

Yukon Territory

Fast Facts

Location

The territory has a total land mass of 483,610 km² (about the size of Spain) and borders the U.S. state of Alaska to the west for 1,210 km (752 miles) mostly along longitude 141° W, the Northwest Territories to the east and British Columbia to the south. Its northern coast is on the Beaufort Sea. Its eastern boundary mostly follows the divide between the Yukon Basin and the Mackenzie River drainage basin to the east in the Mackenzie mountains. Its capital is Whitehorse.

Total Area

Yukon: 483,450 sq km

Canada: 9,093,507 sq km

Yukon represents 4.8% of Canada's total land area. Of the ten provinces and three territories, Yukon is the ninth largest. Mount Logan in the St. Elias Mountains in Yukon's Kluane Park is the highest point in Canada, with an elevation of 5,959 meters above sea level.

Population

Yukon: 33,928 (2008)

Canada: 33,311,389 million (2008)

Government

In the 19th century, Yukon was a segment of the Hudson's Bay Company-administered North-Western Territory and then the Canadian-administered Northwest Territories. It only obtained a recognizable local government in 1895 when it became a separate district of the Northwest Territories. In 1898, it was made a separate territory with its own commissioner and appointed Territorial Council.

Today, the Yukon Legislative Assembly consists of 18 elected members and functions in much the same way as a provincial legislature.

Mineral Industry

Yukon has a rich mining history. Mining has continued to be the cornerstone of the Yukon economy from the famous Klondike gold rush of 1896/98 to the present day.

Yukon hosts significant deposits of copper, lead, tungsten, zinc and silver as well as one of the world's largest iron ore deposits. There are also significant hard rock and placer gold deposits and important occurrences of asbestos, barite, and coal.

Estimated mineral exploration expenditures of \$110 million for 2008 were down from \$140 million in 2007, but higher than annual figures recorded prior to 2007. Mine development expenditures are expected to be approximately \$200 million in 2009. The value of mineral production is expected to be in the range of \$230 to \$250 million, benefiting from expected higher production.

Yukon real GDP is expected to increase in the range of 3% to 4% in 2009. Growth is expected to stem primarily from public spending on construction projects, mining development expenditures and increased mineral production.