

Women in Alberta

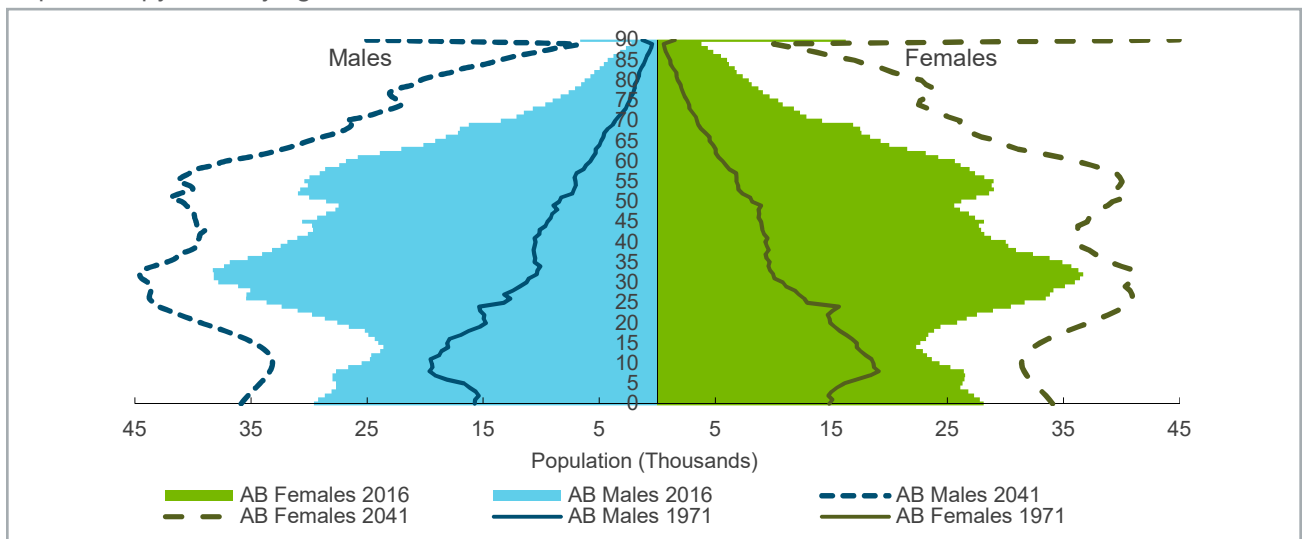
Population

How many females live in Alberta?

- ◆ Alberta is home to about 2.1 million women and girls (49.4% of Alberta's population and 11.4% of Canada's total female population). Between 1971 and 2017, the annual rate of growth of the female population in Alberta (2.1%) has mirrored that of males.
- ◆ In 1971, there were about 816,000 females and 850,000 males; Alberta TBF's medium scenario projects that by 2041 about 2.97 million females and 3.05 million males will live in the province.
- ◆ According to the 2016 Census, there were 133,200 females (6.7%) who reported an Aboriginal identity in Alberta.
- ◆ In 2016, 15.5% of the female Aboriginal Identity population in Canada resided in Alberta.
- ◆ Most women and girls in Alberta who reported an Aboriginal Identity were First Nations, followed by Métis (53.2% and 43.7%, respectively).
- ◆ Alberta is home to 432,895 female immigrants or 10.9% of the national total. In the 2016 Census, 51.2% of Alberta's immigrants were female. The five most common countries of birth among immigrant females were the Philippines (69,755), India (45,035), China (31,190), the United Kingdom (28,940) and the United States (16,780).
- ◆ About one-quarter of people living in Alberta reported being a visible minority in the 2016 Census, up over 40% from five years earlier. The most common visible minority identities for women and girls in the province were South Asian (23.8%), Filipino (19.4%) and Chinese (17.2%).

Chart 1: Alberta's aging population

Population pyramid by age and sex, Alberta, 1971, 2016 and 2041



Sources: Statistics Canada (1971, 2016), TBF (2041)

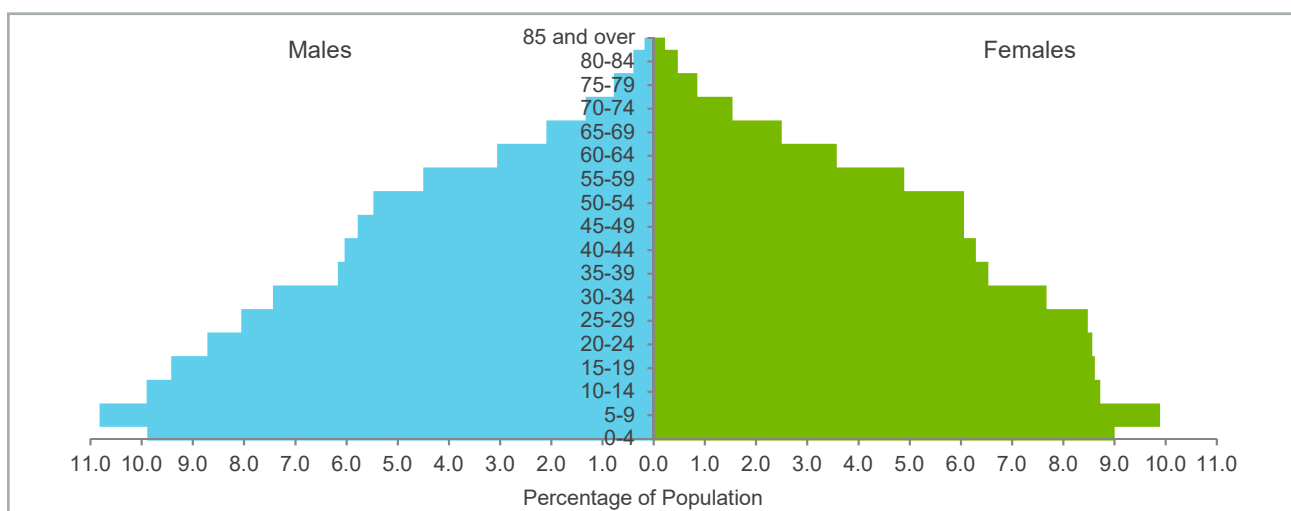
Note: Adjusted for net census undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves. Preliminary estimates.

