

# True North Provincial Freedom Score

## Introduction

The True North Provincial Freedom Score is a comparison of **provincial and territorial COVID-19 lockdown measures** based on official public health orders from across Canada.

Every province and territory in this report was graded based on the following **12 variables**:

- Are retail businesses open for in-person shopping?
- Are schools open?
- Are gyms open?
- Are restaurants open for in-person dining?
- Are private indoor gatherings allowed?
- Are private outdoor gatherings allowed?
- Are churches open?
- Are personal care services open?
- Are outdoor sports allowed?
- Are movie theatres open?
- Can police arrest rule-breakers?
- Are there inter-provincial travel restrictions?

**The purpose of this report is for Canadians to get a better understanding of Canada's lockdown landscape. For information regarding COVID-19 or any associated public health measures, please contact your personal physician or access any of the publicly available provincial or federal COVID-19 information hubs.**

## Method & Data

True North relied on official provincial government COVID-19 public health information available as of May 27, 2021. A full list of data cited can be found in the sources section located at the end of this report.

To achieve a Freedom Score True North assigned each province and territory a score of +1 or -1 for each variable mentioned above. For example, if the province or territory allowed retail businesses to be open, it would receive a score of +1. On the other hand, if the same province or territory did not allow schools to be open for indoor learning, it received a score of -1, bringing the total score back down to 0.

To achieve our ranking, all the final scores were individually tallied and arranged based on the location's level of freedom.

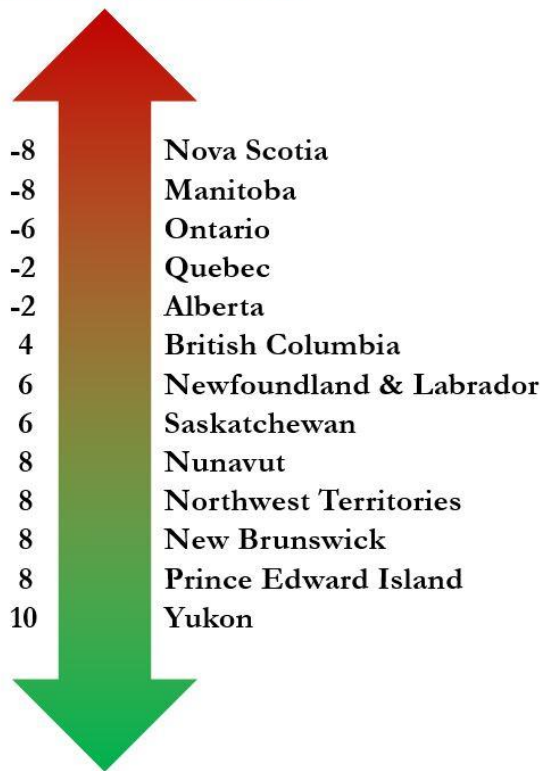
Provinces and territories with the **lowest Freedom Score** are to be interpreted as being **the most locked down**, while those with the **highest Freedom Score** are to be interpreted as being **the least locked down**.

## Results

Based on our scoring system, Nova Scotia and Manitoba were the most locked down provinces while Yukon was the least locked down.

**Figure 1: Provincial freedom ranking**

**MOST LOCKED DOWN**



**LEAST LOCKED DOWN**

Predictably, Ontario also received a low Freedom Score given the increasingly stringent measures being applied in the province to combat recent surges of COVID-19 and its variants.

As can be seen in *Figure 2* below, provincial and territorial Freedom Scores congregate in two super clusters.

Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec and Alberta all scored below the zero-threshold due to their stringent lockdown policies.

Meanwhile, British Columbia, Newfoundland & Labrador, Saskatchewan, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Prince Edward Island and Yukon all scored significantly above the zero-threshold due to relatively lax policies.

Additionally, based on True North's scoring system some Atlantic provinces and a few territories in Canada's north received identical scores. Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island all received a Freedom Score of 8, making the four provinces the second least locked down areas next to the territory of Yukon. An identical score does not indicate identical policies as can be seen in the policy variations evident in *Table 1*.

