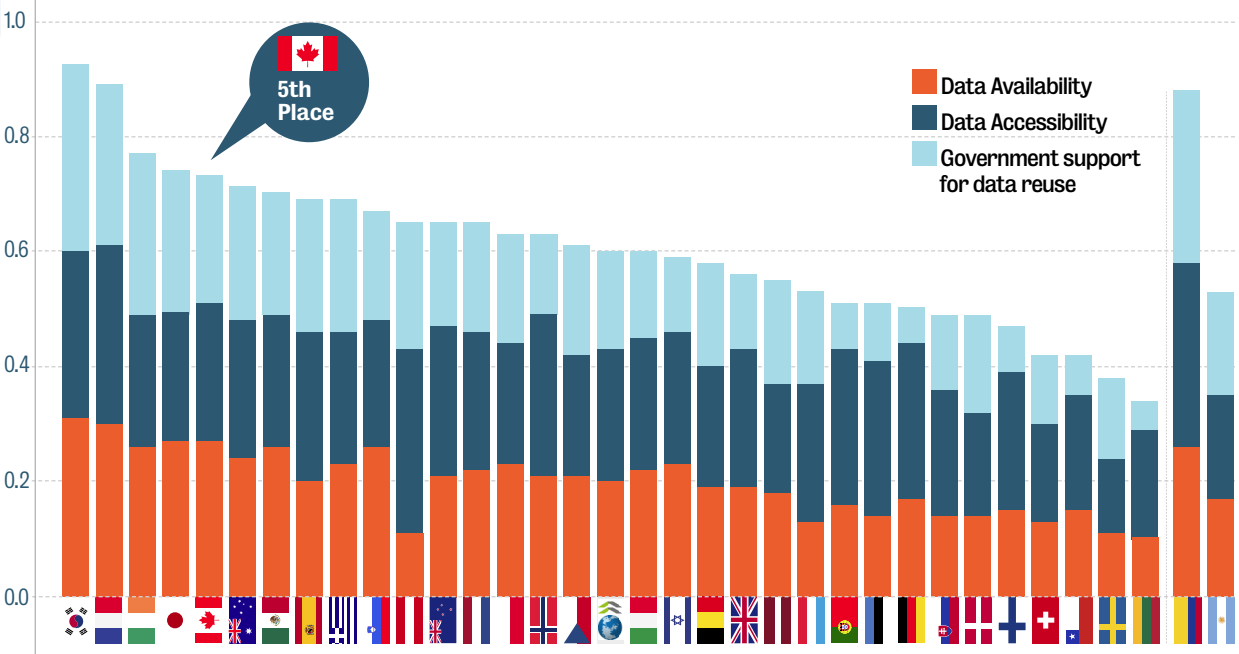
OECD OURdata Index: 2019

Canada



Governance for Open Government Data

Institutional Governance	Policy Framework	Legal and Regulatory instruments
The Open Government Division within the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) carries out Canada's open government and open data policy. The National Data Strategy Roadmap (2018) aims to make the Canadian government a leader in ethical and strategic use of data, and identifies the need for all federal departments and agencies to ensure proper roles and responsibilities with respect to data.	The Policy on Service and Digital (2020) and the Directive on Open Government (2014) made open by default and maximising release as principle mandatory for government data. The Managament Accountabiity Framework is used by TBS to assess the performance of public sector organisations with respect to implementing the Directive on Open Government.	The purpose of the Canadian Access to Information Act is to enhance the accountability and transparency of federal institutions and to enable public debate on the conduct of those institutions. Part 1 of the Act extends the present laws of Canada to provide a right of access to information in records under the control of a government institution. Part 2 sets out requirements for proactive publication.

