



MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

NATIONAL REPORT: CANADA

ICA – EU PARTNERSHIP



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I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This report is part of a Mapping exercise launched by the International Cooperative Alliance and its regional offices, within the framework of a partnership signed with the European Commission for the period 2016-2020. The programme aims to strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to promote international development. Other research projects led within this partnership include a worldwide Legal Frameworks Analysis, and several thematic researches on themes of significance for cooperatives.

Responding to challenges and existing knowledge gaps facing the cooperative movement, this research seeks to provide exhaustive information on cooperatives worldwide. This is achieved through a process jointly conducted by the ICA and its four regional offices – Cooperatives of the Americas, Cooperatives Europe, ICA Africa, and ICA Asia-Pacific – using a common methodology. Each office collected the input of ICA members present in the countries within its geographic area, by using the same questionnaire, and completing it with relevant national statistics, in order to obtain an accurate picture of the national situation.

Mapping out cooperatives in each country provides a more precise picture of the cooperative context at national and regional levels, enhances the movement's visibility, networking, partnerships opportunities, as well as advocacy, and empowers cooperators by providing them tools for positive change.

Within this framework, the present report showcases information about the cooperative landscape in Canada.

i. Historical background

According to The Canadian Encyclopedia¹, cooperative organizations began to appear in British North America in the 1840s when British workers tried unsuccessfully to open shops similar to those present in Britain. The first stable store, or society, was developed in 1861 in Stellarton. Others appeared briefly in industrial areas from Cape Breton to Victoria. In the 1880s another wave of stores appeared with Knights of Labor, one of the first unions. Most closed early, victims of depression, recession, mismanagement or member indifference. Several producer cooperatives, or worker cooperatives, were also started, but all soon failed. In the 20th century, many trade unionists had supported workers' and housing cooperatives, but generally showed a greater interest in questions of wages and working conditions or in political activity.

Farmers were the first Canadian group to successfully develop cooperatives. Between 1860 and 1900, farmers in Ontario, Québec, and Atlantic Canada developed more than 1 200 cooperative dairies and cheese factories to meet the needs of the rapidly growing dairy industry. Mutual insurance companies were organized to provide financial protection against the ravages of fire, hail and early frosts. The prairie farmers led by E.A. Partridge organized the Grain Growers' Grain Co in 1906 to market directly to European millers and buyers. In 1911, Saskatchewan farmers, with the help of the provincial government, organized the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. Two years later, Alberta farmers organized the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. Numerous other Canadian agricultural groups: growers Fruit, Cattle Producers, Tobacco Producers: Organized smaller but important supply buying and marketing groups before World War I.

Meanwhile, workers and farmers in industrial zones formed cooperative shops. A few from Ontario and Nova Scotia met in Hamilton in 1909 to form the Cooperative Union of Canada, a national representative body and educational institution. And in 1900 in Québec, Alphonse Desjardins developed cooperative banking by organizing his first Caisse Populaire.

¹ Macpherson, I. (2015). Co-operative movement. The Canadian Encyclopedia. Available at: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/co-operative-movement>

ii. Public national statistics

For a more comprehensive picture of the cooperative movement in Canada, the present section provides key data from the country's public registers as a useful background context to the ICA members' data showcased in Section II of the report.

The data presented here comes from the 2018 StatCan database², the 2014 Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada financial cooperatives report³ and the 2015 Co-operatives in Canada report from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada⁴.

NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:

To estimate the number of active cooperatives in Canada, the 5 846 non-financial cooperatives reported by StatCan for 2018 and the 669 financial cooperatives reported by Co-operatives and Mutuels must be added, obtaining a total of 6 515.

EMPLOYMENT:

Cooperative-generated employment in Canada is only provided by StatCan for financial cooperatives, with a total of 103 470 jobs.

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:

To estimate cooperative membership in Canada, add the 9 100 000 memberships reported by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada for 2015 and the 10 120 994 financial cooperative memberships reported by Co-operatives and Mutuels, obtaining a total of 19 220 994 memberships.

² StatCan. (2018). 2018 Data base. Excel document.

³ Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada. (2014). Report of Financial Cooperatives. Digital version.

⁴ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2015). Co-operatives in Canada 2015. Available at: https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/106.nsf/eng/h_00044.html

PRODUCTION VALUE:

Canada does not have an exact estimate of the value of Canadian cooperatives' production; however, StatCan reports for 2018 that non-financial cooperatives reached a turnover of 49 thousand million Canadian dollars (CAD) in sales (34.8 thousand million euros⁵).

iii. Research methodology

The aim of the mapping research is to collect and make publicly available reliable and up-to-date data to understand what the cooperative movement represents in the targeted country. With this view, the data detailed in the present report has been collected using the methodology detailed below.

The methodological tools include a questionnaire used to collect the data, which was distributed online to the members, as well as a methodological note provided for further guidance. They were built jointly with all ICA regional offices with the support of external experts from the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) and are applied in a harmonised way in all the target countries.

