

INTRODUCTION

This first edition of *Major Canadian Cities: Compared and Ranked* provides an in-depth comparison and analysis of the 50 most populated cities in Canada. Each 14-page city chapter incorporates information from dozens of resources to create the following major sections:

- **Background:** Lively narrative of significant facts covering the geography, history, industries and culture of a city, emphasizing Canada's diversity.
- **Study Rankings:** A number of study results from sources such as Statistics Canada, Economic Development Offices, *fDi Magazine* and Canada Survey of Giving, in a number of categories—smartest, most generous, safest, most visionary—marking the city's place in the spectrum of cities across Canada.
- **Statistical Tables:** Tables on 28 topics, including age, marital status, housing, ethnicity, labour force, language, income, transportation, and more, with city, provincial and national data. Statistics are taken from the *National Household Survey of 2011* and the *2011 Census*.

City chapters are followed by **Ranking Tables** that rank each city and answer such questions as:

- Which cities in Canada have the youngest population?

- Where is the economic growth the strongest in Canada?
- Which cities have the most university graduates?
- Which cities have the best labour statistics?

A detailed Table of Contents is your guide to not only the city chapters, which are listed in alphabetical order, but also to the specific statistic or ranking table you are interested in.

Major Canadian Cities is designed for a wide variety of readers: private individuals considering relocation; professionals considering expansion of their business or changing careers; corporations considering relocation, opening up additional offices, or creating new divisions; government agencies; general and market researchers; real estate consultants; human resource personnel; urban planners; and investors.

If you wish to conduct unique searches and comparisons and make your own analytical tables, sorting by specific characteristics, we recommend you check out **Canada's Information Resource Centre (CIRC)**, where subscribers have full access to this rich database. Trial subscriptions are available by calling 866-433-4739. You can also reach us online at www.greyhouse.ca.

Laval, Québec

Background

Laval is located in southwestern Québec and occupies the Island of Jesus (Ile Jésus). The city is approximately 20 kilometres north of Montréal, across the Des Prairies River. Situated halfway between Montréal and the Laurentian Mountains, the municipality has the particular distinction of being its own region, city and island. Laval is one of the 17 administrative regions of Québec.

The Laval area was originally inhabited by the Kanien'kehake (Mohawk Nation). French Jesuits were granted a seigneurie of the island and founded a mission in 1636. The island was named "Jesus Island" because the rural settlement was owned by the Jesuits. In 1675, the seigneurie was passed to the first bishop of Québec, François de Montmorency-Laval, and the island was renamed in the bishop's honour. In 1975, the government of Québec amalgamated the island's 12 villages and towns into a single city. Today, approximately 20% of Laval residents were born outside of Canada, particularly from the French Caribbean, North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Laval remains mostly rural, with about 30% of the island being currently used as farmland, but it is still one of Québec's largest cities. Manufacturing is a key sector while biotechnology and information sciences are emerging economies. The city is intersected by major roads and railway lines and acts as a transfer point between Montréal and the province's northern regions.

Laval's Centre d'information sur l'eau (C.I.EAU) is the only interactive centre in Québec dedicated to the evolution of drinking water around the world. Summertime cruises around the Rivière-des-Mille-Îles are popular and often include giant turtle sightings. Laval's Cosmodôme is a recreational-educational complex about space sciences; in 2012, the newly revamped Cosmodôme opened a \$10.5-million virtual-reality space exhibit.

Laval has summer highs of plus 24.87 degrees Celsius, winter lows of minus 12.67 degrees Celsius, and an average rainfall just over 763 mm per year.

Rankings

- Laval was ranked as one of Canada's safest cities in terms of cybercrime. The city ranked #4 out of 50 cities. Cybercrime indicators included web attacks, malware infections and spam originating from city. The major cities of Québec dominated the "Top 10 Least Risky" rankings with seven out of the 10 top spots. *Symantec, "Do you live in one of Canada's 'riskiest' online cities?" posted February 22nd, 2012*
- Forum Research identified Laval as having one of the highest percentages of residents who were satisfied with the delivery of their municipal services. The study polled Canada's 30 most populated towns and cities and Laval ranked #6. When polled about municipal services, 34% of residents expressed "very satisfied" responses. *Forum Research, Nationwide Municipal Issues Poll, released May 2012*
- The 2011 Census identified Laval's population growth as significantly higher than the national average. Laval (Ville) had a percentage change of 8.9% between 2006 and 2011. In the same time period, Canada's average population grew by 5.9%. *Statistics Canada, Focus on Geography Series, 2011 Census. October 24, 2012*

Population Growth and Density

Area	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Population in 2011	Population Change 2001–2006	Population Change 2006–2011	Land Area (sq. km)	Population Density per sq. km
Laval	343,005	368,709	401,553	7.5	8.9	247.09	1,625.1
Québec	7,237,479	7,546,131	7,903,001	4.3	4.7	1,356,547.02	5.8
Canada	30,007,094	31,612,897	33,476,688	5.4	5.9	8,965,121.42	3.7

Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>;
 Statistics Canada 2007. 2006 Community Profiles. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Released March 13 2007. <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Gender

Area	Males	Females
	Number	
Laval	194,885	206,665
Québec	3,875,860	4,027,140
Canada	16,414,225	17,062,460
Percent of Population		
Laval	48.5	51.5
Québec	49.0	51.0
Canada	49.0	51.0

Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Marital Status

Area	Married ¹	Living Common-law	Single ²				Widowed
			Separated	Divorced	Number		
Total							
Laval	142,455	49,725	93,875	5,230	21,740	19,220	
Québec	2,353,770	1,391,550	1,942,090	105,195	463,830	387,945	
Canada	12,941,960	3,142,525	7,816,045	698,240	1,686,035	1,584,530	
Males							
Laval	71,330	24,885	49,695	2,145	7,885	3,645	
Québec	1,177,720	697,695	1,045,540	46,465	188,265	77,430	
Canada	6,470,300	1,575,495	4,206,320	299,655	680,415	310,940	
Females							
Laval	71,125	24,840	44,180	3,090	13,850	15,580	
Québec	1,176,050	693,850	896,545	58,720	275,565	310,515	
Canada	6,471,660	1,567,035	3,609,730	398,585	1,005,620	1,273,590	
Percent of Population							
Total							
Laval	42.9	15.0	28.3	1.6	6.5	5.8	
Québec	35.4	20.9	29.2	1.6	7.0	5.8	
Canada	46.4	11.3	28.0	2.5	6.0	5.7	
Males							
Laval	44.7	15.6	31.1	1.3	4.9	2.3	
Québec	36.4	21.6	32.3	1.4	5.8	2.4	
Canada	47.8	11.6	31.1	2.2	5.0	2.3	
Females							
Laval	41.2	14.4	25.6	1.8	8.0	9.0	
Québec	34.5	20.3	26.3	1.7	8.1	9.1	
Canada	45.2	10.9	25.2	2.8	7.0	8.9	

Note: (1) and not separated, (2) never legally married
 Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24 2012. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Cities Ranked by Household Size: 1 Person

Households			Percent of Households		
Rank	City	Number	Rank	City	Percent
1	Toronto, ON	331,180	1	Montréal, QC	40.7%
2	Montréal, QC	309,220	2	Québec, QC	38.6%
3	Calgary, AB	110,005	3	Vancouver, BC	38.3%
4	Vancouver, BC	101,205	4	Trois-Rivières, QC	37.7%
5	Ottawa, ON	99,905	5	Sherbrooke, QC	37.3%
6	Edmonton, AB	94,910	6	Longueuil, QC	33.7%
7	Québec, QC	94,685	7	Thunder Bay, ON	32.8%
8	Winnipeg, MB	83,515	8	Windsor, ON	32.5%
9	Hamilton, ON	56,930	9	Saguenay, QC	31.8%
10	London, ON	47,515	10	Toronto, ON	31.6%
11	Halifax, NS	47,140	11	Kingston, ON	31.5%
12	Mississauga, ON	41,625	12	Winnipeg, MB	31.1%
13	Laval, QC	39,930	13	Gatineau, QC	30.9%
14	Gatineau, QC	34,830	13	London, ON	30.9%
15	Longueuil, QC	34,380	15	St. Catharines, ON	30.5%
16	Surrey, BC	30,145	16	Regina, SK	29.9%
17	Windsor, ON	28,510	17	Saskatoon, SK	29.5%
18	Saskatoon, SK	26,835	18	Kelowna, BC	29.4%
19	Sherbrooke, QC	26,355	19	Edmonton, AB	29.2%
20	Regina, SK	23,795	20	St. John's, NL	29.1%
21	Burnaby, BC	23,650	21	Halifax, NS	28.6%
22	Trois-Rivières, QC	23,125	22	Greater Sudbury, ON	28.4%
23	Kitchener, ON	22,970	23	Ottawa, ON	28.3%
24	Saguenay, QC	20,425	24	Chatham-Kent, ON	28.0%
25	Greater Sudbury, ON	19,165	25	Hamilton, ON	27.9%
26	Brampton, ON	18,050	26	Lévis, QC	27.5%
27	Burlington, ON	16,940	27	Saanich, BC	27.4%
28	St. Catharines, ON	16,880	28	Burnaby, BC	27.2%
29	Kingston, ON	16,490	29	Kitchener, ON	26.6%
30	Lévis, QC	15,890	30	Guelph, ON	26.5%
31	Thunder Bay, ON	15,415	31	Calgary, AB	26.0%
32	Oshawa, ON	14,845	32	Laval, QC	25.9%
33	Kelowna, BC	14,625	33	Oshawa, ON	25.2%
34	Richmond, BC	14,175	34	Burlington, ON	24.6%
35	St. John's, NL	13,080	35	Abbotsford, BC	23.6%
36	Guelph, ON	12,750	36	Barrie, ON	21.9%
37	Saanich, BC	12,435	37	Cambridge, ON	21.6%
38	Chatham-Kent, ON	12,010	38	Coquitlam, BC	21.4%
39	Barrie, ON	10,960	39	Richmond, BC	20.9%
40	Abbotsford, BC	10,950	40	Langley, BC	19.8%
41	Oakville, ON	10,885	41	Surrey, BC	19.7%
42	Markham, ON	10,225	42	Terrebonne, QC	19.2%
43	Cambridge, ON	10,040	43	Mississauga, ON	17.7%
44	Coquitlam, BC	9,750	44	Oakville, ON	17.4%
45	Vaughan, ON	9,160	45	Whitby, ON	16.5%
46	Richmond Hill, ON	8,115	46	Ajax, ON	14.4%
47	Terrebonne, QC	7,560	47	Richmond Hill, ON	13.8%
48	Langley, BC	7,360	48	Brampton, ON	12.1%
49	Whitby, ON	6,775	49	Markham, ON	11.3%
50	Ajax, ON	5,055	50	Vaughan, ON	10.6%
—	Canada	3,673,310	—	Canada	27.6%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24 2012.
<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/profil/index.cfm?Lang=E>