[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use Canadian English](/wiki/Template:Use_Canadian_English) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox province or territory of Canada](/wiki/Template:Infobox_province_or_territory_of_Canada)

**Ontario** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)) is one of the ten [provinces of Canada](/wiki/Provinces_and_territories_of_Canada), located in east-central [Canada](/wiki/Canada).[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) It is Canada's [most populous province](/wiki/List_of_Canadian_provinces_and_territories_by_population)[[3]](#cite_note-3) by a large margin, accounting for nearly 40 percent[[4]](#cite_note-4) of all Canadians, and is the second largest province in total area. Ontario is [fourth largest in total area](/wiki/List_of_Canadian_provinces_and_territories_by_area) when the territories of the [Northwest Territories](/wiki/Northwest_Territories) and [Nunavut](/wiki/Nunavut) are included.[[5]](#cite_note-5) It is home to the nation's capital city, [Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa), and the nation's [most populous](/wiki/List_of_the_100_largest_municipalities_in_Canada_by_population) city, [Toronto](/wiki/Toronto).[[6]](#cite_note-6) Ontario is bordered by the province of [Manitoba](/wiki/Manitoba) to the west, [Hudson Bay](/wiki/Hudson_Bay) and [James Bay](/wiki/James_Bay) to the north, and [Quebec](/wiki/Quebec) to the east, and to the south by the [US states](/wiki/US_state) of (from west to east) [Minnesota](/wiki/Minnesota), [Michigan](/wiki/Michigan), [Ohio](/wiki/Ohio), [Pennsylvania](/wiki/Pennsylvania) and [New York](/wiki/New_York). All of Ontario's [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) border with the United States follows [inland waterways](/wiki/Navigability): from the west at [Lake of the Woods](/wiki/Lake_of_the_Woods), eastward along the major rivers and lakes of the [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes)/[Saint Lawrence River](/wiki/Saint_Lawrence_River) drainage system. These are the [Rainy River](/wiki/Rainy_River_(Minnesota–Ontario)), the [Pigeon River](/wiki/Pigeon_River_(Minnesota–Ontario)), [Lake Superior](/wiki/Lake_Superior), the [St. Marys River](/wiki/St._Marys_River_(Michigan–Ontario)), [Lake Huron](/wiki/Lake_Huron), the [St. Clair River](/wiki/St._Clair_River), [Lake St. Clair](/wiki/Lake_Saint_Clair_(North_America)), the [Detroit River](/wiki/Detroit_River), [Lake Erie](/wiki/Lake_Erie), the [Niagara River](/wiki/Niagara_River), [Lake Ontario](/wiki/Lake_Ontario) and along the St. Lawrence River from [Kingston, Ontario](/wiki/Kingston,_Ontario), to the Quebec boundary just east of [Cornwall, Ontario](/wiki/Cornwall,_Ontario).

Ontario is sometimes conceptually divided into two regions, [Northern Ontario](/wiki/Northern_Ontario) and [Southern Ontario](/wiki/Southern_Ontario). The great majority of Ontario's population and [arable land](/wiki/Arable_land) is located in the south. In contrast, the larger, northern part of Ontario is sparsely populated with cold winters and is heavily forested.

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The province is named after [Lake Ontario](/wiki/Lake_Ontario), a term thought to be derived from *Ontarí:io*, a [Huron](/wiki/Wyandot_language) ([Wyandot](/wiki/Wyandot_people)) word meaning "great lake",[[7]](#cite_note-7) or possibly *skanadario*, which means "beautiful water" in the [Iroquoian languages](/wiki/Iroquoian_languages).[[8]](#cite_note-8) Ontario has about 250,000 freshwater lakes.<ref name=river-number>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Algonquin_Cache_Lake_Lookout.JPG)[Algonquin Provincial Park](/wiki/Algonquin_Provincial_Park), Cache Lake The province consists of three main geographical regions:

* The thinly populated [Canadian Shield](/wiki/Canadian_Shield) in the northwestern and central portions, which comprises over half the land area of Ontario. Although this area mostly does not support agriculture, it is rich in [minerals](/wiki/Mineral) and in part covered by the [Central](/wiki/Central_Canadian_Shield_forests) and [Midwestern Canadian Shield forests](/wiki/Midwestern_Canadian_Shield_forests), studded with lakes and rivers. [Northern Ontario](/wiki/Northern_Ontario) is subdivided into two sub-regions: [Northwestern Ontario](/wiki/Northwestern_Ontario) and [Northeastern Ontario](/wiki/Northeastern_Ontario).
* The virtually unpopulated [Hudson Bay Lowlands](/wiki/Hudson_Bay_Lowlands) in the extreme north and northeast, mainly swampy and sparsely forested.
* [Southern Ontario](/wiki/Southern_Ontario) which is further sub-divided into four regions; [Central Ontario](/wiki/Central_Ontario) (although not actually the province's geographic centre), [Eastern Ontario](/wiki/Eastern_Ontario), [Golden Horseshoe](/wiki/Golden_Horseshoe) and [Southwestern Ontario](/wiki/Southwestern_Ontario) (parts of which were formerly referred to as Western Ontario).

Despite the absence of any mountainous terrain in the province, there are large areas of uplands, particularly within the Canadian Shield which traverses the province from northwest to southeast and also above the [Niagara Escarpment](/wiki/Niagara_Escarpment) which crosses the south. The highest point is [Ishpatina Ridge](/wiki/Ishpatina_Ridge) at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level) located in [Temagami](/wiki/Temagami), Northeastern Ontario. In the south, elevations of over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) are surpassed near Collingwood, above the Blue Mountains in the Dundalk Highlands and in hilltops near the [Madawaska River](/wiki/Madawaska_River_(Ontario)) in [Renfrew County](/wiki/Renfrew_County).

The [Carolinian forest](/wiki/Carolinian_forest) zone covers most of the southwestern region of the province. The temperate and fertile Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Valley in the south is part of the [Eastern Great Lakes lowland forests](/wiki/Eastern_Great_Lakes_lowland_forests) [ecoregion](/wiki/Ecoregion) where the forest has now been largely replaced by agriculture, industrial and urban development. A well-known geographic feature is [Niagara Falls](/wiki/Niagara_Falls), part of the [Niagara Escarpment](/wiki/Niagara_Escarpment). The [Saint Lawrence Seaway](/wiki/Saint_Lawrence_Seaway) allows navigation to and from the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) as far inland as [Thunder Bay](/wiki/Thunder_Bay) in Northwestern Ontario. [Northern Ontario](/wiki/Northern_Ontario) occupies roughly 87 percent of the surface area of the province; conversely Southern Ontario contains 94 percent of the population.

[Point Pelee](/wiki/Point_Pelee_National_Park) is a peninsula of Lake Erie in southwestern Ontario (near [Windsor](/wiki/Windsor,_Ontario) and [Detroit, Michigan](/wiki/Detroit,_Michigan)) that is the southernmost extent of Canada's mainland. [Pelee Island](/wiki/Pelee,_Ontario) and [Middle Island](/wiki/Middle_Island_(Lake_Erie)) in Lake Erie extend slightly farther. All are south of [42°N](/wiki/42nd_parallel_north) – slightly farther south than the northern border of [California](/wiki/California).

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|Summer at](/wiki/File:Lake_Ontario_-_Sandbanks_Provincial_Park_2001.jpg) [Sandbanks Provincial Park](/wiki/Sandbanks_Provincial_Park) on Lake Ontario. The climate of Ontario varies by season and location.<ref name=EC>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> It is affected by three air sources: cold, dry, arctic air from the north (dominant factor during the winter months, and for a longer part of the year in far northern Ontario); Pacific polar air crossing in from the western Canadian Prairies/US [Northern Plains](/wiki/Northern_Plains); and warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.<ref name=UBCgeo>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The effects of these major air masses on temperature and precipitation depend mainly on latitude, proximity to major bodies of water and to a small extent, terrain relief.[[9]](#cite_note-9) In general, most of Ontario's climate is classified as humid continental.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Ontario has three main climatic regions.

