

In size, Canada is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere and the second largest country in the world. Its area of 3,851,809 sq. miles may be compared with that of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 8,649,821 sq. miles,* the United States of America (including Alaska and Hawaii), 3,615,213 sq. miles,* and Brazil, 3,287,204 sq. miles.* It is more than forty times the size of the United Kingdom and eighteen times that of France. The immense size of the country, while encompassing many resources and seeming to afford much scope for settlement, imposes its own burdens and limitations, particularly because much of the land is mountainous and rocky or is under an Arctic climate. The developed portion is probably not more than one-third of the total; the occupied farm land is less than 8 p.c. and the currently accessible productive forested land 19 p.c. of the total. The population of Canada, estimated at 17,442,000 on June 1, 1959, may be compared with 174,809,000† for the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii) (1958) and with 62,725,000† for Brazil (1958).

1.—Approximate Land and Freshwater Areas, by Province or Territory

NOTE.—A classification of land areas as agricultural, forested, etc., is given at p. 20.

Province or Territory	Land	Freshwater	Total	Percentage of Total Area
	sq. miles	sq. miles	sq. miles	
Newfoundland.....	143,045	13,140	156,185	4.1
Island of Newfoundland.....	41,164	2,195	43,359	1.1
Labrador.....	101,881	10,945	112,826	3.0
Prince Edward Island.....	2,184	—	2,184	0.1
Nova Scotia.....	20,402	1,023	21,425	0.6
New Brunswick.....	27,835	519	28,354	0.7
Quebec.....	523,860	71,000	594,860	15.4
Ontario.....	344,092	68,490	412,582	10.7
Manitoba.....	211,775	39,225	251,000	6.5
Saskatchewan.....	220,182	31,518	251,700	6.5
Alberta.....	248,800	6,485	255,285	6.6
British Columbia.....	359,279	6,976	366,255	9.5
Yukon Territory.....	205,346	1,730	207,076	5.4
Northwest Territories.....	1,253,438	51,465	1,304,903	33.9
Franklin.....	541,753	7,500	549,253	14.3
Keewatin.....	218,460	9,700	228,160	5.9
Mackenzie.....	493,225	34,265	527,490	13.7
Canada.....	3,560,238	291,571	3,851,809	100.0

Section 1.—Physical Geography

Subsection 1.—Physiographic Regions

Canada includes each of the major characteristic structures of the North American Continent with the exception of the Atlantic coastal plain. Structure tends to dominate relief to a remarkable degree even though its effects have been modified by glacial and river erosion or deposition. Consequently, structural regions have become the main physiographic divisions.

* *United Nations Statistical Yearbook, 1958.*

† *United Nations Population and Vital Statistics Report, Oct. 1, 1959.*