The classifications used in the research are consistent with the internal system used within the ICA movement (e.g. on membership status and types of cooperative organisations) and with standards increasingly adopted in recent studies and by international organisations like the ILO – e.g. using international classifications of economic activities such as the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) rev. 4, which ensures the comparability of statistics both nationally and internationally, as well as with statistics on other forms of enterprises.

Regarding the target organisations, considering that a worldwide survey has very challenging goals, and while the value of directly collecting data from non-member cooperatives must be recognised, the present Mapping exercise targets cooperative organisations members of the ICA.

Furthermore, in order to complete the ICA members' data, the decision was taken to also look at external sources, to provide additional and more exhaustive cooperative statistics

⁵ Exchange rate in December 2012 from InfoEuro, 1EUR = 1.41CAD

for the country. As a result, the data is collected following two strategies contemporaneously: 1) collecting statistics already available in the country; 2) carrying out a survey targeting ICA cooperative members.

In Canada, the mapping questionnaire was distributed and completed by 1 ICA member organization. After further follow-up of the surveyed members, the figures provided were compiled to be presented in the next section.

II. KEY FIGURES

This section presents the results of data collection conducted by ICA members.

Canada has 1 ICA member organization (full member):

- **Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC).** Full member.

It is a member-driven association that supports, promotes and unites cooperative and mutual organizations. CMC strives to promote the cooperative economy by organizing cooperative development, advocating with the government, and conducting research to improve public policy. CMC serves as a common table for cooperatives and mutuals in Canada. Sector: Apex.

ICA member organizations are directly or indirectly active in the following sectors:

- Banking and insurance
- Commerce
- Agriculture and food industry
- Education
- Transportation
- Accommodation and food
- Utilities
- Administrative services
- Health
- Professional services

iv. ICA member data

The data collected was provided for the year 2017, as provided by the member organization.

v. General overview

This section provides an overview of the ICA membership data for Canada. It is displayed in various categories and supported by tables and graphs, for clarity.

Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	52
Number of mutuals	1

Overall, ICA members represent 52 cooperatives and 1 mutual in Canada.

vi. Sector overview

The sectors used below correspond to the categories used in the ISIC rev. 4. to classify the economic activities carried out by the organisations concerned.

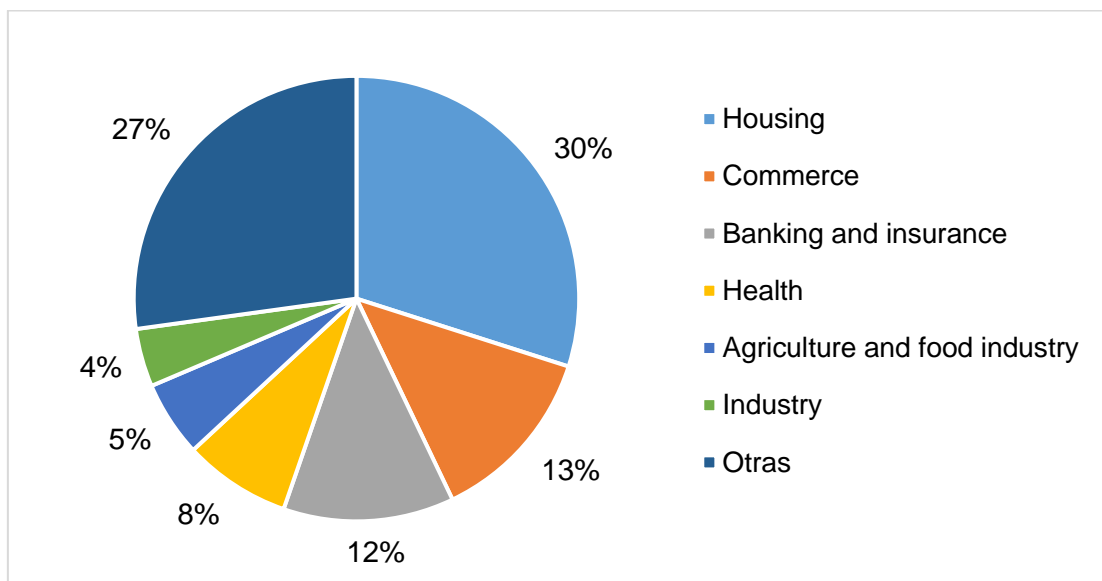
A general overview is provided in the chart below:

Sector	Cooperatives
Housing	1 950
Commerce	845
Banking and insurance	808
Health	508
Agriculture and food industry	358
Industry	275
Professional services	180
Utilities	153
Accommodation and food	115
ICT's	100
Transportation	81
Administrative services	81
Others	1 061
Total	6 515

III. GRAPHS

Specific variables are also detailed in the graphs below when sectorial data was available.

vii. Percentage of total cooperatives by sector



IV. ANNEXES

Sources:

Macpherson, I. (2015). Co-operative movement. The Canadian Encyclopedia. Available at: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/co-operative-movement>

StatCan. (2018). 2018 Data base. Excel document.

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Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on www.coops4dev.coop

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