The surrounding Great Lakes greatly influence the climatic region of southern Ontario.[[10]](#cite_note-10) During the fall and winter months, heat stored from the lakes is released, moderating the climate near the shores of the lakes.<ref name=EPA>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> This gives some parts of southern Ontario milder winters than mid-continental areas at lower latitudes.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Parts of Southwestern Ontario (generally south of a line from Sarnia-Toronto) have a moderate [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Dfa*), similar to that of the inland [Mid-Atlantic states](/wiki/Mid-Atlantic_states) and the [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes) portion of the [Midwestern United States](/wiki/Midwestern_United_States). The region has warm to hot, humid summers and cold winters. Annual precipitation ranges from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and is well distributed throughout the year. Most of this region lies in the lee of the Great Lakes, making for abundant snow in some areas. In December 2010, the [snowbelt](/wiki/Snowbelt) set a new record when it was hit by more than a metre of snow within 48 hours.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The next climatic region is Central and Eastern Ontario which has a moderate [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) (Köppen *Dfb*). This region has warm and sometimes hot summers with colder, longer winters, ample snowfall (even in regions not directly in the snowbelts) and annual precipitation similar to the rest of Southern Ontario.[[9]](#cite_note-9) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Escarpment_at_Bruce_Peninsula.JPG) [Niagara Escarpment](/wiki/Niagara_Escarpment) on the [Bruce Peninsula](/wiki/Bruce_Peninsula). In the northeastern parts of Ontario, extending far as south as [Kirkland Lake](/wiki/Kirkland_Lake), the cold waters of Hudson Bay depress summer temperatures, making it cooler than other locations at similar latitudes. The same is true on the northern shore of Lake Superior, which cools hot humid air from the south, leading to cooler summer temperatures.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Along the eastern shores of [Lake Superior](/wiki/Lake_Superior) and [Lake Huron](/wiki/Lake_Huron) winter temperatures are slightly moderated but come with frequent heavy [lake-effect snow](/wiki/Lake-effect_snow) squalls that increase seasonal snowfall totals upwards of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in some places. These regions have higher annual precipitation in some case over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The northernmost parts of Ontario — primarily north of 50°N — have a [subarctic climate](/wiki/Subarctic_climate) (Köppen *Dfc*) with long, severely cold winters and short, cool to warm summers with dramatic temperature changes possible in all seasons. With no major mountain ranges blocking sinking [Arctic](/wiki/Arctic) [air masses](/wiki/Air_mass), temperatures of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) are not uncommon; snowfall remains on the ground for sometimes over half the year. Snowfall accumulation can be high in some areas.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Precipitation is generally less than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and peaks in the summer months in the form of showers or thunderstorms.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Severe [thunderstorms](/wiki/Thunderstorm) peak in summer. [London](/wiki/London,_Ontario), situated in [Southern](/wiki/Southern_Ontario) [(Southwestern)](/wiki/Southwestern_Ontario) Ontario, has the most lightning strikes per year in Canada, averaging 34 days of thunderstorm activity per year. In a typical year, Ontario averages 11 confirmed [tornado](/wiki/Tornado) touchdowns. However over the last 4 years, it has had upwards of 20 tornado touchdowns per year, with the highest frequency occurring in the Windsor-Essex – Chatham Kent area, though few are very destructive (the majority between F0 to F2 on the [Fujita scale](/wiki/Fujita_scale)). Ontario had a record 29 tornadoes in both 2006 and 2009. [Tropical depression](/wiki/Tropical_cyclone) remnants occasionally bring heavy rains and winds in the south, but are rarely deadly. A notable exception was [Hurricane Hazel](/wiki/Hurricane_Hazel) which struck Southern Ontario centred on Toronto, in October 1954.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Average daily maximum and minimum temperatures for selected locations in Ontario** | | | | |
| **City** | **July (°C)** | **July (°F)** | **January (°C)** | **January (°F)** |
| [Windsor](/wiki/Windsor,_Ontario) ([Windsor International Airport](/wiki/Windsor_International_Airport))[[13]](#cite_note-13) | 28/18 | 82/64 | 0/-7 | 31/19 |
| [Niagara Falls](/wiki/Niagara_Falls,_Ontario) (NPCSH)[[14]](#cite_note-14) | 27/17 | 81/63 | 0/-8 | 30/18 |
| [Toronto](/wiki/Toronto) ([The Annex](/wiki/The_Annex))[[15]](#cite_note-15) | 27/18 | 80/64 | −1/−7 | 30/20 |
| [Midland](/wiki/Midland,_Ontario) (Water Pollution Control Plant)[[16]](#cite_note-16) | 26/16 | 78/61 | −4/-13 | 25/8 |
| [Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa) ([Ottawa Macdonald–Cartier International Airport](/wiki/Ottawa_Macdonald–Cartier_International_Airport))[[17]](#cite_note-17) | 27/16 | 80/60 | −6/−14 | 22/6 |
| [Sudbury](/wiki/Greater_Sudbury) ([Sudbury Airport](/wiki/Sudbury_Airport))[[18]](#cite_note-18) | 25/13 | 77/56 | −8/−19 | 18/0 |
| [Emo](/wiki/Emo,_Ontario) (Emo Radbourne)[[19]](#cite_note-19) | 25/11 | 77/52 | –9/–22 | 15/–9 |
| [Thunder Bay](/wiki/Thunder_Bay) ([Thunder Bay International Airport](/wiki/Thunder_Bay_International_Airport))[[20]](#cite_note-20) | 24/11 | 76/52 | −9/−21 | 18/−5 |
| [Kenora](/wiki/Kenora) ([Kenora Airport](/wiki/Kenora_Airport))[[21]](#cite_note-21) | 24/15 | 76/59 | −11/−21 | 12/−5 |
| [Moosonee](/wiki/Moosonee) (UA)[[22]](#cite_note-22) | 23/9 | 73/48 | −14/-26 | 8/-15 |

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Territorial evolution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|right|alt=When Canada was formed in 1867 its provinces were a relatively narrow strip in the southeast, with vast territories in the interior. It grew by adding British Columbia in 1871, P.E.I. in 1873, the British Arctic Islands in 1880, and Newfoundland in 1949; meanwhile, its provinces grew both in size and number at the expense of its territories.|Evolution of the borders of Ontario.  
View](/wiki/File:Canada_provinces_evolution_2.gif) [full resolution](/wiki/Media:Canada_provinces_evolution_2.gif) for time-lapsed evolution Land was not legally subdivided into administrative units until a treaty had been concluded with the [Aboriginal people ceding the land](/wiki/Royal_Proclamation_of_1763). In 1788, while part of the [Province of Quebec (1763–1791)](/wiki/Province_of_Quebec_(1763–1791)), southern Ontario was divided into four [districts](/wiki/District#Ontario): [Hesse](/wiki/Western_District,_Upper_Canada), [Lunenburg](/wiki/Eastern_District,_Upper_Canada), [Mecklenburg](/wiki/Midland_District,_Upper_Canada), and [Nassau](/wiki/Home_District).

In 1792, the four districts were renamed: Hesse became the Western District, Lunenburg became the Eastern District, Mecklenburg became the Midland District, and Nassau became the Home District. Counties were created within the districts.

By 1798, there were eight districts: Eastern, Home, [Johnstown](/wiki/Johnstown_District,_Upper_Canada), [London](/wiki/London_District,_Upper_Canada), Midland, [Newcastle](/wiki/Newcastle_District), [Niagara](/wiki/Niagara_District), and Western.

By 1826, there were eleven districts: [Bathurst](/wiki/Bathurst_District), Eastern, [Gore](/wiki/Gore_District,_Upper_Canada), Home, Johnstown, London, Midland, Newcastle, Niagara, [Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa_District), and Western.

By 1838, there were twenty districts: Bathurst, Brock, Colbourne, [Dalhousie](/wiki/Dalhousie_District), Eastern, Gore, Home, Huron, Johnstown, London, Midland, Newcastle, Niagara, Ottawa, Prince Edward, [Simcoe](/wiki/Simcoe_County), Talbot, Victoria, [Wellington](/wiki/Wellington_District,_Upper_Canada), and Western.

In 1849, the districts of southern Ontario were abolished by the [Province of Canada](/wiki/Province_of_Canada), and [county](/wiki/County) governments took over certain municipal responsibilities. The Province of Canada also began creating *districts* in sparsely populated Northern Ontario with the establishment of [Algoma District](/wiki/Algoma_District) and [Nipissing District](/wiki/Nipissing_District) in 1858.

The borders of Ontario, its new name in 1867, were provisionally expanded north and west. When the Province of Canada was formed, its borders were not entirely clear, and Ontario claimed eventually to reach all the way to the [Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Rocky_Mountains) and [Arctic Ocean](/wiki/Arctic_Ocean). With Canada's acquisition of [Rupert's Land](/wiki/Rupert's_Land), Ontario was interested in clearly defining its borders, especially since some of the new areas in which it was interested were rapidly growing. After the federal government asked Ontario to pay for construction in the new disputed area, the province asked for an elaboration on its limits, and its boundary was moved north to the [51st parallel north](/wiki/51st_parallel_north).[[23]](#cite_note-23) The northern and western boundaries of Ontario were in dispute after [Canadian Confederation](/wiki/Canadian_Confederation). Ontario's right to Northwestern Ontario was determined by the [Judicial Committee of the Privy Council](/wiki/Judicial_Committee_of_the_Privy_Council) in 1884 and confirmed by the *Canada (Ontario Boundary) Act, 1889* of the [Parliament of the United Kingdom](/wiki/Parliament_of_the_United_Kingdom). By 1899, there were seven northern districts: Algoma, Manitoulin, Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, and Thunder Bay. Four more northern districts were created between 1907 and 1912: Cochrane, Kenora, Sudbury and Timiskaming.[[24]](#cite_note-24)

### European contact[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|left|Statue of](/wiki/File:UnitedEmpireLoyalistsHamilton.JPG) [United Empire Loyalists](/wiki/United_Empire_Loyalist) in downtown [Hamilton](/wiki/Hamilton,_Ontario) on [Main Street East](/wiki/Main_Street_(Hamilton,_Ontario)). Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, the region was inhabited by [Algonquian](/wiki/Algonquian_peoples) ([Ojibwa](/wiki/Ojibwa_people), [Cree](/wiki/Cree) and [Algonquin](/wiki/Algonquin_people)) in the northern/western portions, and [Iroquois](/wiki/Iroquois) and Wyandot (Huron) tribes more in the south/east.[[25]](#cite_note-25) During the 17th century, the Algonquians and Hurons fought the [Beaver Wars](/wiki/Beaver_Wars) against the Iroquois.[[26]](#cite_note-26) The French explorer [Étienne Brûlé](/wiki/Étienne_Brûlé) explored part of the area in 1610–12.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The English explorer [Henry Hudson](/wiki/Henry_Hudson) sailed into [Hudson Bay](/wiki/Hudson_Bay) in 1611 and claimed the area for [England](/wiki/England).

