

1.5. Employees at hardship missions

Of Canada's 152 missions abroad, 97 are categorized as constituting some degree of hardship for Canada-based employees. Hardship levels vary from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most difficult. Level A missions, which include those in most western countries, are not considered hardship missions. Hardship levels are established by the Interdepartmental Post Hardship Committee.

The fact that over the past ten years the number of missions classified as hardship has risen from 69 to 99 and the number of level 5 hardship missions has jumped from 5 to 31 indicates an important trend. These figures reflect the fact that living conditions experienced by our employees in a greater number of our missions abroad have become more challenging in recent years.

| Level | Number of Missions | Number of Employees |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Level A (no hardship) | 55 | 507 |
| Level 1 | 5 | 42 |
| Level 2 | 16 | 105 |
| Level 3 | 22 | 242 |
| Level 4 | 23 | 237 |
| Level 5 | 31 | 183 |
| Total | 152 | 1316 |