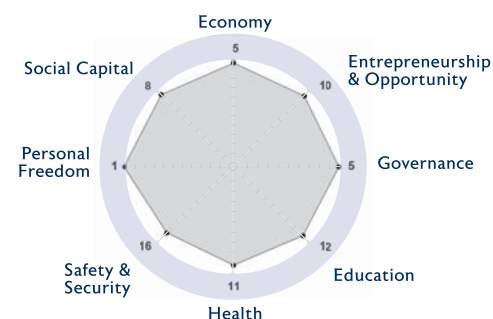




Fast Facts

Average life satisfaction	7.5/10 (2009)	Literacy rate (% of adult population)	100% (2008)
Population	34.1 mn (2010 Est.)	Life Expectancy	81 years (2008)
GDP per capita (PPP)	\$39,037 (2010 Est.)	Business Start-up Costs (% of Gross National Income)	0.4% (2008)
GDP (PPP)	\$1,330.4 bn (2010 Est.)	92.7% of people believe society is meritocratic*	(2009)
Political System	Constitutional Monarchy	76.9% of people feel personal safety*	(2009)
Freedom House rating	Free (2010)	41.9% of people find others trustworthy*	(2009)

Sub-Index Rankings



Index Comparisons (Rank/No of countries)

Legatum Prosperity Index	7/110
Average Life Satisfaction Ranking	7/110
Per Capita GDP Ranking	8/110
WEF Global Competitiveness Index	10/139
UN Human Development Index	4/182
Heritage/WSJ Economic Freedom Index	7/179
TI Corruption Perceptions Index	8/180
Vision of Humanity Global Peace Index	14/149

Economy

Canada's strong economic fundamentals and the public is satisfied with the living standards

RANKED 5TH

Canada has a stable economy with a low rate of inflation, but a moderate level of unemployment, ranking second, and 48th, respectively, on these variables. According to a 2009 survey, over two-thirds of Canadians are employed in some capacity, placing seventh, and suggesting the presence of an informal economy. Canada has an above global** average rate of gross domestic saving, placing 41st, on this variable. The Canadian economy has experienced an average GDP growth per capita of 1.4% per year between 2004 and 2008, which is low by international standards. Although, this could promote social stability in the short term, it may affect prosperity in the long term. Public satisfaction with living standards was high* in 2009, as was universality of access to food and shelter. However, public perceptions of the economy are slightly less optimistic, with Canada ranking 41st*, and 48th* in perceptions of job availability and economic expectations, respectively. Canada has a firm foundation for future growth, with a very high value of physical capital per worker, placing 14th, on this variable. Although, rates of foreign direct investment are low, and only 14% of manufactured exports are categorised as high-tech, the size of the Canadian market places Canada 11th, on this variable. With only 1% of loans currently non-performing, public confidence remains high, with 74%* of respondents stating their confidence in Canada's financial institutions.

Entrepreneurship & Opportunity

Canada's well developed infrastructure supports innovation and entrepreneurial activity

RANKED 10TH

Canada has a high rate of R&D expenditure, and receives large amounts of income from royalties, indicating a favourable environment for entrepreneurial activity. ICT exports constitute 3.8% of all goods exports, placing this nation in the top 40. Canada has a well developed infrastructure for entrepreneurial business, ranking amongst the top 10 nations in the Index with regard to internet bandwidth, and access to secure internet servers. Business start-up costs are low at just 0.4% of GNI per capita, placing Canada fourth, on this variable. Over three-quarters of respondents* believe their city to be a good place to form a new business, which is in the top half of the Index. The benefits of economic development are uniformly distributed, promoting a sense of equality and meritocracy: a high 90%* of the population believe that working hard will get them ahead.

Governance

Canada has effective and stable democratic institutions, ensuring respect for the rule of law

RANKED 5TH

Canada is a stable and successful democracy. The government is the seventh most effective in the world and without a significant regime change for more than 120 years, Canada places fifth, globally, for regime stability. There are very high levels of political constraints, ranking Canada fourth, globally, on this variable. Canada has an extremely well run electoral system, as indicated by competition, in both executive, and legislative institutions. The executive is well regulated, with all executive positions being determined by competitive elections. Although approval of the government and their efforts to preserve the environment was just above the global average* in 2009, a high number of people were satisfied with government efforts to help the poor, placing Canada 27th*, on this variable. Levels of corruption in government and business are very low, with Canada placing 12th, on this variable. There is a very high regard for the law, placing Canada in the top 10 of the Index for both the rule of law and regulation of business. Confidence in the military and judiciary was above average, placing Canada 33rd* and 39th*, respectively, on these variables. Citizens enjoy full political rights, with 20%* of respondents claiming they had felt free to voice their concerns about the government. Furthermore, there are high* levels of public confidence in the honesty of elections: seven in 10 people were confident of the electoral process.

