**CANADA**

Canada is a country in the northern part of the continent of North America. It extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific and northward into the Arctic Ocean, covering 9.98 million square kilometres in total, making it the world's [second-largest country by total area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area) and the [fourth-largest country by land area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area" \o "List of countries and dependencies by area). Canada's [common border with the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada%E2%80%93United_States_border" \o "Canada–United States border) forms the world's longest land border.

The land now called Canada has been inhabited for millennia by various [Aboriginal peoples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aboriginal_peoples_in_Canada" \o "Aboriginal peoples in Canada). Beginning in the late 15th century, [British](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_colonization_of_the_Americas" \o "British colonization of the Americas) and [French colonies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_colonization_of_the_Americas) were established on the region's Atlantic coast. As a consequence of [various conflicts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Canada), the United Kingdom gained and lost North American territories until left, in the late 18th century, with what mostly comprises Canada today. The full sovereignty was attained when the [Canada Act 1982](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_Act_1982" \o "Canada Act 1982) severed the vestiges of legal dependence on the [British parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_the_United_Kingdom" \o "Parliament of the United Kingdom).

Canada is a [federal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation" \o "Federation) [parliamentary democracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_democracy" \o "Parliamentary democracy) and a [constitutional monarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy" \o "Constitutional monarchy), Queen [Elizabeth II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_II) being the current head of state. The country is [officially bilingual](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_bilingualism_in_Canada" \o "Official bilingualism in Canada) at the federal level. It is one of the world's most ethnically diverse and[multicultural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiculturalism_in_Canada) nations, the product of large-scale immigration from many countries, with a population of approximately 35 million.

Its advanced economy is [the eleventh largest in the world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)" \o "List of countries by GDP (nominal)), relying chiefly upon its abundant natural resources and well-developed international trade networks. Canada's [long and complex relationship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada%E2%80%93United_States_relations) with the United States has had a significant impact on its economy and culture.

Canada has a [parliamentary system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system" \o "Parliamentary system) within the context of a [constitutional monarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy" \o "Constitutional monarchy). The sovereign is Queen [Elizabeth II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_II), who also serves as head of state of [15 other Commonwealth countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_realm) and each of Canada's ten provinces. As such, the Queen's representative, the [Governor General of Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor_General_of_Canada" \o "Governor General of Canada) (at present [David Lloyd Johnston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Johnston)), carries out most of the federal royal duties in Canada.

Canada is the world's [eleventh-largest economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)" \o "List of countries by GDP (nominal)) as of 2015, with a [nominal GDP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nominal_GDP" \o "Nominal GDP) of approximately US$1.79 trillion. It is a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Group of Eight (G8), and is one of the world's top ten [trading nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trading_nation" \o "Trading nation), with a highly [globalized](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globalization" \o "Globalization) economy. In 2014, Canada's exports totalled over C$528 billion, while its imported goods were worth over $523 billion, of which approximately $349 billion originated from the United States, $49 billion from the European Union, and $35 billion from China.

Since the early 20th century, the growth of Canada's manufacturing, mining, and service sectors has transformed the nation from a largely rural economy to an urbanized, industrial one. Like many other [developed nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_nations" \o "Developed nations), the Canadian economy is dominated by the [service industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertiary_sector_of_the_economy" \o "Tertiary sector of the economy), which employs about three-quarters of the country's workforce. However, Canada is unusual among developed countries in the importance of its [primary sector](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_sector_of_the_economy" \o "Primary sector of the economy), in which the logging and [petroleum industries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_industry" \o "Petroleum industry) are two of the most prominent components.