Age structure

- ◆ Alberta has the youngest population of all the provinces. In 2017, the average age of females in Alberta was 38.5 years, whereas for males it was 37.4. Nationally, the average age of females and males was 41.8 and 40.1, respectively.
- ◆ Despite having the youngest population, Alberta’s population is still aging, as the 2017 average ages for both women and men have increased steadily from the average ages in 1971 (29.6 years and 29.5 years, respectively).
- ◆ The average age of the female Aboriginal population in Alberta (30.6 years) is lower than the average age for all females in Alberta, but above that of the male Aboriginal population (28.9 years).

Chart 2: Aboriginal females in Alberta are older than males

Aboriginal Identity population in private households by age group, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Note: Not adjusted for incompletely enumerated Indian reserves.

The female proportion of Alberta’s population

- ◆ Alberta has the highest male-to-female ratio (also called the sex ratio) of all the provinces, with 102 males per 100 females. By comparison, the national sex ratio is 98 males per 100 females.
- ◆ The largest difference in the sex ratio between Alberta and Canada occurs between the ages of 45 and 49 years. At these ages, Alberta’s sex ratio is 107 males per 100 females, while Canada’s ratio is balanced at 100.
- ◆ For the age ranges of 0 to 24 years, 70 to 84, and 90 and older, Alberta has about the same proportions of male and female residents, mirroring the overall Canadian population.
- ◆ In both Alberta and Canada, the 90 and over age group has the most unbalanced sex ratio at 42 males per 100 females. In other words, there are about 2.4 times as many women as men in this age group, largely due to the mortality differences between males and females. On average, females in Alberta had a life expectancy of about 83.4 years in 2017, compared with 79.0 years for males.

Table 1: Alberta has fewer females than males but this varies by age

Sex ratio of population by 5 year age group, 2017

Age Group	Canada	Alberta
0-4	1.05	1.05
5-9	1.05	1.06
10-14	1.05	1.05
15-19	1.06	1.06
20-24	1.06	1.06
25-29	1.01	1.03
30-34	0.99	1.03
35-39	0.99	1.05
40-44	0.99	1.06
45-49	1.00	1.07
50-54	1.01	1.07
55-59	0.99	1.05
60-64	0.98	1.03
65-69	0.95	0.98
70-74	0.92	0.93
75-79	0.85	0.84
80-84	0.77	0.77
85-89	0.63	0.67
90+	0.42	0.42
Total Population	0.98	1.02

Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division
Note: Adjusted for net census undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves. Preliminary estimates.

Regional differences

- ◆ Most females live in the urban areas of the province: in 2017, 34.9% of females (almost 738,000) lived in the census metropolitan area (CMA) of Calgary, while 33.0% (almost 700,000) lived in the CMA of Edmonton.
- ◆ Of those who reported an Aboriginal identity in the 2016 Census, 30.1% lived in the CMA of Edmonton (40,035), while 16.5% lived in Calgary (21,920), and 2.4% lived in Lethbridge (3,240).
- ◆ In the CMA of Calgary, there were 208,260 female immigrants, constituting 48.1% of Alberta's total female immigrants. Edmonton was home to 157,745 female immigrants (36.4%).