Enabling coherent policy implementation

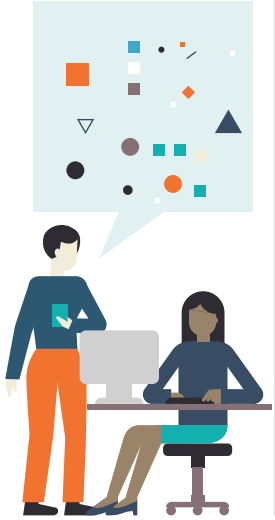
- TBS hosts several open government working groups, including at senior management level. The majority of departments and agencies attend these meetings and have designated a departmental open government coordinator.

Open Government Data Portal

- Open.Canada.ca provides easy access to Canadian federal open government data.
- The portal has different functionalities available including a data visualisation primer and access to the Government of Canada API store.

Using data as a platform: ecosystem engagement and collaboration

- All the consultation data from 2017-2018 open government consultations are available as open data.
- NASA and the Canadian Space Agency co-hosted the NASA Space App Challenge 2019 with the focus on promoting re-use of data addressing problems faced on earth and in space.



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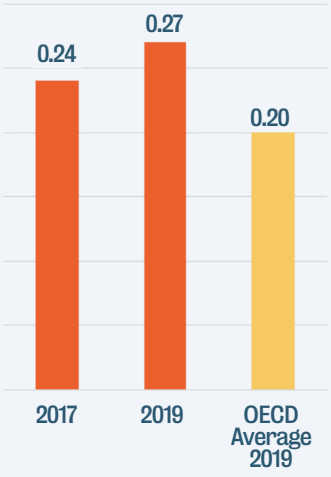
Good practice

Building the capacities of indigenous communities to re-use open government data and research for their own community needs

In the 2018-2020 National Action Plan on Open Government, the Government of Canada made a commitment to work more closely with indigenous communities to find and explore new approaches to reconciliation. Statistics Canada planned to co-develop training workshops with indigenous communities on how to use open government data to support improved social and economic outcomes.

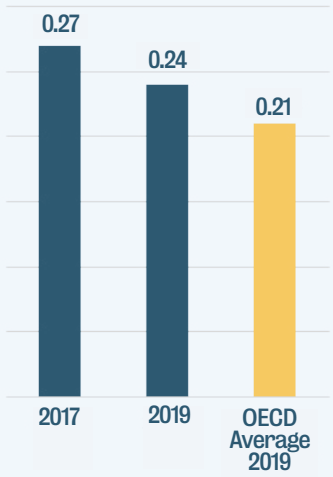
Performance per Index Pillar

Data Availability



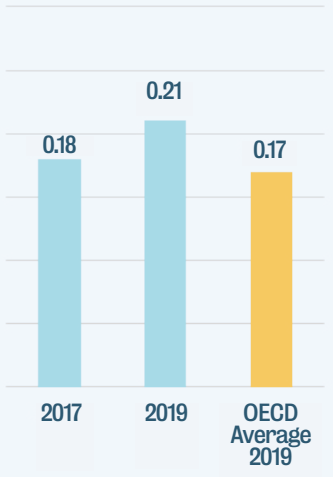
Canada has one of the highest levels of data availability among OECD countries. The government has engaged more actively with stakeholders to inform open data plans since 2017, and provides the most high-value datasets on a single central data repository.

Data Accessibility



Canada remains above the OECD average in data accessibility. However, the level of stakeholder engagement for data quality and completeness has dropped from 0.27 to 0.13, signalling a need to increase efforts to make the OGD portal more user-driven and a platform for collaboration.

Government support for data reuse



The support for increased data re-use and data literacy skills within government has increased since 2017. However, Canada is one of the lower performing OECD countries in terms of monitoring the impact of open data on social and economic factors.

- 2019 OURdata Index data was collected through the 2018 OECD OGD Survey. Some written information was collected in 2019/2020. Data unavailable for Hungary, Turkey, Iceland and United States.
- The index ranges from 0 to 1 and is composed of three indicators with an equal weight of 0.33. Each indicator ranges from 0 to 0.33.

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