[Samuel de Champlain](/wiki/Samuel_de_Champlain) reached Lake Huron in 1615, and [French](/wiki/France) missionaries began to establish posts along the Great Lakes. French settlement was hampered by their hostilities with the Iroquois, who allied themselves with the British.[[28]](#cite_note-28) From 1634 to 1640, Hurons were devastated by European infectious diseases, such as [measles](/wiki/Measles) and [smallpox](/wiki/Smallpox), to which they had no immunity.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The British established [trading posts](/wiki/Trading_post) on Hudson Bay in the late 17th century and began a struggle for domination of Ontario. The [1763 Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1763)) ended the [Seven Years' War](/wiki/Seven_Years'_War) by awarding nearly all of [France's North American possessions](/wiki/French_colonization_of_the_Americas) ([New France](/wiki/New_France)) to Britain. The region was annexed to Quebec in 1774.[[30]](#cite_note-30) The first European settlements were in 1782-1784 when 5,000 [American loyalists](/wiki/United_Empire_Loyalists) entered what is now Ontario following the [American Revolution](/wiki/American_Revolution).[[31]](#cite_note-31) The [Kingdom of Great Britain](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) granted them [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) land and other items with which to rebuild their lives.[[28]](#cite_note-28) This measure substantially increased the population of Canada west of the St. Lawrence-Ottawa River confluence during this period, a fact recognized by the [Constitutional Act of 1791](/wiki/Constitutional_Act_of_1791), which split Quebec into [the Canadas](/wiki/The_Canadas): [Upper Canada](/wiki/Upper_Canada) southwest of the St. Lawrence-Ottawa River confluence, and [Lower Canada](/wiki/Lower_Canada) east of it. [John Graves Simcoe](/wiki/John_Graves_Simcoe) was appointed Upper Canada's first [Lieutenant governor](/wiki/Lieutenant_governor_(Canada)) in 1793.[[32]](#cite_note-32)

### Upper Canada[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) American troops in the [War of 1812](/wiki/War_of_1812) invaded Upper Canada across the [Niagara River](/wiki/Niagara_River) and the [Detroit River](/wiki/Detroit_River), but were defeated and pushed back by the British, Canadian [fencibles](/wiki/Fencibles) and militias, and [First Nations](/wiki/First_Nations) warriors. However, eventually the Americans gained control of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. During the [Battle of York](/wiki/Battle_of_York) in 1813, American troops occupied the [Town of York](/wiki/York,_Upper_Canada). The Americans looted the town and burned the Parliament Buildings during the brief occupation.

After the War of 1812, relative stability allowed for increasing numbers of immigrants to arrive from Europe rather than from the United States. As was the case in the previous decades, this immigration shift was encouraged by the colonial leaders. Despite affordable and often free land, many arriving newcomers, mostly from Britain and Ireland, found frontier life with the harsh climate difficult, and some of those with the means eventually returned home or went south. However, population growth far exceeded emigration in the decades that followed. It was a mostly agrarian-based society, but canal projects and a new network of plank roads spurred greater trade within the colony and with the United States, thereby improving previously damaged relations over time. [thumb|right|Lower Ontario in 1718,](/wiki/File:Ontario_1718.jpg) [Guillaume de L'Isle](/wiki/Guillaume_de_L'Isle) map, approximate province area highlighted. Meanwhile, Ontario's numerous waterways aided travel and transportation into the interior and supplied [water power](/wiki/Hydropower) for development. As the population increased, so did the industries and transportation networks, which in turn led to further development. By the end of the century, Ontario vied with Quebec as the nation's leader in terms of growth in population, industry, arts and communications.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Unrest in the colony began to chafe against the aristocratic [Family Compact](/wiki/Family_Compact) who governed while benefiting economically from the region's resources, and who did not allow elected bodies power. This resentment spurred republican ideals and sowed the seeds for early [Canadian nationalism](/wiki/Canadian_nationalism). Accordingly, rebellion in favour of [responsible government](/wiki/Responsible_government) rose in both regions; [Louis-Joseph Papineau](/wiki/Louis-Joseph_Papineau) led the [Lower Canada Rebellion](/wiki/Lower_Canada_Rebellion) and [William Lyon Mackenzie](/wiki/William_Lyon_Mackenzie) led the [Upper Canada Rebellion](/wiki/Upper_Canada_Rebellion).

### Canada West[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Although both rebellions were put down in short order, the British government sent [Lord Durham](/wiki/John_Lambton,_1st_Earl_of_Durham) to investigate the causes of the unrest. He recommended that self-government be granted and that Lower and Upper Canada be re-joined in an attempt to assimilate the [French Canadians](/wiki/French_Canadian). Accordingly, the two colonies were merged into the Province of Canada by the [*Act of Union 1840*](/wiki/Act_of_Union_1840), with the capital at [Kingston](/wiki/Kingston,_Ontario), and Upper Canada becoming known as [Canada West](/wiki/Province_of_Canada). Parliamentary [self-government](/wiki/Self-governance) was granted in 1848. There were heavy waves of immigration in the 1840s, and the population of Canada West more than doubled by 1851 over the previous decade. As a result, for the first time the English-speaking population of Canada West surpassed the French-speaking population of [Canada East](/wiki/Canada_East), tilting the representative balance of power.

An economic boom in the 1850s coincided with railway expansion across the province, further increasing the economic strength of Central Canada. With the repeal of the [Corn Laws](/wiki/Corn_Laws) and a reciprocity agreement in place with United States, various industries such as timber, mining, farming and alcohol distilling benefited tremendously.

A political stalemate between the [French](/wiki/Canadian_French)- and [English](/wiki/Canadian_English)-speaking legislators, as well as fear of aggression from the United States during and immediately after the [American Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War), led the political elite to hold a series of conferences in the 1860s to effect a broader federal union of all [British North American](/wiki/British_North_America) colonies. The *British North America Act* took effect on July 1, 1867, establishing the Dominion of Canada, initially with four provinces: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. The Province of Canada was divided into Ontario and Quebec so that each linguistic group would have its own province. Both Quebec and Ontario were required by section 93 of the [British North America Act](/wiki/Constitution_Act,_1867) to safeguard existing educational rights and privileges of Protestant and the Catholic minority. Thus, separate Catholic schools and [school boards](/wiki/Board_of_education) were permitted in Ontario. However, neither province had a constitutional requirement to protect its French- or English-speaking minority. Toronto was formally established as Ontario's provincial capital.

### Provincehood[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|Downtown](/wiki/File:One_London_Place_Night.JPG) [London](/wiki/London,_Ontario) at night. [thumb|Celebrating](/wiki/File:VEDaySparksStreet1945.jpg) [V-E Day](/wiki/V-E_Day) in Ottawa in 1945 [thumb|](/wiki/File:Skyline_of_Toronto_viewed_from_Harbour.jpg)[Toronto](/wiki/Toronto), the capital of Ontario Once constituted as a province, Ontario proceeded to assert its economic and legislative power. In 1872, the lawyer [Oliver Mowat](/wiki/Oliver_Mowat) became [Premier of Ontario](/wiki/Premier_of_Ontario) and remained as premier until 1896. He fought for provincial rights, weakening the power of the [federal government](/wiki/Government_of_Canada) in provincial matters, usually through well-argued appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. His battles with the federal government greatly [decentralized](/wiki/Decentralization) Canada, giving the provinces far more power than [John A. Macdonald](/wiki/John_A._Macdonald) had intended. He consolidated and expanded Ontario's educational and provincial institutions, created districts in Northern Ontario, and fought to ensure that those parts of Northwestern Ontario not historically part of Upper Canada (the vast areas north and west of the Lake Superior-Hudson Bay watershed, known as the [District of Keewatin](/wiki/District_of_Keewatin)) would become part of Ontario, a victory embodied in the *Canada (Ontario Boundary) Act, 1889*. He also presided over the emergence of the province into the economic powerhouse of Canada. Mowat was the creator of what is often called *Empire Ontario*.

Beginning with Sir John A. Macdonald's [National Policy](/wiki/National_Policy) (1879) and the construction of the [Canadian Pacific Railway](/wiki/Canadian_Pacific_Railway) (1875–1885) through Northern Ontario and the [Canadian Prairies](/wiki/Canadian_Prairies) to [British Columbia](/wiki/British_Columbia), Ontario manufacturing and industry flourished. However, population increase slowed after a large recession hit the province in 1893, thus slowing growth drastically but for only a few years. Many newly arrived immigrants and others moved west along the railway to the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, sparsely settling Northern Ontario.

