

Quality of Living

City Survey

MONTREAL

CANADA

September 2014 Survey

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1 Political and social environment

	Criteria	Scores
1.1	Relationship with other countries	10
1.2	Internal stability	9
1.3	Crime	8
1.4	Law enforcement	9
1.5	Ease of entry and exit	9

Comment:

Canada's relationships with neighbouring countries are good. Demonstrations and strikes are unusual. Violent crimes happen occasionally but are not a worry to citizens on a daily basis. Foreign nationals wishing to enter Canada for any purpose must hold a valid national passport and in some cases also a visa. Security at border crossings (airports, land borders, and ports) into Canada has been strengthened. Frequent passport controls occur. Work permits are relatively easy to obtain.

2 Economic environment

	Criteria	Scores
2.1	Currency Exchange regulations	9
2.2	Banking services	10

Comment:

There are no restrictions on the import and export of currency, however, large amounts should be declared (amount greater than CAD 10'000). Currency can be exchanged at large banks, bureaux de change and at the airport.

Many international banks are represented in Montreal. The larger banks have excellent international services. Internet and telephone banking are widely available and well-developed in Canada. Credit cards are widely accepted in Montreal and ATMs are located throughout the city.

3 Socio-cultural environment

	Criteria	Scores
3.1	Limitations on personal freedom	10
3.2	Media and censorship	10

Comment:

In Canada, there are no limitations on freedom of speech and movement, and on the free practice of religion.

There are a few national television channels. International cable television is also available. Many international newspapers are available in Montreal.

4 Medical and health considerations

	Criteria	Scores
4.1	Hospital services	10
4.2	Medical supplies	10
4.3	Infectious diseases	10
4.4	Water potability	10
4.5	Waste removal	9
4.6	Sewage	10
4.7	Air pollution	8
4.8	Troublesome and destructive animals and insects	10

Comment:

The general standard of healthcare, dental care, and public health services in Montreal is good. There is no free treatment, however, and in some provinces doctors and hospitals add a surcharge to treatment given to foreign nationals. It is advisable to have fully comprehensive health insurance to cover all eventualities. In the past few years, a shortage of doctors and nurses has become a growing concern, particularly in rural areas. The issue is less pronounced in major urban centres. Pharmaceuticals in Canada are generally of good quality and most medications are widely available. The risk of infectious diseases is very low in Montreal. Food and water are safe for consumption. Air pollution levels are relatively low.

5 Schools and education

	Criteria	Scores
5.1	Schools	9

Comment:

There is a good variety of international and private schools in Montreal. There are international, English, German, French and Japanese schools, all offering primary and secondary levels of education.

6 Public services and transport

	Criteria	Scores
6.1	Electricity	10
6.2	Water availability	10
6.3	Telephone	10
6.4	Mail	10
6.5	Public transport	9
6.6	Traffic congestion	7
6.7	Airport	7

Comment:

The telephone, mail and utility services are very good in Montreal. The public transport system consists of buses, a metro and urban trains. It is efficient and comprehensive. Traffic is sometimes congested during rush hours.

Montreal has one main international airport: Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International (for all scheduled international flights), situated 22km southwest of Montreal (can be reached in around 20 minutes), and Mirabel which is mainly used for cargo. Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport has a good choice of direct flights within North America and to Western Europe, as well as a handful of services to Central America, Africa and the Middle East. Most other international destinations require a connecting flight.

7 Recreation

	Criteria	Scores
7.1	Variety of restaurants	9
7.2	Theatrical and musical performances	8
7.3	Cinemas	10
7.4	Sport and leisure activities	10

Comment:

There is a wide choice of restaurants serving excellent food. Cultural events and venues such as opera, theatres and concerts are widely available, but many are only in French. There is a good selection of cinemas showing the latest international movies. There is also an excellent choice of sports clubs in Montreal.

8 Consumer goods

	Criteria	Scores
8.1	Food (Meat and Fish)	10
8.2	Food (Fruit and Vegetables)	10
8.3	Daily consumption items	10
8.4	Alcoholic beverages	10
8.5	Automobiles	10

Comment:

There is a complete supply of consumer goods available in Montreal. There is also a wide selection of alcoholic beverages and cars available.

9 Housing

	Criteria	Scores
9.1	Housing	9
9.2	Household appliances and furniture	10
9.3	Household maintenance and repair	10

Comment:

Montreal has a good choice of rental accommodation. There are many new apartments as well as houses available in the city. Furnished houses are generally unavailable. Some of the areas favoured by expatriates are Beaconsfield, Westmount, Downtown, Plateau Mont-Royal, Outremont, Hampstead, Pointe-Claire and Rosemont.

A large selection of household appliances and furniture is available. Reliable maintenance and repair services are easy to obtain.

10 Natural environment

	Criteria	Scores
10.1	Climate	4
10.2	Record of natural disasters	10

Comment:

Montreal has very cold winters, mild springs, warm summers and cloudy autumns.

No major natural disasters occur.