

## Canada



Note: This map is for illustrative purposes and is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by these maps.

The OECD, in cooperation with the EU, has developed a harmonised definition of functional urban areas (FUAs). Being composed of a city (or core) and its commuting zone, FUAs encompass the economic and functional extent of cities based on daily people's movements (OECD, 2012); (Dijkstra, Poelman, & Veneri, 2019). The definition of FUA aims at providing a functional/economic definition of cities and their area of influence, by maximising international comparability and overcoming the limitation of using purely administrative approaches. At the same time, the concept of FUA, unlike other approaches, ensures a minimum link to the government level of the city or metropolitan area.

FUAs are listed below by size, according to four classes:

- Small FUAs, with population between 50,000 and 100,000
- Medium-sized FUAs, with population between 100,000 and 250,000
- Metropolitan FUAs, with population between 250,000 and 1.5 million
- Large metropolitan FUAs, with population above 1.5 million

A city is a group of local administrative units (i.e. LAU for European countries, such as municipality, local authorities, etc.) where at least 50% of its population live in an urban centre. An urban centre is defined as a cluster of contiguous grid cells of one square kilometer with a density of at least 1,500 inhabitants per square kilometer and a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants overall.

The commuting zone is composed of the local administrative units for which at least 15% of their workforce commute to the city. Commuting zones of the functional areas are identified based on commuting data (travel from home-to-work). Commuting data are also used to define whether more than one city share the same commuting zone in a single polycentric functional urban area.

The list of functional urban areas takes into account the results of the consultation with the European National Statistical Institutes launched by Eurostat in June 2011 on the definition of cities and by the OECD with Delegates from the Working Party on Territorial Indicators. This list of functional urban areas may be reviewed on the basis of additional comments provided by countries. The OECD Metropolitan Database provides a set of economic, environmental, social and demographic modelled indicators on around 700 OECD metropolitan areas (functional urban areas with 250 000 or more inhabitants).

Additionally, interactive maps, histograms and summary profiles of each metropolitan area are available on the [OECD Regions and Cities Data Visualisation tool](#).

The population grid used to create the FUAs in Canada is the 2015 Global Human Settlement (GHS) grid. The geographic building blocks are the Census Subdivisions. Commuting data comes from the 2016 Census.

**Table 1. List of functional urban areas**

FUA name	FUA code	Population in 2015 (GHS)	Share of population living in the city (%)
Abbotsford	CAN21	191 000	77
Brantford	CAN24	141 000	69
Calgary	CAN05	1 501 000	82
Edmonton	CAN06	1 333 000	81
Guelph	CAN22	178 000	71
Halifax	CAN12	459 000	88
Hamilton	CAN09	628 000	86
Kitchener	CAN11	568 000	83
London	CAN10	569 000	68
Montreal	CAN02	4 360 000	75
Niagara Falls	CAN26	86 000	100
Ottawa	CAN04	1 499 000	84
Peterborough	CAN25	117 000	68
Quebec	CAN07	892 000	63
Red Deer	CAN23	182 000	54
Regina	CAN20	208 000	100
Saskatoon	CAN15	283 000	87
Sherbrooke	CAN16	263 000	62
St Catharines	CAN17	209 000	63

St Johns	CAN19	204 000	56
Toronto	CAN01	7 068 000	89
Trois Rivieres	CAN18	200 000	68
Vancouver	CAN03	2 501 000	89
Victoria	CAN13	357 000	62
Windsor	CAN14	351 000	59
Winnipeg	CAN08	850 000	83

Note: This document includes information as of 2022.

## References

Dijkstra, L., H. Poelman and P. Veneri (2019), "The EU-OECD definition of a functional urban area", OECD Regional Development Working Papers, No. 2019/11, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en>.

OECD (2012), Redefining "Urban": A New Way to Measure Metropolitan Areas, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264174108-en>.