[Mineral](/wiki/Mineral) exploitation accelerated in the late 19th century, leading to the rise of important mining centres in the northeast, such as [Sudbury](/wiki/Greater_Sudbury), [Cobalt](/wiki/Cobalt,_Ontario) and [Timmins](/wiki/Timmins). The province harnessed its water power to generate hydro-electric power and created the state-controlled Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, later [Ontario Hydro](/wiki/Ontario_Hydro). The availability of cheap electric power further facilitated the development of industry. The [Ford Motor Company of Canada](/wiki/Ford_Motor_Company_of_Canada) was established in 1904. [General Motors Canada](/wiki/General_Motors_Canada) was formed in 1918. The motor vehicle industry would go on to become the most lucrative industry for the Ontario economy during the 20th century.

In July 1912, the [Conservative](/wiki/Progressive_Conservative_Party_of_Ontario) government of Sir [James Whitney](/wiki/James_Whitney) issued [Regulation 17](/wiki/Regulation_17) which severely limited the availability of French-language schooling to the province's French-speaking minority. French Canadians reacted with outrage, journalist [Henri Bourassa](/wiki/Henri_Bourassa) denouncing the "Prussians of Ontario". The regulation was eventually repealed in 1927.

Influenced by events in the United States, the government of Sir [William Hearst](/wiki/William_Howard_Hearst) introduced [prohibition](/wiki/Prohibition_in_Canada) of alcoholic drinks in 1916 with the passing of the [Ontario Temperance Act](/wiki/Ontario_Temperance_Act). However, residents could distill and retain their own personal supply, and liquor producers could continue distillation and export for sale, allowing this already sizeable industry to strengthen further. Ontario became a hotbed for the illegal smuggling of liquor and the biggest supplier into the United States, which was under complete prohibition. Prohibition in Ontario came to an end in 1927 with the establishment of the [Liquor Control Board of Ontario](/wiki/Liquor_Control_Board_of_Ontario) under the government of [Howard Ferguson](/wiki/Howard_Ferguson). The sale and consumption of liquor, wine, and beer are still controlled by some of the most extreme laws in North America to ensure that strict community standards and revenue generation from the alcohol retail monopoly are upheld. In April 2007, Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament [Kim Craitor](/wiki/Kim_Craitor) suggested that local brewers should be able to sell their beer in local corner stores; however, the motion was quickly rejected by Premier [Dalton McGuinty](/wiki/Dalton_McGuinty).

The post-[World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) period was one of exceptional prosperity and growth. Ontario has been the recipients of most immigration to Canada, largely immigrants from war-torn Europe in the 1950s and 1960s and following changes in federal [immigration law](/wiki/Immigration_law), a massive influx of non-Europeans since the 1970s. From a largely [ethnically](/wiki/Ethnic_group) British province, Ontario has rapidly become culturally very diverse.

The nationalist movement in Quebec, particularly after the election of the [*Parti Québécois*](/wiki/Parti_Québécois) in 1976, contributed to driving many businesses and English-speaking people out of Quebec to Ontario, and as a result Toronto surpassed [Montreal](/wiki/Montreal) as the largest city and economic centre of Canada. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Depressed economic conditions in the [Maritime Provinces](/wiki/Atlantic_Canada) have also resulted in de-population of those provinces in the 20th century, with heavy migration into Ontario.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Ontario's official language is [English](/wiki/English_language).[[34]](#cite_note-34) Numerous [French language](/wiki/French_language) services are available under the [French Language Services Act](/wiki/French_Language_Services_Act) of 1990 in designated areas where sizeable [francophone](/wiki/Francophone) populations exist.

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations)

In the [2011 census](/wiki/Canada_2011_Census), Ontario had a population of 12,851,821 living in 4,887,508 of its 5,308,785 total dwellings, a 5.7 percent change from its 2006 population of 12,160,282. With a land area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), it had a population density of [Template:Pop density](/wiki/Template:Pop_density) in 2011.<ref name=StatCan2011/> In 2013, Statistics Canada estimated the province's population to be 13,537,994.<ref name=estimates>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The percentages given below add to more than 100 percent because of dual responses (e.g., "French and Canadian" response generates an entry both in the category "[French Canadian](/wiki/French_Canadian)" and in the category "[Canadian](/wiki/Canadians)").

The majority of Ontarians are of [English](/wiki/English_Canadian) or other [European descent](/wiki/European_Canadian) including large Scottish, Irish and Italian communities. Slightly less than 5 percent of the population of Ontario is [Franco-Ontarian](/wiki/Franco-Ontarian), that is those whose native tongue is French, although those with French ancestry account for 11 percent of the population. In relation to natural increase or inter-provincial migration, [immigration](/wiki/Immigration_to_Canada) is a huge population growth force in Ontario, as it has been over the last two centuries. More recent sources of [immigrants](/wiki/Immigration) with large or growing communities in Ontario include [Caribbeans](/wiki/Caribbean), [Latin Americans](/wiki/Latin_America), [Europeans](/wiki/Europe), [Asians](/wiki/Asia), and [Africans](/wiki/Africa). Most populations have settled in the larger urban centres.

In 2011, 25.9 percent of the population consisted of [visible minorities](/wiki/Visible_minorities) and 2.4 percent of the population was [Aboriginal](/wiki/Aboriginal_peoples_in_Canada), mostly of [First Nations](/wiki/First_Nations) and [Metis](/wiki/Metis_people_(Canada)) descent. There was also a small number of [Inuit](/wiki/Inuit) people in the province. The number of Aboriginal people and visible minorities has been increasing at a faster rate than the general population of Ontario.[[35]](#cite_note-35)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

In 2011, the largest religious denominations in Ontario were the Roman Catholic Church (with 31.4% of the population), the United Church of Canada (7.5%), and the Anglican Church (6.1%). 23.1% of Ontarians had no religious affiliation, making it the second largest religious grouping in the province after Roman Catholics.[[36]](#cite_note-36) The major religious groups in Ontario in 2011 were: {| class="wikitable" |- !Religion !People !% |- style="text-align:right;" ! style="text-align:center;" | Total ||12,651,795 || 100

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Catholic](/wiki/Catholicism) ||3,976,610 ||31.4

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |No religious affiliation ||2,927,790 ||23.1

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Protestant](/wiki/Protestantism) ||2,668,665 ||21.1

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |Other [Christians](/wiki/Christian) ||1,224,300 ||9.7

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Muslim](/wiki/Islam) ||581,950 ||4.6

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Hindu](/wiki/Hinduism) ||366,720 ||2.9

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Christian Orthodox](/wiki/Orthodox_Christianity) ||297,710 ||2.4

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Jewish](/wiki/Judaism) ||195,540 ||1.5

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Sikh](/wiki/Sikhism) ||179,765 ||1.4

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhism) ||163,750 ||1.3

|- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |Other Religions ||68,985 ||0.5 |}

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The principal language of Ontario is [English](/wiki/English_language), the province's [de facto](/wiki/De_facto) official language,[[37]](#cite_note-37) is spoken natively by about 70 percent of the province's population, according to the 2011 census. There is also a [French](/wiki/French_language)-speaking population concentrated in the northeastern, eastern, and extreme Southern parts of the province, where under the [French Language Services Act](/wiki/French_Language_Services_Act), provincial government services are required to be available in French if at least 10 percent of a designated area's population report French as their native language. Roughly 4% of Ontarians speak French as their mother tongue,[[38]](#cite_note-38) and 11% are bilingual, speaking both English and French, according to the 2011 census.[[38]](#cite_note-38) Immigrant languages such as Arabic, German, Dutch, Italian, Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and Punjabi are also spoken in the province.[[39]](#cite_note-39)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Ship in](/wiki/File:Yellow_Boat_-_Hamilton_Harbour_-_Hamilton_Flickr_Meet.jpg) [Hamilton Harbour](/wiki/Hamilton_Harbour). The manufacturing sector is a major employer in Ontario. Ontario is Canada's leading [manufacturing](/wiki/Manufacturing) province, accounting for 52% of the total national manufacturing shipments in 2004.[[40]](#cite_note-40) Ontario's largest trading partner is the American state of [Michigan](/wiki/Michigan). [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), [Moody's](/wiki/Moody's_Corporation) bond-rating agency rated [Ontario debt](/wiki/Canadian_public_debt) at AA2/stable,[[41]](#cite_note-41) while S&P rated it AA-.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Dominion Bond Rating Service rated it AA(low) in January 2013.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Long known as a bastion of Canadian manufacturing and financial solvency, the province of Ontario owned debt of one-quarter of a trillion dollars (CDN) in 2013-2014.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Ontario's rivers make it rich in hydroelectric energy.[[45]](#cite_note-45) In 2009, [Ontario Power Generation](/wiki/Ontario_Power_Generation) generated 70 percent of the electricity of the province, of which 51 percent is [nuclear](/wiki/Nuclear_power), 39 percent is [hydroelectric](/wiki/Hydroelectricity) and 10 percent is [fossil-fuel](/wiki/Fossil-fuel) derived.[[46]](#cite_note-46) By 2025, nuclear power is projected to supply 42 percent, while fossil fuel derived generation is projected to decrease slightly over the next 20 years.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Much of the newer power generation coming online in the last few years is natural gas or combined cycle natural gas plants. OPG is not however responsible for the transmission of power, which is under the control of [Hydro One](/wiki/Hydro_One). Despite its diverse range of power options, problems related to increasing consumption, lack of energy efficiency and aging nuclear reactors, Ontario has been forced in recent years to purchase power from its neighbours Quebec and Michigan to supplement its power needs during peak consumption periods. Ontario's basic domestic rate in 2010 was 11.17 cents per kWH; by contrast. Quebec's was 6.81.[[48]](#cite_note-48) In December 2013, the government projected a 42 percent hike by 2018, and 68 percent by 2033.<ref name=gm2dec>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Industrial rates are projected to rise by 33 percent by 2018, and 55 percent in 2033.[[47]](#cite_note-47) An abundance of [natural resources](/wiki/Natural_resource), excellent transportation links to the American heartland and the inland Great Lakes making ocean access possible via [container ships](/wiki/Container_ship), have all contributed to making [manufacturing](/wiki/Manufacturing) the principal [industry](/wiki/Industry) of the city, found mainly in the Golden Horseshoe region, which is the largest industrialized area in Canada, the southern end of the region being part of the North American [Rust Belt](/wiki/Rust_Belt). Important products include [motor vehicles](/wiki/Motor_vehicle), [iron](/wiki/Iron), [steel](/wiki/Steel), food, electrical appliances, machinery, [chemicals](/wiki/Chemical_substance), and [paper](/wiki/Paper).

