Introduction

Canada is a country in North America that extends from the Atlantic Ocean in the east, to the Pacific Ocean in the west, and the Arctic Ocean to the north. Canada borders the United States. The geography of Canada is mostly plains with mountains in the west. The government system is a parliamentary democracy, a federation, and a constitutional monarchy. The head of state is the queen of the United Kingdom, and the head of government is the prime minister of Canada. Canada has a market economic system in which the prices of goods and services are determined in a free price system. Canada is a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Location: Northern America
Capital City: Ottawa (-5 GMT)
Chief of State: Queen Elizabeth II represented by Governor General Julie Payette
Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Currency: Canadian dollar (CAD)

Major Languages: English (official) 58.7%, French (official) 22%, Punjabi 1.4%, Italian 1.3%, Spanish 1.3%, German 1.3%, Cantonese 1.2%, Tagalog 1.2%, Arabic 1.1%, other 10.5% (2011 est.)

Primary Religions: Catholic 39% (includes Roman Catholic 38.8%, other Catholic 2%), Protestant 20.3% (includes United Church 6.1%, Anglican 5%, Baptist 1.9%, Lutheran 1.5%, Pentecostal 1.5%, Presbyterian 1.4%, other Protestant 2.9%), Orthodox 1.6%, other Christian 6.3%, Muslim 3.2%, Hindu 1.5%, Sikh 1.4%, Buddhist 1.1%, Jewish 1%, other 0.6%, none 23.9% (2011 est.)

Calling Code: 1
Voltage: 120

Key Websites
Main Government Page: canada.ca
Commerce Ministry: ic.gc.ca
Export Promotion Agency: edc.ca

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)
Country rating: A2 - The political and economic situation is good. A basically stable and efficient business environment nonetheless leaves room for improvement. Corporate default probability is low on average.

Business Climate rating: A1 - The business environment is very good. Corporate financial information is available and reliable. Debt collection is efficient. Institutional quality is very good. Intercompany transactions run smoothly in environments rated A1.

Strengths
- Abundant and diversified energy and mineral resources
- Fifth largest oil and gas producer in the world
- Strong, well-capitalised, and well supervised banking sector
- Serious budgeting
- Close proximity to large US market
- Developing trade relations with multiple partners (CETA with the EU)

Weaknesses
- Dependent on US economy (1/2 of FDI stock, integration of the two countries’ automotive industries) and energy prices
- Loss of competitiveness of manufacturing companies due to low labor productivity
- Insufficient R&D expenditure
- Decrease in the labor force, just slowed down by largescale selective immigration
- High household debt (170% of disposable income); house prices very high, although stabilizing
- Energy exports weakened by inadequate supply pipelines to the coasts and the US, and by the US’s own resources

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