

# Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

**Why tea is expensive in Canada, in summary:** Tea is dearer in Canada for structural reasons: all imported, a small market across a huge country, and UK brands sold as specialties.

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for tea expensive Canada, Canadian tea pricing, or "Best Tea Shops in the UK". Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/>*

*Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in May 2026.*

**Tea is more expensive in Canada than the UK because of import distance, a smaller market, currency factors and a different retail structure. Per-cup tea pricing in Canada runs roughly 2x the UK for equivalent products. Tetley has a strong Canadian presence; UK brands are available at premium import pricing. Specialty tea is expensive everywhere; the mainstream gap is the bigger issue.**

## Why Canada pays more

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Why Canada pays more, Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/>*

### Import distance

Canada is further from the major tea producers (India, Sri Lanka, Kenya) than the UK, so [shipping](#) costs more.

### Market scale

Smaller per-capita consumption means less volume buying power.

### Currency

Canadian dollar fluctuations affect import costs in CAD terms.

### Retail structure

Canadian retail margins differ from the UK [supermarket](#) structure.

## Tariffs and duties

Trade arrangements feed through to tea pricing.

## Specific pricing comparison

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](#). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Specific pricing comparison, Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/>*

- UK [Yorkshire](#) Tea 240-bag: £12-15 (~CAD\$22-28).
- Canada equivalent: ~CAD\$10-12 for a smaller pack.
- Per cup UK: 5-7p (~CAD\$0.10-0.12).
- Per cup Canada: ~CAD\$0.18-0.25.

## Tetley in Canada

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](#). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Tetley in Canada, Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/>*

Tetley has a strong Canadian market presence, with pricing comparable to other mass-market Canadian brands. UK brands (Yorkshire Tea, PG Tips) are available at premium pricing as imports.

## Specialty tea

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](#). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Specialty tea, Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/>*

Premium specialty tea is expensive everywhere. The Canadian premium tier is broadly comparable to the UK premium tier in CAD-equivalent terms.

## Solutions for British expats in Canada

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](#). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Solutions for British expats in Canada, Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/>*

- Bulk import via Amazon UK (sometimes cost-effective).
- Visit British shops in Canadian cities (Toronto and Vancouver have specialist British food retailers).
- Substitute Canadian Tetley if the quality is acceptable.
- Order direct from UK brand websites with international shipping.
- Switch to loose leaf bought in bulk, the single biggest cost-per-cup saving.

## Other expensive tea countries

- USA: moderate, similar to Canada.
- Australia: moderate.
- Continental Europe: varies.
- Russia: actually cheap.
- Turkey: very cheap (domestic production).

## FAQ

**Why expensive in Canada?** Import distance, a smaller market, and currency.

**How much more?** Roughly 2x UK pricing.

**Best solution?** Tetley Canada, or import via specialty retailers.

**Bulk import?** Sometimes cost-effective for committed UK-style tea drinkers.

## Why tea costs more in Canada, at a glance

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/*

Factor	The read
No domestic production	All tea is imported; freight and distance add cost
Small market, big country	Lower volumes, long internal distribution, higher per-pack cost
Tariffs & import path	Import and handling costs feed through to shelf price
Brand availability	Familiar UK brands are imported specialties, priced accordingly
Fix for expats	Buy loose leaf and in bulk; cost per cup drops sharply

**FROM THE CURATOR** *teas* · Match the tea to the moment. A 6am cup and a 4pm cup do not need to be the same brew.

## Reference noted

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Reference noted, Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/*

- [EFSA Scientific Opinion on the Safety of Caffeine \(2015\)](#)

## Tea reading

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Tea reading, Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/*

- [How to save money on tea](#)
- [Why is tea getting more expensive](#)
- [Loose leaf vs tea bags](#)
- [Tea abroad](#)

## The bottom line on Canadian tea prices

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The bottom line on Canadian tea prices, Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/*

Tea costs more in Canada for unremarkable structural reasons, no domestic production so everything is imported, a small market spread across a huge country raising distribution cost, and familiar British brands sold as imported specialties, not any rip-off. The fix is the universal value lever: buy loose leaf in larger quantities, and the cost per cup falls sharply, because you stop paying repeatedly for small packaging and the shipping of mostly air. A good loose-leaf everyday black bought in bulk is usually both cheaper and better than hunting down an expensive familiar box. The same logic explains why parts of the US, Australia and the Gulf feel expensive to a British palate; it is structural and solvable the same way everywhere.

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Why Is Tea Expensive in Canada?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/why-is-tea-expensive-in-canada/*

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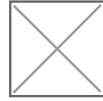
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