Ontario surpassed Michigan in [car](/wiki/Automobile) production, assembling 2.696 million vehicles in 2004. Ontario has [Chrysler](/wiki/Chrysler) plants in [Windsor](/wiki/Windsor,_Ontario) and Bramalea, two [GM](/wiki/General_Motors) plants in Oshawa and one in Ingersoll, a [Honda](/wiki/Honda) assembly plant in Alliston, [Ford](/wiki/Ford) plants in Oakville and St. Thomas and [Toyota](/wiki/Toyota) assembly plants in Cambridge and Woodstock. However, as a result of steeply declining sales, in 2005, [General Motors](/wiki/General_Motors) announced massive layoffs at production facilities across North America including two large GM plants in [Oshawa](/wiki/Oshawa) and a [drive train](/wiki/Powertrain) facility in [St. Catharines](/wiki/St._Catharines) resulting in 8,000 job losses in Ontario alone. In 2006, [Ford Motor Company](/wiki/Ford_Motor_Company) announced between 25,000 and 30,000 layoffs phased until 2012; Ontario was spared the worst, but job losses were announced for the [St. Thomas](/wiki/St._Thomas,_Ontario) facility and the [Windsor Casting](/wiki/Windsor_Casting) plant. However, these losses will be offset by Ford's recent announcement of a [hybrid vehicle](/wiki/Hybrid_vehicle) facility slated to begin production in 2007 at its [Oakville](/wiki/Oakville,_Ontario) plant and GM's re-introduction of the [Camaro](/wiki/Chevrolet_Camaro) which will be produced in Oshawa. On December 4, 2008 [Toyota](/wiki/Toyota) announced the grand opening of the [RAV4](/wiki/Toyota_RAV4) plant in [Woodstock](/wiki/Woodstock,_Ontario),[[49]](#cite_note-49) and [Honda](/wiki/Honda) also has plans to add an engine plant at its facility in [Alliston](/wiki/Alliston,_Ontario). Despite these new plants coming online, Ontario has not yet fully recovered following massive layoffs caused by the [global recession](/wiki/Financial_crisis_of_2007–2010); its unemployment rate was 7.3 percent in May 2013,[[50]](#cite_note-50) compared to 8.7 percent in January 2010[[51]](#cite_note-51) and roughly 6 percent in 2007. In September 2013, the Ontario government committed CAD$70.9mn to the Ford plant in [Oakville](/wiki/Oakville,_Ontario), while the federal government committed CAD$71.1mn, to secure 2,800 jobs.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The province has lost 300,000 manufacturing jobs in the decade from 2003, and the Bank of Canada noted that "while the energy and mining industries have benefitted from these movements, the pressure on the manufacturing sector has intensified, since many firms in this sector were already dealing with growing competition from low-cost economies such as China."[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54) Ontario's steel industry was once centred on [Hamilton](/wiki/Hamilton,_Ontario). Hamilton harbour, which can be seen as one drives the [QEW](/wiki/QEW) Skyway bridge, is an industrial wasteland; [US Steel](/wiki/US_Steel)-owned [Stelco](/wiki/Stelco) announced in fall 2013 that it would be shuttered in 2014, with the loss of 875 jobs. The move flummoxed a union representative, who seemed puzzled why a plant with capacity of 2 million tons per annum would be shut while Canada imported 8 million tons of steel last year.[[55]](#cite_note-55) [Algoma Steel](/wiki/Algoma_Steel) still maintains a plant in [Sault Ste Marie](/wiki/Sault_Ste._Marie,_Ontario).

[thumb|left|View of Toronto's](/wiki/File:Toronto-view-from-cn-tower.jpg) [Financial District](/wiki/Financial_District,_Toronto) [Toronto](/wiki/Toronto), the capital of Ontario, is the centre of Canada's [financial services](/wiki/Financial_services) and banking industry. Neighbouring cities are home to product distribution, IT centres, and various manufacturing industries. Canada's Federal Government is the largest single employer in the [National Capital Region](/wiki/National_Capital_Region_(Canada)), which centres on the border cities of Ontario's Ottawa and Quebec's [Gatineau](/wiki/Gatineau).[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Parliament_Hill_Front_Entrance.jpg)[Parliament Hill](/wiki/Parliament_Hill) in [Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa), home of the federal government. Canada's Federal Government is the largest single employer in the [National Capital Region](/wiki/National_Capital_Region_(Canada)) The [information technology](/wiki/Information_technology) sector is important, particularly in the [*Silicon Valley North*](/wiki/Silicon_Valley_North) section of [Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa), as well as the [Waterloo Region](/wiki/Regional_Municipality_of_Waterloo), where the world headquarters of [Research in Motion](/wiki/Research_in_Motion) (the developers of the [BlackBerry](/wiki/BlackBerry) smartphone) is located. BlackBerry once provided more than 19 percent of the local jobs and employed more than 13 percent of the entire local population[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) before it supplied 9,500 layoffs in 2013. [OpenText](/wiki/OpenText) and [ATS Automation Tooling Systems](/wiki/ATS_Automation_Tooling_Systems) of [Cambridge](/wiki/Cambridge,_Ontario) make their homes in the area too. [Mike Lazaridis](/wiki/Mike_Lazaridis), one of the founders of RIM, founded in 1999 the [Perimeter Institute](/wiki/Perimeter_Institute), then in 2002 the [Institute for Quantum Computing](/wiki/Institute_for_Quantum_Computing), then in 2013 [Quantum Valley Investments](/wiki/Quantum_Valley_Investments), to plow a portion of the benefits of RIM back into research and development.[[58]](#cite_note-58) In 2014, the section of Highway 401 between Toronto and Waterloo became the world's second largest innovation corridor after California's [Silicon Valley](/wiki/Silicon_Valley), employing nearly 280,000 tech workers from around the world and containing over 60% of Canada's [high tech](/wiki/High_tech) industry.[[59]](#cite_note-59) [Hamilton](/wiki/Hamilton,_Ontario) is the largest steel manufacturing city in Canada followed closely by [Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario](/wiki/Sault_Ste._Marie,_Ontario), and [Sarnia](/wiki/Sarnia) is the centre for [petrochemical](/wiki/Petrochemical) production. [Construction](/wiki/Construction) employed more than 6.5 percent of the province's work force in June 2011.[[60]](#cite_note-60) [Mining](/wiki/Mining) and the [forest products](/wiki/Forestry) industry, notably [pulp and paper](/wiki/Pulp_and_paper_industry_in_Canada), are vital to the economy of Northern Ontario. There has been controversy over the [Ring of Fire](/wiki/Northern_Ontario_Ring_of_Fire) mineral deposit, and whether the province can afford to spend CAD$2.25bn on a road from the [Trans-Canada Highway](/wiki/Trans-Canada_Highway) near [Kenora](/wiki/Kenora) to the deposit, currently valued at CAD$60bn.[[61]](#cite_note-61) Tourism contributes heavily to the economy of Central Ontario, peaking during the summer months owing to the abundance of [fresh water](/wiki/Fresh_water) recreation and wilderness found there in reasonable proximity to the major urban centres. At other times of the year, [hunting](/wiki/Hunting), [skiing](/wiki/Skiing) and [snowmobiling](/wiki/Snowmobile) are popular. This region has some of the most vibrant fall colour displays anywhere on the continent, and tours directed at overseas visitors are organized to see them. Tourism also plays a key role in border cities with large casinos, among them Windsor, [Cornwall](/wiki/Cornwall,_Ontario), Sarnia and [Niagara Falls](/wiki/Niagara_Falls,_Ontario), the latter of which attracts millions of US and other international visitors.[[62]](#cite_note-62)

