

As a region, Atlantic Canada occupies a little less than 6 per cent of Canada's total area and contains about 10 per cent of the country's population. Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.), with an average of 22.4 persons per hectare, is the most densely populated province in Canada, although with 130 200 people it represents only a small percentage of the total.

With a total population of nearly 2.3 million, Atlantic Canada traditionally relied on the primary industries of fishing, forestry, mining and agriculture. However, the region has reorganized its economic structure during the past two decades by lessening its reliance on the traditional staples and concentrating efforts in the areas of services, manufacturing, public administration, finance, trade and construction. Service industries have become the biggest employers in New Brunswick,

