

Canada Facts

- Canada is the second largest country in the world, right after Russia.
- Canada is the World's Most Educated Country: over half its residents have college degrees.
- Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world's lakes combined.
- Canada consumes more macaroni and cheese than any other nation in the world.
- Canada has the largest coastline in the world.
- Every Christmas, one million letters are addressed to Santa Claus own postal code: H0H 0H0 North Pole, Canada
- With 1,896 km (1,178 mi), Yonge Street in Canada, is the longest street in the world.
- The Mall of America is owned by Canadians.
- The U.S. / Canada Border is the longest international border in the world and it lacks military defense.
- Canada has the third largest oil reserves of any country in the world after Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- Canada consumes the most doughnuts and has the most doughnut shops per capita of any country in the world.
- The North American Beaver is the national animal of Canada.
- Canada and Denmark have been fighting over an uninhabited island by leaving each other bottles of alcohol and changing their flags since the 1930s.
- Ontario, Canada, has more than 250,000 lakes. They contain about 1/5 of the world's fresh water.

Canada takes second spot globally on social-progress ranking... Canada was lauded for its tolerance, but lags on environment

LEYLAND CECCO

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Canada ranks second in the world when it comes to turning economic prosperity into social progress, says a global ranking released Tuesday.

The 2016 Social Progress Index grades countries on how well they perform in the categories of “basic human needs,” “foundations of well-being” and “opportunity.” Within these categories, countries are also measured against 53 indicators, spanning nutrition, shelter, personal safety, tolerance and higher education. To arrive at a ranking, researchers scour a broad range of data, looking at how fairly laws are enforced, whether residents feel rent is too high and the strength of community safety nets.

“Measuring people’s real lived experience in that way is actually very powerful,” said Michael Green, executive director of The Social Progress Imperative, which compiles the index annually.

About the rankings:

In 2010, researchers from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology first conceived of a global ranking system that would complement hard economic indicators often used to gauge a country’s success, like the gross domestic product. In 2013, the first SPI was tested using just 50 countries and expanded to 133 countries the following year.

The data is pulled from many well-known public databases, including the World Health Organization, the Pew Research Center, Gallup World Poll and the United Nations Development Programme. Twenty-seven countries with insufficient data were excluded from the index, including wealthy nations like Singapore, Qatar and Bahrain.

“You can actually get broader perspective on how your country or society is doing to inform your policy choices, where you spend money, what you prioritize,” said Mr. Green

of the SPI’s appeal to policy makers. Already, the European Union is using the index to inform regional policy.

CANADA’S RESULTS AT A GLANCE:

Canada scored best in:

Basic human needs
Access to advanced education
Tolerance for minority communities

Canada scored worst in:

Environment quality
Mobile phone ownership
Obesity Rates

Overall rankings:

This year, Finland came first among 133 countries. For a second year in a row, the Central African Republic, torn apart by civil war, came last. Overall, Canada topped or tied 14 separate indicators. Canada is up from its previous sixth place ranking, but researchers caution comparing the 2016 index to last year’s result, given the back-revision of data and changes in methodology.

“Canada is in the very high social progress category. That top core group of nations is tightly clustered, so we see some rank changes year to year,” said Mr. Green.

Here’s a breakdown of how Canada compares to countries with **similar GDP** per capita:

Basic human needs: index out of 100

Country	Basic Human Needs
Denmark	96.63
Japan	96.17
Sweden	95.42
Iceland	95.27

Netherlands	95.23
Canada	95.14
Australia	94.81
Germany	94.42
United Kingdom	93.04
United States	92.81
Saudi Arabia	85.88

Canada received high marks for meeting basic human needs – with excellent access to food, quality electricity and high childhood education rates. It also scored well on political rights. Residents enjoyed protections to freedom of speech, the right to assembly and private property. The data also showed low violent crime rates and little worry for political terror.