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[right|thumb|Fruit from the Niagara region for distribution, ca. 1914](/wiki/File:Niagara_fruit_1914.jpg) [thumb|right|Eaton Farm in](/wiki/File:Eatonville.jpg) [Eatonville](/wiki/Eatonville,_Toronto) provided poultry, vegetables, dairy and meat products for [Eaton's](/wiki/Eaton's) department stores until the early 1950s.[[63]](#cite_note-63) [thumb|right|The Canadian Jewish Farm School in](/wiki/File:Canadian_Jewish_Farm_School,_Georgetown,_Ontario_(1929).jpg) [Georgetown, Ontario](/wiki/Georgetown,_Ontario) was established in 1927 and served as a training school for Polish war orphans brought to Canada after the First World War.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Once the dominant industry, [agriculture](/wiki/Agriculture) occupies a small percentage of the population. However much of the land in southern Ontario is given over to agriculture. As the following table shows, while the number of individual farms has steadily decreased and their overall size has shrunk at a lower rate, greater mechanization has supported increased supply to satisfy the ever increasing demands of a growing population base; this has also meant a gradual increase in the total amount of land used for growing crops. [Template:Ontario Farming Stats](/wiki/Template:Ontario_Farming_Stats)

Common types of farms reported in the 2001 census include those for cattle, small grains and [dairy](/wiki/Dairy). The fruit- and grape-growing industry is located primarily on the [Niagara Peninsula](/wiki/Niagara_Peninsula) and along Lake Erie, where [tobacco](/wiki/Tobacco) farms are also situated. Market vegetables grow in the rich soils of the [Holland Marsh](/wiki/Holland_Marsh) near [Newmarket](/wiki/Newmarket,_Ontario). The area near [Windsor](/wiki/Windsor,_Ontario) is also very fertile. The Heinz plant in [Leamington](/wiki/Leamington,_Ontario) was taken over in fall 2013 by [Warren Buffett](/wiki/Warren_Buffett) and a Brazilian partner, following which it put 740 people out of work.[[65]](#cite_note-65) Government subsidies followed shortly; Premier [Kathleen Wynne](/wiki/Kathleen_Wynne) offered CAD$200k to cushion the blow, and promised that another processed-food operator would soon be found.[[66]](#cite_note-66) On December 10, 2013, [Kellogg's](/wiki/Kellogg's) announced layoffs for more than 509 workers at a cereal manufacture plant in [London, Ontario](/wiki/London,_Ontario).<ref name=gmkellogs>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Kellogg's plans to ship jobs to Thailand.[[67]](#cite_note-67) The area defined as the [Corn Belt](/wiki/Corn_Belt) covers much of the southwestern area of the province, extending as far north as close to Goderich, but corn and soy are grown throughout the southern portion of the province. Apple orchards are a common sight along the southern shore of [Nottawasaga Bay](/wiki/Nottawasaga_Bay) (part of Georgian Bay) near Collingwood and along the northern shore of Lake Ontario near Cobourg. Tobacco production, centred in [Norfolk County](/wiki/Norfolk_County,_Ontario), has decreased, allowing an increase in alternative crops such as [hazelnuts](/wiki/Corylus_avellana) and [ginseng](/wiki/Ginseng). The Ontario origins of [Massey Ferguson](/wiki/Massey_Ferguson), once one of the largest [farm-implement](/wiki/Agricultural_machinery) manufacturers in the world, indicate the importance agriculture once[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) had to the Canadian economy.

[Southern Ontario's](/wiki/Southern_Ontario) limited supply of agricultural land is going out of production at an increasing rate. [Urban sprawl](/wiki/Urban_sprawl) and farmland severances contribute to the loss of thousands of acres of productive agricultural land in Ontario each year. Over 2,000 farms and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of farmland in the GTA alone were lost to production in the two decades between 1976 and 1996. This loss represented approximately 18 percent of Ontario's Class 1 farmland being converted to urban purposes. In addition, increasing rural [severances](/wiki/Severance_(disambiguation)) provide ever-greater interference with agricultural production.

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Bruce-Nuclear-Szmurlo.jpg) [CANDU](/wiki/CANDU) [Bruce Nuclear Generating Station](/wiki/Bruce_Nuclear_Generating_Station) on Lake Huron is the largest [nuclear power](/wiki/Nuclear_power) plant in the world. The Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009 (GEA), takes a two-pronged approach to commercializing renewable energy:

1. bringing more [renewable energy sources](/wiki/Renewable_resource) to the province
2. adopting more [energy-efficiency](/wiki/Efficient_energy_use) measures to help [conserve energy](/wiki/Energy_conservation)

The bill envisaged appointing a Renewable Energy Facilitator to provide "one-window" assistance and support to project developers to facilitate project approvals.[[68]](#cite_note-68) The approvals process for transmission projects would also be [streamlined](/wiki/Wikt:streamline) and (for the first time in Ontario) the bill would enact standards for renewable energy projects. Homeowners would have access to incentives to develop small-scale renewables such as low- or no-interest [loans](/wiki/Loan) to finance the capital cost of renewable energy generating facilities like solar panels.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Ontario is home to [Niagara Falls](/wiki/Niagara_Falls), which supplies a large amount of electricity to the province. The [Bruce Nuclear Generating Station](/wiki/Bruce_Nuclear_Generating_Station), the largest [nuclear power](/wiki/Nuclear_power) plant in the world, is also in Ontario and uses 8 [CANDU reactors](/wiki/CANDU_reactor) to generate electricity for the province.

## Government, law and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Queen's_Park.jpg) [Ontario Legislature](/wiki/Legislative_Assembly_of_Ontario) at [Queen's Park](/wiki/Queen's_Park_(Toronto)) in [Toronto](/wiki/Toronto).

[thumb|upright|The previous wordmark of the Government of Ontario, which was in use from the late-1960s until 2007 (apart from the lettering used here).](/wiki/File:Ontario-wordmark.svg) The *British North America Act 1867* section 69 stipulated "There shall be a Legislature for Ontario consisting of the Lieutenant Governor and of One House, styled the [Legislative Assembly of Ontario](/wiki/Legislative_Assembly_of_Ontario)." The assembly has 107 seats representing [ridings](/wiki/Electoral_district_(Canada)) elected in a [first-past-the-post](/wiki/Plurality_voting_system) system across the province.

The legislative buildings at [Queen's Park](/wiki/Queen's_Park_(Toronto)) are the seat of government. Following the [Westminster system](/wiki/Westminster_system), the leader of the party holding the most seats in the assembly is known as the "Premier and President of the Council" (Executive Council Act R.S.O. 1990). The Premier chooses the [cabinet](/wiki/Cabinet_(government)) or [Executive Council](/wiki/Executive_Council_of_Ontario) whose members are deemed [ministers of the Crown](/wiki/Ministers_of_the_Crown).

Although the *Legislative Assembly Act (R.S.O. 1990)* refers to members of the assembly", the legislators are now commonly called MPPs ([Members of the Provincial Parliament](/wiki/Member_of_Provincial_Parliament_(Ontario))) in English and *députés de l'Assemblée législative* in French, but they have also been called MLAs ([Members of the Legislative Assembly](/wiki/Member_of_the_Legislative_Assembly)), and both are acceptable. The title of Prime Minister of Ontario, correct in French (*le Premier ministre*), is permissible in English but now generally avoided in favour of the title "Premier" to avoid confusion with the Prime Minister of Canada.

### Law[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

Ontario has grown, from its roots in [Upper Canada](/wiki/Upper_Canada), into a modern jurisdiction. The old titles of the chief law officers, the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General, remain in use. They both are responsible to the Legislature. The Attorney-General drafts the laws and is responsible for criminal prosecutions and the administration of justice, while the Solicitor-General is responsible for law enforcement and the police services of the province.

### Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Ontario has numerous political parties which run for election. The three main parties are the centre-left [Ontario Liberal Party](/wiki/Ontario_Liberal_Party), the centre-right [Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario](/wiki/Progressive_Conservative_Party_of_Ontario), and the social democratic [Ontario New Democratic Party](/wiki/Ontario_New_Democratic_Party) (NDP). Each of the three parties has received a majority mandate during a provincial election since [1990](/wiki/Ontario_general_election,_1990).

Ontario is led by the [majority government](/wiki/Majority_government) of Premier [Kathleen Wynne](/wiki/Kathleen_Wynne), a Liberal. Since gaining power under former Premier [Dalton McGuinty](/wiki/Dalton_McGuinty) in [2003](/wiki/Ontario_general_election,_2003), the Ontario Liberals have been re-elected three times: in the [2007](/wiki/Ontario_general_election,_2007), the [2011](/wiki/Ontario_general_election,_2011), and [2014](/wiki/Ontario_general_election,_2014) general elections.

In the [2011 federal election](/wiki/Canadian_federal_election,_2011) in Ontario the [Conservatives](/wiki/Conservative_Party_of_Canada) were elected in 73 ridings, the [NDP](/wiki/New_Democratic_Party) in 22, and the [Liberals](/wiki/Liberal_Party_of_Canada) in 11. The [Green Party](/wiki/Green_Party_of_Canada) did not win a seat in Ontario, but [Bruce Hyer](/wiki/Bruce_Hyer) (MP for [Thunder Bay—Superior North](/wiki/Thunder_Bay—Superior_North)) [crossed the floor](/wiki/Crossing_the_floor#Changing_parties) from the NDP and sat as a Green Party member from 2013 until the dissolution of Parliament for the [2015 federal election](/wiki/Canadian_federal_election,_2015).

