
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).

Statistics Canada currently defines 151 metropolitan areas. Below is a sample from our file.

Metro Master File (can-metros.csv):

MetroID	Prov	Name	Type	Population	Size	Dwellings	Occupied	Area
001	AB	Brooks	CA	23430	S	9246	8425	2290
002	AB	Calgary	CMA	1214839	L	488451	464001	1972
003	AB	Camrose	CA	17286	S	7945	7460	16.4
004	AB	Canmore	CA	12288	S	7973	5176	26.6
005	AB	Cold Lake	CA	13839	S	5626	5150	22.9
006	AB	Edmonton	CMA	1159869	L	482249	450786	3639.7

Note: CMA is for ‘**Census Metropolitan Area**’ which is a large metropolitan area, or adjacent to that area and within commuting distance. It must have a population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 live in the urban core of the CMA. This can be considered ‘**Urban.**’

CAs are ‘**Census Agglomerations**’ which are areas with a core population of at least 10,000. This can be considered ‘**Suburban.**’

The MetroID column is our own unique number assigned to each metropolitan area. It is then appended to the end of our Canadian Postal Code products which have Metropolitan Areas.

Note: currently about 92% of our postal codes fall within the CMA or CA metropolitan areas. If an area does not have a MetroID, then it is considered ‘**Rural.**’

Accuracy Matters!

Additionally, Statistics Canada considers a CA Small if it has less than 30,000, Medium is 30,000 to 99,999. All CMAs are considered Large (100,000 or more).

The dwellings are the total number of dwellings which includes anything that is an enclosed shelter from the elements with a roof, walls, doors and windows and with a source of heat or power available.

The Area is measured in Square Miles. To convert to Square Kilometers, multiply it by 2.58999.

Postal to Metro File:

We include a file, postal-to-metro-full.csv which has the following fields:

- Postal Code
- Province
- City
- Metro ID

PostalCode	ProvinceAbbr	City	MetroID
T1R 1G9	AB	Brooks	1
T1R 1H1	AB	Brooks	1

We also include a states.csv file that has all U.S. and Canadian states/provinces.