
Canadian Metropolitan Areas Documentation

Canadian Postal Codes Metros

Introduction:

Our Canadian Metropolitan Areas includes current postal code info, along with the metropolitan area that the postal code belongs to, according to Statistics Canada (the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. Census Bureau).

A metropolitan area is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centered on a population center (also known as the core).

There are two types of metropolitan area:

- CMAs: these are the Census Metropolitan Areas. They have at least 100,000 people and 50,000 or more people must live in the core.
- CAs: these are Census Agglomeration areas. These must be at least 10,000 people.

Postal to Metro Area File (postal-to-metro-full.csv):

This is the mail file with the following columns:

- PostalCode: this is a 7-character alphanumeric field in ANA NAN format, where A = Alpha and N = Numeric.
- ProvinceAbbr: this is the 2-character province abbreviation.
- City: this is a 30-character city name.
- OurID: this is our sequential Metropolitan Area ID. If you need Statistics Canada's ID, it's cross-referenced in the can-metros.csv file.

Metro Master File (can-metros.csv):

This is the master list of the Metropolitan Areas.

Statistics Canada currently defines 152 metropolitan areas. We include 4 additional areas because there are 4 metropolitan areas that cover 2 provinces. **Note:** the population and private / occupied dwelling counts are for the metropolitan area covering both provinces, so there will be 4 areas with zeros for those figures.

Field layout:

- OurID: this is a sequential ID that we created based on sorting the metro areas by the province abbreviation and the metro name.
- OriginalID: this is Statistics Canada's Metro ID.
- ProvinceAbbr: this is the 2-character province abbreviation.
- MetroName: this is the metropolitan area. For metro areas that cross two different provinces, it will show the province name with 'part' in parenthesis, such as '(Alberta Part)'.
- MetroType: This is a 1-character code describing the type of metropolitan area:

B	Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)
D	Census Agglomeration Area (CA)
G	Strong Metropolitan Influence Zone (for non-CMA/CA)
H	Moderate Metropolitan Influence Zone (for non-CMA/CA)
I	Weak Metropolitan Influence Zone (for non-CMA/CA)
J	No Metropolitan Influence Zone (for non-CMA/CA)
K	Census Agglomeration (CA) that has tracts (over 50,000 pop.)

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- Population, as of the latest 5-year Census.
- Latest Population Estimate. Statistics Canada releases annual estimates for CMAs / CAs. Note: some areas may not have estimates.
- Total private dwellings.
- Total private dwellings occupied by usual dwellings.
- Land area in square kilometers.
- Land area in square miles.

States / Provinces File (states.csv):

This has the states and provinces for the U.S. and Canada with the following fields:

- A 2-character state or province abbreviation.
- A 50-character name.
- A 3-character country abbreviation (USA or CAN).