### Urban areas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Statistics Canada's measure of a "metro area", the [Census Metropolitan Area](/wiki/Census_Metropolitan_Area) (CMA), roughly bundles together population figures from the core municipality with those from "commuter" municipalities.[[69]](#cite_note-69) {| class="wikitable" |- " !CMA (largest other included municipalities in brackets) !2001 !2006 !2011 !% Change |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Toronto](/wiki/Greater_Toronto_Area) CMA ([Mississauga](/wiki/Mississauga), [Brampton](/wiki/Brampton)) |4,682,897  |5,113,149  |5,583,064  |9.2% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Ottawa](/wiki/National_Capital_Region_(Canada)) CMA ([Gatineau](/wiki/Gatineau), [Clarence-Rockland](/wiki/Clarence-Rockland))\* |1,067,800  |1,130,761  |1,236,324  |9.3% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Hamilton](/wiki/Hamilton,_Ontario) CMA ([Burlington](/wiki/Burlington,_Ontario), [Grimsby](/wiki/Grimsby,_Ontario)) |662,401  |692,911  |721,053  |4.1% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Kitchener](/wiki/Kitchener,_Ontario) CMA ([Cambridge](/wiki/Cambridge,_Ontario), [Waterloo](/wiki/Waterloo,_Ontario)) |414,284  |451,235  |477,160  |5.7% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[London](/wiki/London,_Ontario) CMA ([St. Thomas](/wiki/St._Thomas,_Ontario), [Strathroy-Caradoc](/wiki/Strathroy-Caradoc)) |435,600  |457,720  |474,786  |3.7% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[St. Catharines](/wiki/St._Catharines) CMA ([Niagara Falls](/wiki/Niagara_Falls,_Ontario), [Welland](/wiki/Welland)) |377,009  |390,317  |392,184  |0.5% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Oshawa](/wiki/Oshawa) CMA ([Whitby](/wiki/Whitby,_Ontario), [Clarington](/wiki/Clarington)) |296,298  |330,594  |356,177  |7.7% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Windsor](/wiki/Windsor,_Ontario) CMA ([Lakeshore](/wiki/Lakeshore,_Ontario), [LaSalle](/wiki/LaSalle,_Ontario)) |307,877  |323,342  |319,246  | −1.3% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Barrie](/wiki/Barrie) CMA ([Innisfil](/wiki/Innisfil,_Ontario), [Springwater](/wiki/Springwater,_Ontario)) |148,480  |177,061  |187,013  |5.6% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Sudbury](/wiki/Greater_Sudbury) CMA ([Whitefish Lake](/wiki/Whitefish_Lake_6,_Ontario), [Wanapitei Reserve](/wiki/Wahnapitae_First_Nation)) |155,601  |158,258  |160,770  |1.6% |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Kingston](/wiki/Kingston,_Ontario) CMA |146,838  |152,358  |159,561  |4.7% |}

\*Parts of Quebec (including [Gatineau](/wiki/Gatineau)) are included in the Ottawa CMA. The population of the Ottawa CMA, in both provinces, is shown.

Ten largest municipalities by population[[70]](#cite_note-70){| class="wikitable sortable"

|- " !Municipality !1996 !2001 !2006 !2011 |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Toronto](/wiki/Toronto) (Provincial capital) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa) (National capital) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Mississauga](/wiki/Mississauga) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Brampton](/wiki/Brampton) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Hamilton](/wiki/Hamilton,_Ontario) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[London](/wiki/London,_Ontario) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Markham](/wiki/Markham,_Ontario) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Vaughan](/wiki/Vaughan) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Kitchener](/wiki/Kitchener,_Ontario) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |- style="text-align:right;" | style="text-align:left;" |[Windsor](/wiki/Windsor,_Ontario) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) |}

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) In [Canada](/wiki/Canada), education falls under provincial jurisdiction. Publicly funded elementary and secondary schools are administered by the [Ontario Ministry of Education](/wiki/Ministry_of_Education_(Ontario)), while colleges and universities are administered by the [Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities](/wiki/Ministry_of_Training,_Colleges_and_Universities). The current Minister of Education is [Liz Sandals](/wiki/Liz_Sandals), and the current minister of Training, Colleges and Universities is [Reza Moridi](/wiki/Reza_Moridi).

### Higher education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Higher education in Ontario includes postsecondary education and skills training regulated by the [Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities](/wiki/Ministry_of_Education_(Ontario)) and provided by universities, colleges of applied arts and technology, and private career colleges.[[71]](#cite_note-71) The current minister is [Reza Moridi](/wiki/Reza_Moridi). The ministry administers laws covering 22 public universities,[[72]](#cite_note-72) 24 public colleges (21 Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAATs) and three Institutes of Technology and Advanced Learning (ITALs)),[[73]](#cite_note-73) 17 privately funded religious universities,[[74]](#cite_note-74) and over 500 private career colleges.[[75]](#cite_note-75) The [Canadian constitution](/wiki/Canadian_constitution) provides each province with the responsibility for [higher education](/wiki/Higher_education) and there is no corresponding national federal ministry of higher education.[[76]](#cite_note-76) Within [Canadian federalism](/wiki/Canadian_federalism) the division of responsibilities and taxing powers between the Ontario and Canadian governments creates the need for co-operation to fund and deliver higher education to students. Each higher education system aims to improve participation, access, and mobility for students. There are two central organizations that assist with the process of applying to Ontario universities and colleges: the [Ontario Universities' Application Centre](/wiki/Ontario_Universities'_Application_Centre) and [Ontario College Application Service](/wiki/Ontario_College_Application_Service). While application services are centralized, admission and selection processes vary and are the purview of each institution independently. Admission to many Ontario postsecondary institutions can be highly competitive. Upon admission, students may get involved with regional student representation with the [Canadian Federation of Students](/wiki/Canadian_Federation_of_Students), the [Canadian Alliance of Student Associations](/wiki/Canadian_Alliance_of_Student_Associations), the [Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance](/wiki/Ontario_Undergraduate_Student_Alliance), or through the [College Student Alliance](/wiki/College_Student_Alliance) in Ontario.

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

### Songs and slogans[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

In 1973 the first slogan to appear on [licence plates in Ontario](/wiki/Vehicle_registration_plates_of_Ontario) was "Keep It Beautiful". This was replaced by "Yours to Discover" in 1982,[[77]](#cite_note-77) apparently inspired by a tourism slogan, "Discover Ontario," dating back to 1927.[[78]](#cite_note-78) Plates with the French equivalent, "Tant à découvrir", were made available to the public beginning in May 2008.[[79]](#cite_note-79) (From 1988 to 1990,[[80]](#cite_note-80) "Ontario Incredible"[[81]](#cite_note-81) gave "Yours to Discover" a brief respite.)

In 2007, a new song replaced "A Place to Stand" after four decades. "There's No Place Like This" is featured in current [television advertising](/wiki/Television_advertisement), performed by Ontario artists including [Molly Johnson](/wiki/Molly_Johnson), [Brian Byrne](/wiki/Brian_Byrne), [Keshia Chanté](/wiki/Keshia_Chanté),[[82]](#cite_note-82) as well as [Tomi Swick](/wiki/Tomi_Swick) and [Arkells](/wiki/Arkells).

### Notable residents[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Professional sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

The province has professional teams in [Baseball](/wiki/Baseball), [Basketball](/wiki/Basketball), [Hockey](/wiki/Ice_hockey), [Football](/wiki/Canadian_football), [Rugby](/wiki/Rugby_league) and [Soccer](/wiki/Association_Football).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** | **Sport** | **League** | **City** | **Stadium** |
| [**Toronto Blue Jays**](/wiki/Toronto_Blue_Jays) | [Baseball](/wiki/Baseball) | [MLB](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) | [Toronto](/wiki/Toronto) | [Rogers Centre](/wiki/Rogers_Centre) |
| [**Toronto Raptors**](/wiki/Toronto_Raptors) | [Basketball](/wiki/Basketball) | [NBA](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) | Toronto | [Air Canada Centre](/wiki/Air_Canada_Centre) |
| [**Ottawa Senators**](/wiki/Ottawa_Senators) | [Hockey](/wiki/Ice_hockey) | [NHL](/wiki/National_Hockey_League) | [Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa) | [Canadian Tire Centre](/wiki/Canadian_Tire_Centre) |
| [**Toronto Maple Leafs**](/wiki/Toronto_Maple_Leafs) | Hockey | NHL | Toronto | Air Canada Centre |
| [**Hamilton Tiger-Cats**](/wiki/Hamilton_Tiger-Cats) | [Football](/wiki/Canadian_football) | [CFL](/wiki/Canadian_Football_League) | [Hamilton](/wiki/Hamilton,_Ontario) | [Tim Hortons Field](/wiki/Tim_Hortons_Field) |
| [**Ottawa Redblacks**](/wiki/Ottawa_Redblacks) | Football | CFL | Ottawa | [TD Place Stadium](/wiki/TD_Place_Stadium) |
| [**Toronto Argonauts**](/wiki/Toronto_Argonauts) | Football | CFL | Toronto | [BMO Field](/wiki/BMO_Field) |
| [**Toronto Wolfpack**](/wiki/Toronto_Wolfpack) | [Rugby](/wiki/Rugby_league) | [L1](/wiki/League_1_(rugby_league)) | Toronto | [Lamport Stadium](/wiki/Lamport_Stadium) |
| [**Ottawa Fury**](/wiki/Ottawa_Fury_FC) | [Soccer](/wiki/Association_football) | [NASL](/wiki/North_American_Soccer_League) | Ottawa | TD Place Stadium |
| [**Toronto FC**](/wiki/Toronto_FC) | Soccer | [MLS](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) | Toronto | BMO Field |