Education

Most Canadians are happy with their educational system and its contribution to productive human capital

RANKED 12TH

Canada has high levels of school attendance, ranking sixth for primary, 17th for secondary, and 25th for tertiary enrolment. The quality of education is good, with one teacher for every 17 pupils in primary level institutions and there is gender equality in classrooms. This quality is reflected in positive public attitudes, with 75%* of respondents expressing satisfaction with the educational system, and 90%* believing that children have adequate opportunities to learn, ranking Canada 42nd and 24th, respectively, for these variables. Canada is in the top 10 for the educational level of its workforce at both secondary and tertiary levels.

Health

With high levels of government health expenditure, Canadians enjoy long life expectancy

RANKED 11TH

Canada is placed in the top 15 of the Index for health-adjusted life expectancy, indicating a very high quality of life. Low rates of infant mortality and undernourishment, also indicate a healthy population. Government health expenditure per capita is very high, at roughly \$3,700 (PPP), placing Canada fourth, on this variable. Yet, despite this level of spending, provision of hospital beds remains just above global average, placing Canada 45th, for this variable. A 94% rate of immunisation for both measles and infectious diseases falls below average, ranking Canada 53rd and 54th, respectively, on these variables. Whilst the incidence of tuberculosis is very low, placing Canada third, on this variable, the death rate from respiratory disease falls just below global average, placing Canada 42nd, globally, on this variable. Access to improved sanitation facilities is universal, while 89%* of respondents are satisfied with the water quality in their local area. A high 86% of the population is satisfied with their state of health, while one in five people report debilitating health problems. Canada ranks in the top third of the Index on the latter two variables. An above global average 37%* of the population worry regularly, while 70%* feel well-rested. Many people said they were content with their environmental surroundings, placing Canada 11th*, on this variable.

Safety & Security

Demographic and political stability ensures low levels of crime in Canada

RANKED 16TH

Canada is a very safe and secure country. There are low numbers of refugees, and internally displaced persons in Canada, as well as, low rates of group grievances, indicating a stable, and integrated society. There were no reports of civil and ethnic violence in 2008, and levels of state violence are extremely low, placing Canada 18th, on this variable. Very few people experience fear of expressing political opinions, placing Canada 18th for this variable, and indicating a high level of political freedom. This could account for low levels of emigration among Canada's professional classes. Demographic instability is also low, placing the country 17th on this variable. Although the rate of property theft in Canada is average*, only 3.5%* of respondents had been assaulted in the previous 12 months. Consequently, over three-quarters* of the population feel safe walking alone at night.

Personal Freedom

High levels of individual freedoms in Canada help to create an extremely tolerant and welcoming society

RANKED 1ST

Canadian citizens are afforded extensive freedom of expression, association, and organisation, placing sixth on this variable. Public satisfaction with the level of individual freedoms is very high, with over 90%* of respondents stating their contentment with the degree of freedom of expression and belief in 2009. Residents believe that Canada is a very tolerant and welcoming country, with an extremely high 92%* claiming that it is a good place to live for both immigrants and minorities, placing the country first and second, on these two variables. Canada ranks in the top 10 for all personal freedom variables.

Social Capital

Canada has a high degree of social cohesion and familial networks are more extensive than religious networks

RANKED 8TH

Canada has a very high level of societal cohesion and engagement. This is shown by the fact that 42%* of respondents felt able to trust others, and 35%* had volunteered in the previous month, ranking Canada in the top 15 for both these variables in 2009. Over half of respondents had helped a stranger in the past month, placing Canada third* for this variable. There is also a high* level of charitable donations. An astonishing 94%* of Canadians feel able to rely on others, placing Canada 12th* on this variable. However, social networks are more likely to be familial and accessed through marriage rather than religious organisations*, as shown by the fact that only 26%* of the population had attended a place of religious worship in the past seven days.

Regional Ranking: The Americas

Rank	Country
7	Canada
10	United States
28	Uruguay
32	Chile
33	Costa Rica
40	Panama
41	Argentina
44	Trinidad and Tobago
45	Brazil
53	Mexico
55	Jamaica
56	Belize
65	Colombia
67	Paraguay
68	Dominican Republic
73	Peru
75	Venezuela
77	Ecuador
78	El Salvador
81	Guatemala
82	Bolivia
85	Honduras
87	Nicaragua