

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 the 668 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	Size class	Population in 2015 (GHS)	Share of population living in the city (%)
Abbotsford	CAN21	Medium-sized area	190 000	77
Brantford	CAN24	Medium-sized area	141 000	70
Calgary	CAN05	Large metropolitan area	1 502 000	82
Edmonton	CAN06	Metropolitan area	1 333 000	81
Guelph	CAN22	Medium-sized area	181 000	70
Halifax	CAN12	Metropolitan area	461 000	88
Hamilton	CAN09	Metropolitan area	628 000	87
Kitchener	CAN11	Metropolitan area	566 000	83
London	CAN10	Metropolitan area	568 000	68
Montreal	CAN02	Large metropolitan area	4 326 000	75
Niagara Falls	CAN26	Small area	85 000	100
Ottawa	CAN04	Large metropolitan area	1 500 000	84
Peterborough	CAN25	Medium-sized area	119 000	68
Quebec	CAN07	Metropolitan area	894 000	64
Red Deer	CAN23	Medium-sized area	182 000	54
Regina	CAN20	Medium-sized area	207 000	100
Saskatoon	CAN15	Metropolitan area	283 000	87
Sherbrooke	CAN16	Metropolitan area	262 000	63
St Catharines	CAN17	Medium-sized area	208 000	64

St Johns	CAN19	Medium-sized area	203 000	56
Toronto	CAN01	Large metropolitan area	7 070 000	89
Trois Rivieres	CAN18	Medium-sized area	200 000	68
Vancouver	CAN03	Large metropolitan area	2 509 000	88
Victoria	CAN13	Metropolitan area	357 000	63
Windsor	CAN14	Metropolitan area	345 000	58
Winnipeg	CAN08	Metropolitan area	849 000	83

Note: This document includes information as of 2019.

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>.