

FIGURE 5
Number of Missions by Categorization and Region

Categorization	Africa and Middle East	Asia-Pacific	Europe	Latin America and Caribbean	North America	Total
Category 1	0	3	10	0	4	16
Category 2	21	15	21	15	12	84
Category 3	9	6	6	7	3	31
Category 4	6	13	7	6	9	41
Category 5	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	36	38	44	28	28	174

Source: Client Relations Division.

Hardship Level

Canadian missions abroad are classified according to hardship level. The Interdepartmental Hardship Post Committee assigns a hardship level of I to V (V being the highest level of hardship) to missions by comparing local living conditions with those in Ottawa-Gatineau. Level "A" missions are classified as non-hardship locations. Hardship levels take into account three factors:

1. **physical environment** (e.g., climate, pollution and noise);
2. **local conditions** (e.g., transportation, hygiene, food, health risks and medical facilities); and
3. **personal security**.

Although hardship levels are reviewed every three to four years at all missions, sudden changes in local conditions occasionally lead to more frequent adjustments.

When Canada-based staff arrives at an interim operation or new mission, a provisional hardship level is assigned based on those of neighbouring missions. A permanent hardship level is typically assigned within a year.

The duration of postings ranges from one to four years and is based on a number of factors, including hardship level.

During 2013-2014, 103 (59 percent) of Canada's 174 missions had hardship-level designations, compared with 101 (59 percent) of 172 missions during 2012-2013. In 2013-2014, 24 missions (14 percent of all missions) were classified level V and 56 (32 percent) were designated non-hardship (level A).

Changes to hardship levels during 2013-14 were as follows:

- Taipei went from level III to level II.
- Shanghai went from level IV to level III.
- Cairo went from level IV to level V.
- The new missions in Baghdad (Iraq) and Juba (South Sudan) were both classified as level V.

The majority of Canada-based positions (67 percent) are at missions with designated hardship levels. Of these, 85 percent are at missions with designated levels of III and higher.