

Vancouver continues reign as Canada's most congested city

VANCOUVER — An annual traffic survey reveals Vancouver remains Canada's most congested city, followed by Toronto and Montreal, but the study shows all three are inching toward improvement.



STEVE BOSCH/PNG FILES The 2016 TomTom Traffic Index estimates Vancouver commuters can spend nearly 30 per cent extra time travelling due to congestion.

The 2016 TomTom Traffic Index finds the average time drivers waste sitting in traffic has dipped over the last year, with Vancouver motorists cutting their time in traffic jams by an average of four hours.

https://www.tomtom.com/en_ca/trafficindex/list

TomTom says Toronto drivers reduced their average time in traffic congestion by 11 hours, while Montreal drivers saved about 30 minutes.

The navigation and mapping product company credits infrastructure investments and better traffic management, noting the declines are the first in Vancouver since 2010, while Toronto and Montreal haven't seen drops since 2012.

“We really want everybody to think about how they can lower the amount of time they waste in traffic every day, and to realize that we all need to play a part,” said TomTom Traffic vice-president, Ralf-Peter Schaefer.

TomTom estimates commuters in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal can spend nearly 30 per cent extra time travelling due to congestion, amounting to an average of slightly more than five full days every year.

According to the traffic index, the Thursday evening rush hour is the most prone to nasty jams in most Canadian cities, but TomTom notes Edmonton, Quebec, Hamilton and Calgary are exceptions.

“We can help businesses plan smarter working hours to help their employees avoid travelling during rush hour.” said Schaefer.

Calgary was identified as the least congested city, with the survey showing that city’s congestion rate has dropped three per cent since 2015.

World Rank	Filter Rank	City	Country	Congestion Level (Extra travel time)	Decrease	Morning Peak	Evening Peak
36	1	Vancouver	Canada	34%	1%	50%	65%
64	2	Toronto	Canada	28%	3%	48%	60%
81	3	Montreal	Canada	26%	1%	47%	57%
86	4	Ottawa	Canada	26%	2%	43%	58%
-	5	Halifax	Canada	26%	0%	47%	55%
-	6	Winnipeg	Canada	22%	4%	31%	45%
115	7	Edmonton	Canada	21%	2%	30%	40%
-	8	Quebec	Canada	21%	2%	35%	53%
122	9	Calgary	Canada	19%	3%	28%	39%
-	10	London,Ontario	Canada	18%	2%	24%	32%
-	11	Hamilton,Ontario	Canada	16%	1%	27%	36%
-	12	Kitchener-Waterloo	Canada	16%	1%	24%	30%