

CANADA

EMPLOYMENT VARIABILITY

Produced by the National Atlas Information Service, Geographical Services Division, Canada Centre for Mapping, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada. Printed 1990.

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Scale 1:7 500 000 or 1 centimetre represents 75 kilometres
 75 0 75 150 225 300 375 450 Kilometres
 Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Standard Parallels at 49°N and 77°N, Modified Polyconic Projection, North of Latitude 80°.

Notes

1. Employment variability for a local economy is a measure of the irregularity or uncertainty of its employment growth. More precisely, it is the average of the absolute month-to-month variation around the growth trend. The growth trend itself is addressed on a companion map sheet, Canada—Employment Growth. This map shows the employment variability for 75 major population centres and for the remaining parts of each province or territory. The map indicates that the major factor determining employment variability is the size of place: larger places generally have more diversified economies and, thus, are less affected by employment variability in any single type of industry. (This is also true for Canada as a whole—its index value, 1.514, is lower than that of the areas shown on this map.) Consequently, smaller centres whose specialized economies are based on mining, forestry or manufacturing have much higher variability in employment than larger centres.

2. The index of variability used is based on total monthly employment figures for the period from March 1982 to March 1986, inclusive, for 75 separate urban centres and 27 residual areas in Canada. These data were deseasonalized statistically and analysed to establish a growth trend line for each place or area. The variations from this growth line were first summed and then divided by the value representing the sum of variations for Canada as a whole. The resulting ratio is the index of employment variability used on this map. The lowest value shown for the index is 1.16, the highest is 15.93.

3. The employment data are gathered by Statistics Canada on a monthly basis using questionnaires and sampling methods. The survey includes all industries with the exception of agriculture, fishing, trapping, religious organizations, private household services, and military services. Individuals included are full-time, part-time, and temporary employees receiving pay during all or part of each monthly period. The selection of March 1985 as the starting point for this presentation is based on a major revision of the data set coming into effect at that time; earlier data are not directly comparable with data issued from March 1983 onward.

4. The classes of employment variability were chosen so that each would contain approximately 10% of the total employment in Canada as measured by this survey in June, 1986 (approximately the mid-point of the period covered). The places and residual areas were ranked by their index values beginning with the lowest, and the employment total was then cumulated into sextiles. However, as the two lowest values belong to the two largest places, the first sextile contains nearly one-third of the employment total, while the second sextile contains only one-twelfth of the total. The other sextiles all contain about one-sixth of the total.

5. The selection of places and areas used on the map is restricted to those for which data is released by Statistics Canada. With a few exceptions, the places correspond to Census Agglomerations and Census Metropolitan Areas from the 1981 Census, with a population of more than approximately 15 000. In two cases, Census Agglomerations have been combined: Belleville consists of the Belleville and Trenton Census Agglomerations, while Sydney consists of the Census Agglomerations of Sydney and Sydney Mines. Kinross was not a separate Census Agglomeration in 1981. The symbol for each place is plotted at its centre of population.

6. The residual areas are normally the remainder of a province (or all of a Territory). In Ontario and Quebec, data were also available by economic regions. These data were modified to show values for the residual part of each of these regions after deducting the Census Agglomerations and Census Metropolitan Areas found within them. The symbols for residual areas were placed, wherever possible, at the centre of the residual population. Two of these symbols that could not be assigned to an economic region in Ontario and Quebec were positioned across region boundaries. As residual area symbols are not point-specific, their placement should not be interpreted in the same way as those denoting urban places.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1983-1986, Employment, Earnings and Hours, Monthly Issues, March 1985 to March 1986, Release Cat. 72-022, Ottawa.
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 Adapted for the National Atlas of Canada, Geographical Services Division, Canada Centre for Mapping, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.
 Cartography by the Geographical Services Division, Canada Centre for Mapping, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