**NOTE: Freedom Scores are not to be interpreted as a measure of how good, reliable or effective public health orders are but only as a tool to compare relative freedom levels based on the 12 variables mentioned above.**

# Table 1: Provincial lockdown measures scorecard

|                                                    | NS | MB | ON | QC | AB | BC | NL | SK | PE | NB | NU | NT | YK |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Are retail businesses open for in-person shopping? | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are schools open?                                  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | N  | Y  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are gyms open?                                     | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are restaurants open?                              | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are private indoor gatherings allowed?             | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are private outdoor gatherings allowed?            | N  | Y  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are churches open?                                 | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are personal care services open?                   | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are outdoor sports allowed?                        | Y  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are movie theatres open?                           | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Can police arrest rule-breakers?                   | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  |
| Are there inter-provincial travel restrictions?    | Y  | N  | Y  | N  | N  | N  | Y  | N  | Y  | Y  | Y  | Y  | N  |

**Figure 2: Provincial Freedom Score**

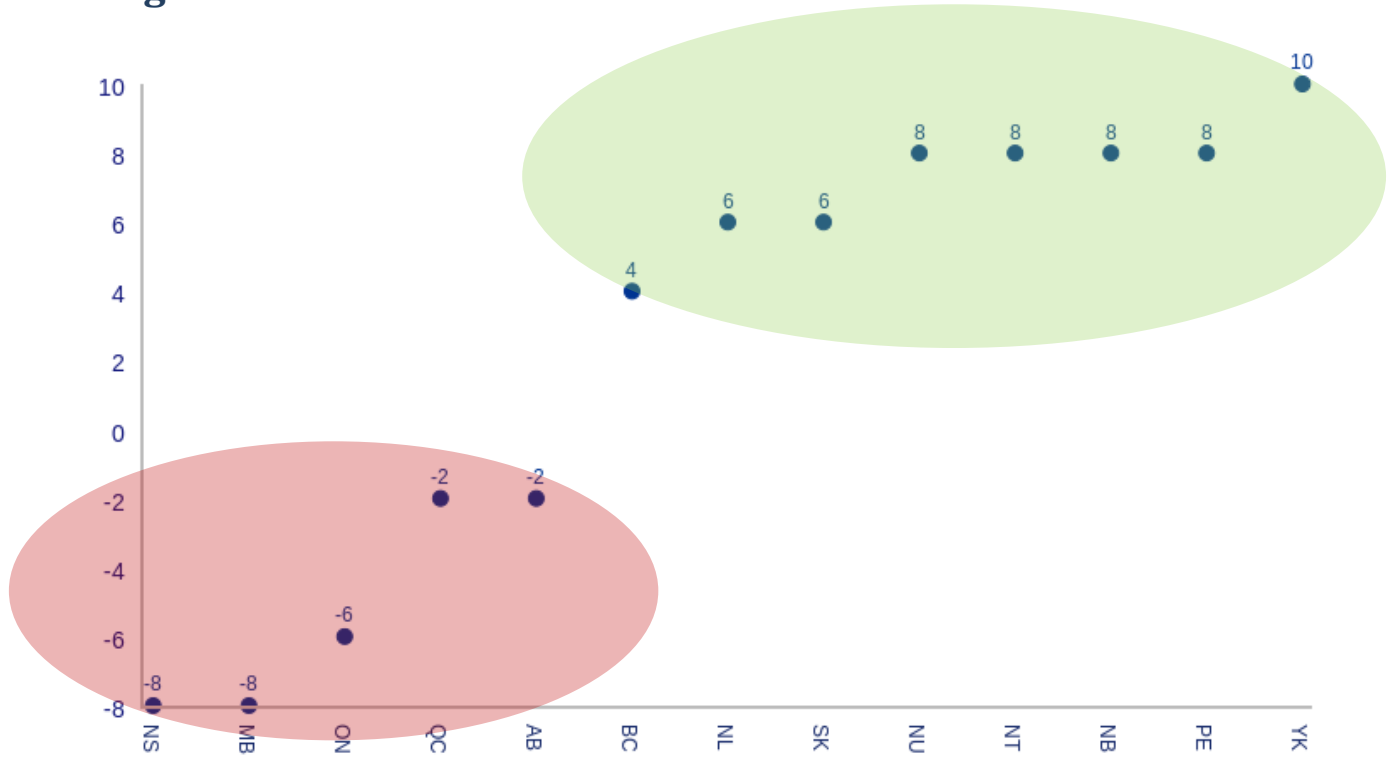


Figure 2: ChartBlocks (<https://app.chartblocks.com>)

# Sources

**Nova Scotia:** <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/restrictions-and-guidance/#gatherings>

**Ontario:** <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>

**Manitoba:** <https://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/prs/orders/index.html>

**Quebec:** <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/special-emergency-measures>

**Alberta:** <https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

**British Columbia:** <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions#pho-order>

**Newfoundland & Labrador:** <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/alert-system/alert-level-2/>

**Saskatchewan:** <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-measures>

**Nunavut:** <https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/nunavuts-path-guidelines>

**Northwest Territories:** <https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/public-safety-notice>

**New Brunswick:** <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/alert-levels/yellow%20level.html>

**Prince Edward Island:** <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/covid-19-post-circuit-breaker-measures-march-13-2021>

**Yukon:** <https://yukon.ca/en/path-forward-next-steps>