

CANADA

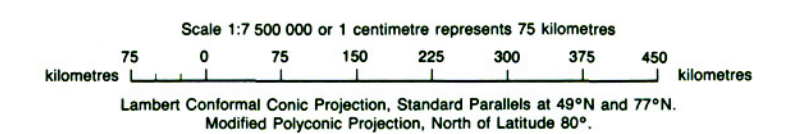
INCOME PER CAPITA

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Notes

1. Income per capita is a measure of the ability of individuals to buy goods and services and is therefore an important indicator of their well-being. This map shows the average income per capita in communities across Canada. The overall level of per capita income for a community indirectly affects every resident who receives a corresponding complex mixture of advantages and disadvantages that are likely perceived differently from one person to the next. For example, high income communities may have higher costs of living because of the high cost of housing and various personal services, but they also support higher levels of public services such as health and education. The map has been designed to show a number of important characteristics of the geography of per capita income in Canada. First, urban areas display significantly higher incomes than surrounding rural areas in every part of the country. Second, this variation increases with city size, reflecting the higher levels of economic productivity and labour force participation in large cities. Third, an urban field effect extends the urban influence on income to nearby small centres and rural areas. Fourth, these urban-rural and city size differences are embedded within significant regional variations across Canada that affect each level of the urban size hierarchy. These patterns are partly mitigated by cost-of-living differences that are difficult to measure.

2. Income data for this map was derived from the 1986 Census of Canada. The Census survey included individuals of 15 years and over who reported total money income in 1985 from the following sources: wages and salaries, self-employment (farm and non-farm), old-age pensions (public and private), family and other allowances, unemployment insurance benefits, investments and other income.

3. Income data aggregation is to the level of 1986 Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), Census Agglomerations (CAs), and residual Census Divisions (CDs) or portions of Census Divisions. One hundred and thirty-two urban centres (CMAs and CAs) and approximately 220 residual areas (remaining CDs or parts of CDs) are shown. Urban symbols are positioned at population centres. Residual area symbols are not point specific as they represent population scattered over an extensive area. Their placement should therefore not be interpreted in the same way as those denoting urban places. Residual areas of less than 9 500 inhabitants were not plotted individually; instead, they were combined with nearby residuals until this population threshold was reached. The symbol in such cases is plotted across relevant CD boundaries. Two exceptions to this rule are symbols representing a number of wide-ranging residual areas: one on northern Vancouver Island (representing three residual areas) and another near Prince Rupert (representing four residual areas).

4. Income classes were selected so that each category would include approximately one-sixth of the total population of Canada. After ranking urban centres and residual areas by average value of income per capita, their populations were cumulated into six classes. The highest and lowest average per capita income values for urban centres on this map are \$15 104 and \$6 023, and for residual areas are \$13 587 and \$4 137 respectively.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 1988, 1986 Census of Canada, Products and Services, Final Edition, Cat. 99-103E, Ottawa.
1986 Number, Aggregate and Average Income of Census Families in Private Households, 1986, Census of Canada, Machine-Readable Basic Summary Table IN86B2, Ottawa.
1986 Population by Five-Year Age Group and Sex, 1986 Census of Canada, Machine-Readable Basic Summary Table CM86A2, Ottawa.

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