potash
- Nickel
- Gold

- Copper
- Timber
- Freshwater
- Rare minerals

Canada possesses one of the world's largest proven petroleum reserves, largely in Alberta's oil sands.

Agriculture

Major exports include:

- Wheat
 - Canola
 - Barley
 - Beef
 - Pork
 - Dairy
 - Seafood
 - Pulses
-

Trade

Primary export destinations

- United States
- China
- European Union
- Japan
- Mexico

Major exports

- Energy
 - Vehicles
 - Machinery
 - Minerals
 - Forest products
 - Agricultural products
-

Transportation

Canada possesses extensive rail and highway systems concentrated near the U.S. border.

Major ports include

- Vancouver
 - Prince Rupert
 - Montréal
 - Halifax
 - Saint John
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Energy

Major producer of

- Oil
- Natural gas
- Hydroelectric power
- Uranium

Hydroelectricity provides a substantial share of national electricity generation.

Communications

Modern nationwide telecommunications infrastructure.

High internet penetration.

Advanced satellite and Arctic communications capabilities.

Education

Literacy exceeds 99%.

Universities consistently rank among the world's leading research institutions.

Healthcare

Universal publicly funded healthcare administered primarily by provincial governments.

Military

Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)

Branches

- Royal Canadian Navy
 - Canadian Army
 - Royal Canadian Air Force
 - Canadian Special Operations Forces Command
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Active Personnel

Approximately **70,000**

Reserve personnel

Approximately **30,000**

Principal Equipment

Air

- F-35 fighters (entering service)

- CF-18 Hornets (transitioning)
- CC-177 Globemaster III
- CC-130J Hercules
- CH-147 Chinook
- CH-148 Cyclone

Land

- Leopard 2 tanks
- LAV 6 armored vehicles
- M777 howitzers

Sea

- Halifax-class frigates
- Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships
- Victoria-class submarines

Defense Policy

Core missions

- Defense of Canada
- Arctic sovereignty
- Continental defense through NORAD
- NATO collective defense
- UN and multinational operations

Intelligence Community

Primary organizations

Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS)

Domestic intelligence and counterintelligence.

Communications Security Establishment (CSE)

Signals intelligence and cyber operations.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

Federal law enforcement and national security investigations.

Foreign Relations

Member of

- NATO
- G7
- G20
- Commonwealth
- United Nations
- Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance
- OECD
- Arctic Council

Canada maintains one of the world's broadest diplomatic networks.

Arctic Position

Canada considers Arctic sovereignty a core national interest.

Major priorities include

- Northern infrastructure
- Icebreaking capability
- Arctic surveillance
- Indigenous partnerships
- Northwest Passage governance

Climate change is reshaping Canadian Arctic policy.

Environmental Issues

- Climate change
- Wildfires
- Permafrost thaw
- Glacier retreat
- Water resource management
- Arctic ecosystem protection

Strategic Assessment

Canada occupies one of the most secure geopolitical positions globally, protected by three oceans and its close partnership with the United States. Its greatest long-term strategic importance lies not in traditional military power but in its vast natural resources, Arctic territory, advanced economy, and integration with Western security institutions.

The opening of Arctic sea routes, increasing competition for critical minerals, and renewed great-power rivalry are steadily increasing Canada's strategic significance. As Russia and China expand their activities in the High North, Canada is investing in surveillance, infrastructure, and defense modernization to reinforce sovereignty over its Arctic territories. Simultaneously, its energy reserves, stable political system, and membership in NATO and the Five Eyes intelligence alliance position it as a key contributor to North American and transatlantic security.

ATLAS Intelligence Outlook

Category	Assessment
Political Stability	Very High
Economic Stability	Very High
Military Capability	High
Intelligence Capability	Very High

Category	Assessment
Energy Security	Very High
Arctic Importance	Critical
Internal Security Risk	Low
External Military Threat	Low
Strategic Importance	Very High
Overall National Stability	Very High

ATLAS Confidence Assessment

High Confidence (95%)

Canada is assessed as one of the world's most stable democratic states, possessing exceptional institutional resilience, strong economic fundamentals, and increasing strategic importance as Arctic competition and global demand for critical resources continue to grow.

Canada — Reference Map







Figure 1. Canada — Political map showing the ten provinces and three territories, major cities, surrounding oceans (Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic), the Great Lakes, and the international border with the United States. The map highlights Canada's strategic position spanning the North American continent and its extensive Arctic coastline, the longest of any nation.

Canada — National Flag





Figure 2. National Flag of Canada

Adopted: 15 February 1965

Description:

The Canadian national flag consists of a **red-white-red vertical triband** with a stylized **11-point red maple leaf** centered on the white field. The proportions are **1:2**, with the white central square occupying half the flag's width.

Symbolism:

- **Red** – Traditionally associated with sacrifice, courage, and Canada's historical ties to the Crown.
- **White** – Represents peace, honesty, and the country's northern landscape and snow-covered environment.
- **Maple Leaf** – A long-standing emblem of Canada, symbolizing unity among its provinces and territories and serving as the nation's most recognizable national symbol.

The flag is one of the most internationally recognized national flags and has become an enduring symbol of Canadian identity, democracy, multiculturalism, and national unity.