Access to advanced education: index out of 100

Country	Access to Advanced Education
Canada	87.42
United States	86.82
United Kingdom	82.20
Australia	81.33
Iceland	74.67
Germany	74.53
Japan	74.35
Sweden	73.85
Netherlands	73.54
Denmark	73.35
Saudi Arabia	47.56

Researchers reserved the most praise for Canada’s access to higher education. In the category, Canada ranks first overall with particular emphasis on women’s average years in school (15.65) and years in postsecondary education (1.64). The study also found that almost half of postsecondary students attend a top university.

Tolerance and inclusion: index out of 100

Country	Tolerance and Inclusion
Iceland	88.64
Canada	83.88
Australia	80.87
Sweden	79.62
Denmark	79.27
Netherlands	76.52
Germany	71.34
United Kingdom	71.30
United States	71.02
Japan	56.75
Saudi Arabia	43.97

However, the overall scores for countries were weak when it came to tolerance and diversity, with struggles to achieve tolerance and inclusion across the income range – with the exception of Canada.

“It’s striking how well Canada does on tolerance and inclusion. For a big and diverse country, to be doing so well, that’s actually quite a significant achievement,” said Mr. Green.

“Perhaps there’s a lot Canada could be teaching the rest of the world about how to build a successful multicultural society.”

Environmental quality: index out of 100

Country	Environmental Quality
Sweden	92.28
United Kingdom	91.44
Denmark	90.85
Germany	89.77
Netherlands	87.21
Australia	84.41

Japan	81.66
Iceland	79.92
Canada	76.53
United States	75.73
Saudi Arabia	69.65

Canada continued to disappoint when it comes to the environment. Researchers docked marks for a lack of substantive biodiversity and habitat protection, pushing Canada to 90th place, behind Indonesia and Ethiopia. High greenhouse-gas emissions, the scourge of most nations, weren't up to standard, resulting in a 77th place ranking. The study notes that a higher GDP often correlates with better environmental protection but Canada still comes second to last amongst other G7 nations, beating only the United States.

"Canada, relative to other countries of similar wealth, is underperforming," said Mr. Green. In last year's rankings, Canada also scored poorly in the environmental category. Other areas of concern have been well-reported in the media over the last two years. Inadequate access to water for rural communities made headlines during last year's election, when many aboriginal reserves complained about a lack of quality drinking water available. A high proportion of traffic deaths also concerned researchers.

Mobile Phone Subscriptions: Subscriptions/100 people

Country	Mobile phone subscriptions
Saudi Arabia	179.56
Australia	131.23
Sweden	127.84
Denmark	125.89
United Kingdom	123.58
Germany	120.42
Japan	120.23
Netherlands	116.42
Iceland	111.08
United States	110.20

Canada	81.04
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Canada's worst ranking came from poor mobile telephone subscription numbers. Only 81 per cent of Canadians own a mobile telephone, the data showed, pushing the country to 102nd, behind Iraq, Republic of Congo and Venezuela. This tepid performance in mobile phone ownership was also flagged last year as an area of concern.

In spite of Canada's weaknesses, they're minimal compared to the United States. One of the world's wealthiest nations, it tumbled to 19th in the rankings. When matched up head to head, the researchers found Canada beats the United States on 10 of the 12 components.

"Another disappointing result for Americans who are getting a pretty raw deal when it comes to translating the country's wealth into social progress," said Mr. Green.

Globally, the world as a whole showed strength when it came to providing basic nutrition and medical care, two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Obesity: percentage of population

Country	Obesity rate
Saudi Arabia	0.358
United States	0.328
Australia	0.287
Iceland	0.279
United Kingdom	0.25
Germany	0.222
Canada	0.212
Denmark	0.198
Sweden	0.194
Netherlands	0.143
Japan	0.039

Canada's high obesity rates, almost one quarter of the population, also troubled researchers. While a rising GDP often sheds issues like malnutrition or access to shelter, there is little indication of obesity rates dropping the wealthier a country becomes, says Mr. Green.