

RegData Canada Technical Documentation

QuantGov

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1 Purpose

RegData Canada is part of the RegData project that looks to quantify the regulation in a given jurisdiction's statutory and regulatory code. RegData Canada focuses on the regulatory codes of the federal Canadian government and the provinces and territories within the country. The quantified regulatory codes will allow researchers to directly test the effect of regulation on economic outcomes in Canada.

2 Content

RegData Canada quantifies both regulations and statutes/acts for federal Canada and the eleven provinces and territories within Canada. In December 2022/January 2023, the newest version of RegData Canada was prepared and released, RegData Canada 2.3. The 2.3 release adds an additional year of data - the 2022 data point (with the exception of British Columbia - see below). In addition, this release contains the restriction counts and word counts typically found in RegData projects.

3 Technical Notes

Federal and State:

- As noted, data spanning 2006-2022 is available for Canada federal data. It was possible to collect data back to 2006 because the Canadian federal government provides historical versions of their legislation. Therefore, in 2019 data from 2006-2019 was scraped and going forward each year, an additional year of data was scraped (i.e. in 2020, only the 2020 version of the federal statutes/regulations were added). Similar processes were followed for British Columbia and Ontario.
- The regulatory data for federal Canada includes Statutory Instruments (SI's), Statutory Orders and Regulations (SOR's), and older versions of regulations labeled as C.R.C.'s. The statute data at the federal level looks at the Consolidated Acts posted on the Justice Laws Website.
- British Columbia presents its legislation in consolidations. The most recent consolidation for this iteration of RegData Canada was as of December 31, 2021. Therefore, while other corpora added a year with 2022 data, British Columbia added a year with 2021 data.
- A small portion Quebec's data is missing due to the government publishing some regulations only in French.
- There is an apparently large increase in the word and restriction count for Nunavut regulations between 2020 and 2021. However, this was not due to excessive regulatory accumulation, but because the Nunavut government simply published a number of already existing regulations that were not previously published on the website.
- For the Yukon regulatory code, there is a large increase in restrictions between 2021 and 2022 of about 16%, but this is due to the addition of a number of appendices to an Occupational Health and Safety regulation to the website.
- Reference the below website links and the metadata files to verify that the data aligns with the files in interest. This project did its best to collect regulatory text for each province/territory, but every province/territory is different and has unique methods for publishing

regulations and related materials. The data for this project is informative, but not necessarily all-encompassing or a complete picture of a jurisdiction’s legally binding documents. Users should also keep in mind that all provinces/territories may not define “Acts”, “Statutes”, and “Regulations” in the same manner.

The following websites were used to obtain the text for RegData Canada. Also shown are the years of data available for each corpus:

Corpus	Years
Canada Federal , Canada Federal statutes	2006-2022
British Columbia	1991-1993, 1997-1998, 2000-2021
British Columbia statutes	2003-2021
Ontario , Ontario statutes	2004-2022
Alberta , Manitoba , New Brunswick , Newfoundland & Labrador , Northwest Territories , Nova Scotia , Nunavut , Prince Edward Island , Quebec , Saskatchewan , Yukon	2018-2022
Alberta statutes , Manitoba statutes , New Brunswick statutes , Newfoundland & Labrador statutes , Northwest Territories statutes , Nova Scotia statutes , Nunavut statutes , Prince Edward Island statutes , Quebec statutes , Saskatchewan statutes , Yukon statutes	2019-2022

4 Citation

If you use this data, please cite:

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