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

Historically, the province has used two major east-west routes, both starting from Montreal in the neighbouring province of Quebec. The northerly route, which was mostly pioneered by early [fur traders](/wiki/Fur_trade), travels west from Montreal along the [Ottawa River](/wiki/Ottawa_River), then continues northwestward towards Manitoba. Major cities on or near the route include Ottawa, North Bay, Sudbury, [Sault Ste. Marie](/wiki/Sault_Ste._Marie,_Ontario), and Thunder Bay. The southerly route, which was driven by growth in settlements originated by the United Empire Loyalists and later other [European immigrants](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_in_Europe), travels southwest from Montreal along the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie before entering the United States in Michigan. Major cities on or near the route include Kingston, Belleville, Peterborough, Oshawa, Toronto, Mississauga, [Kitchener-Waterloo](/wiki/Regional_Municipality_of_Waterloo), Hamilton, London, Sarnia, and Windsor. This route was also heavily used by immigrants to the Midwestern US particularly in the late 19th century.

### Roads[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[400-Series Highways](/wiki/400-series_highways_(Ontario)) make up the primary vehicular network in the south of province, and they connect to numerous border crossings with the US, the busiest being the [Detroit–Windsor Tunnel](/wiki/Detroit–Windsor_Tunnel) and [Ambassador Bridge](/wiki/Ambassador_Bridge) (via [Highway 401](/wiki/Ontario_Highway_401)) and the [Blue Water Bridge](/wiki/Blue_Water_Bridge) (via [Highway 402](/wiki/Ontario_Highway_402)). Some of the primary highways along the southern route are Highway 401, [Highway 417](/wiki/Ontario_Highway_417), and [Highway 400](/wiki/Ontario_Highway_400),<ref name=Ontario>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=Highway>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> while other [provincial highways](/wiki/List_of_provincial_highways_in_Ontario) and regional roads inter-connect the remainder of the province.

### Waterways[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

The [Saint Lawrence Seaway](/wiki/Saint_Lawrence_Seaway), which extends across most of the southern portion of the province and connects to the Atlantic Ocean, is the primary [water transportation](/wiki/Water_transportation) route for cargo, particularly [iron ore](/wiki/Iron_ore) and grain. In the past, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River were also a major passenger transportation route, but over the past half century passenger travel has been reduced to ferry services and sightseeing cruises.

### Railways[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Via Rail](/wiki/Via_Rail) operates the inter-regional passenger train service on the [Quebec City – Windsor Corridor](/wiki/Quebec_City_–_Windsor_Corridor), along with [*The Canadian*](/wiki/The_Canadian), a transcontinental rail service from Southern Ontario to [Vancouver](/wiki/Vancouver), and the [Sudbury – White River train](/wiki/Sudbury_–_White_River_train). Additionally, [Amtrak](/wiki/Amtrak) rail connects Ontario with key New York cities including [Buffalo](/wiki/Buffalo,_New_York), [Albany](/wiki/Albany,_New_York), and [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City). [Ontario Northland](/wiki/Ontario_Northland_Railway) provides rail service to destinations as far north as [Moosonee](/wiki/Moosonee,_Ontario) near [James Bay](/wiki/James_Bay), connecting them with the south.

[Freight rail](/wiki/Freight_train) is dominated by the founding cross-country [Canadian National Railway](/wiki/Canadian_National_Railway) and [CP Rail](/wiki/Canadian_Pacific_Railway) companies, which during the 1990s sold many [short rail lines](/wiki/Short-line_railroad) from their vast network to private companies operating mostly in the south.

Regional [commuter rail](/wiki/Commuter_rail) is limited to the provincially owned [GO Transit](/wiki/GO_Transit), and serves a train-bus network spanning the Golden Horseshoe region.

The [Toronto Transit Commission](/wiki/Toronto_Transit_Commission) operates the province's only [subway](/wiki/Toronto_subway_and_RT) and [streetcar](/wiki/Toronto_streetcar_system) system, one of the busiest in North America. [OC Transpo](/wiki/OC_Transpo) operates, in addition to bus service, Ontario's only [light rail](/wiki/Light_rail) transit line, the [O-Train](/wiki/O-Train) in Ottawa.

A light-rail metro called the [Confederation Line](/wiki/Confederation_Line) is under construction in [Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa). It will have 13 stations on [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and part of it will run under the city's [Downtown](/wiki/Downtown_Ottawa) and feature three underground stations. In addition, the [Ion light rail and bus rapid transit system](/wiki/Ion_rapid_transit) is under construction in the province's [Waterloo region](/wiki/Regional_Municipality_of_Waterloo). [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Air travel[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

Important airports in the province include [Toronto Pearson International Airport](/wiki/Toronto_Pearson_International_Airport), which is the [busiest airport in Canada](/wiki/List_of_the_busiest_airports_in_Canada),[[83]](#cite_note-83) handling over 41 million passengers in 2015.<ref name=15DecPax>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport](/wiki/Ottawa_Macdonald-Cartier_International_Airport) and Hamilton's [John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport](/wiki/John_C._Munro_Hamilton_International_Airport). Toronto/Pearson and Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier form two of the three points in Canada's busiest set of air routes (the third point being [Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport](/wiki/Montréal-Pierre_Elliott_Trudeau_International_Airport)).

Most Ontario cities have regional airports, many of which have scheduled commuter flights from [Air Canada Jazz](/wiki/Air_Canada_Jazz) or smaller airlines and charter companies — flights from the mid-size cities such as Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, North Bay, Timmins, Windsor, London, and Kingston feed directly into larger airports in Toronto and Ottawa. [Bearskin Airlines](/wiki/Bearskin_Airlines) also runs flights along the northerly east-west route, connecting Ottawa, North Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Kitchener and Thunder Bay directly.

Isolated towns and settlements in the northern areas of the province rely partly or entirely on [air service](/wiki/Airline) for travel, goods, and even [ambulance](/wiki/Air_ambulance) services ([MEDIVAC](/wiki/Medical_evacuation)), since much of the far northern area of the province cannot be reached by road or rail.

<gallery mode="packed" heights="150px"> File:401 Gridlock.jpg|[Highway 401](/wiki/Ontario_Highway_401) is the busiest highway in North America and among the busiest highways in the world.[[84]](#cite_note-84)[[85]](#cite_note-85)File:Lakeshore West GO Train Westbound.jpg|A [GO Transit](/wiki/GO_Transit) commuter train. File:Toronto Airport.jpg|[Air Canada](/wiki/Air_Canada) is the largest airline operating in Ontario. Its largest hub is at [Pearson International Airport](/wiki/Toronto_Pearson_International_Airport) in Mississauga. File:O Train over Rideau by Wilder.JPG|A light rail [O-Train](/wiki/O-Train) crossing the Rideau River on the [Trillium Line](/wiki/Trillium_Line). </gallery>

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Outline of Ontario](/wiki/Outline_of_Ontario)
* [Index of Ontario-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Ontario-related_articles)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

* Michael Sletcher, "Ottawa", in James Ciment, ed., *Colonial America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History*, (5 vols., M. E. Sharpe, New York, 2006).
* [Virtual Vault](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/virtual-vault/), an online exhibition of Canadian historical art at Library and Archives Canada

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* *Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History: Proceedings of the Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History Symposium, April 14, 15 and 16, 2000.* Ontario Historical Society, 2000. 343 pp.
* Baskerville, Peter A. *Sites of Power: A Concise History of Ontario.* Oxford U. Press., 2005. 296 pp. (first edition was *Ontario: Image, Identity and Power,* 2002). [online review](http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=112191064889930)
* Chambers, Lori, and Edgar-Andre Montigny, eds. *Ontario Since Confederation: A Reader* (2000), articles by scholars
* Winfield, Mark S. *Blue-Green Province: The Environment and the Political Economy of Ontario* (University of British Columbia Press; 2012) 296 pages; environmental policies since 1945

[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Government of Ontario](http://www.ontario.ca/)
* [Tourism Ontario](http://mtc.gov.on.ca/)
* [Template:DMOZ](/wiki/Template:DMOZ)
* [Ontario Visual Heritage Project](http://www.visualheritage.ca/) – Non-profit documentary project about Ontario's history

[Template:Geographic location](/wiki/Template:Geographic_location)

[Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

[Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Ontario](/wiki/Category:Ontario) [Category:1867 establishments in Canada](/wiki/Category:1867_establishments_in_Canada) [Category:Provinces and territories of Canada](/wiki/Category:Provinces_and_territories_of_Canada) [Category:States and territories established in 1867](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1867) [Category:Eastern Canada](/wiki/Category:Eastern_Canada)