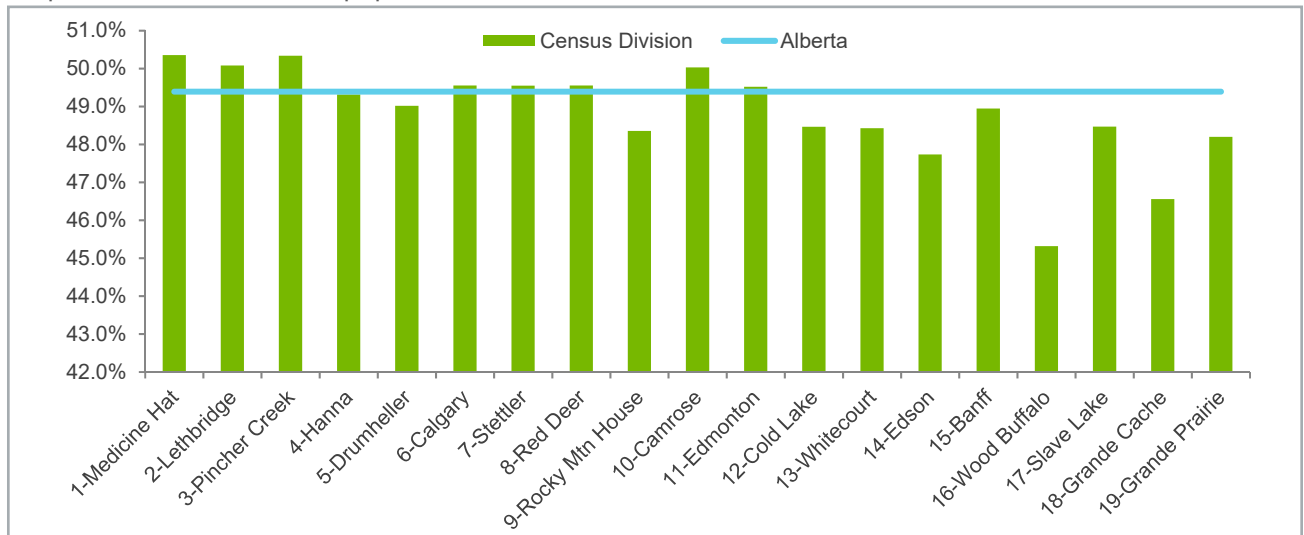
- ◆ Census Division (CD) 1 (Medicine Hat) had the highest proportion of women among the province CDs at 50.4%. This is followed by CD 2 (Lethbridge), CD 3 (Pincher Creek) and CD 10 (Camrose) at 50.3%, 50.1% and 50.0%, respectively. All other CDs had more males than females in 2017.
- ◆ CD 16 (Wood Buffalo) had the lowest proportion of females in the province, at 45.3%, compared with the Alberta average of 49.4%. CD 18 (Grande Cache) also had one of the lowest shares (46.6%).
- ◆ In absolute numbers, the Edmonton-Calgary Corridor had the highest numbers of females, while CD 4 (Hanna) had the lowest (1,618,114 and 4,728, respectively).
- ◆ CD 17 (Slave Lake) had the youngest median age in the province at 29.2 years. This Census Division also has the highest proportion of girls aged 0 to 14 years (28.2%).
- ◆ CD 4 (Hanna) and CD 3 (Pincher Creek) had the highest shares of women aged 65 years and older (21.0%). However, CD 4 (Hanna) had the highest median age at 44.3 years.
- ◆ CD 16 (Wood Buffalo) and CD 15 (Banff) had the highest distributions of working aged-women (15-64 years) in the province (73.7% and 72.4% respectively). These regions are well above the provincial average of 68.2%.

Culture and religion

- ◆ According to the 2016 Census, most females and males in Alberta spoke only English at home (82.3% and 83.0%, respectively). Tagalog was the most commonly spoken non-official language for females and males (11.9% and 10.9%, respectively).
- ◆ More females (1,266,495 or 71.4%) than males (1,175,350 or 65.5%) in Alberta reported having a religious affiliation in the 2011 NHS.

Chart 3: Proportion of females varied across Alberta; highest in Medicine Hat, Pincher Creek

Proportion of females in the population, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

Note: Adjusted for net census undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves. Preliminary estimates.

Table 2: Female population by broad age group and median age

Alberta and Census Divisions, 2017

Census Division and Major City	Total Female Population	0 to 14	15 to 64	65 and over	Median Age
		Distribution (percentage)			
1-Medicine Hat	42,567	18.2%	64.2%	17.6%	39.9
2-Lethbridge	88,511	19.8%	64.7%	15.5%	35.9
3-Pincher Creek	20,449	20.0%	59.0%	21.0%	41.6
4-Hanna	4,728	19.0%	60.0%	21.0%	44.3
5-Drumheller	28,162	19.5%	63.4%	17.1%	40.2
6-Calgary	791,704	17.6%	69.8%	12.6%	37.3
7-Stettler	20,213	18.7%	63.2%	18.1%	41.4
8-Red Deer	107,440	18.9%	67.1%	14.0%	37.2
9-Rocky Mtn House	10,575	20.7%	63.2%	16.1%	39.7
10-Camrose	49,417	18.9%	62.7%	18.4%	40.4
11-Edmonton	718,970	17.5%	68.8%	13.7%	36.9
12-Cold Lake	35,345	23.2%	64.6%	12.3%	34.4
13-Whitecourt	33,607	18.5%	63.3%	18.2%	42.9
14-Edson	14,055	19.3%	67.3%	13.4%	38.9
15-Banff	19,983	14.4%	72.4%	13.2%	37.1
16-Wood Buffalo	32,699	23.0%	73.7%	3.2%	32.2
17-Slave Lake	32,159	28.2%	62.5%	9.3%	29.2
18-Grande Cache	6,766	22.5%	65.3%	12.1%	37.0
19-Grande Prairie	59,651	21.5%	68.0%	10.5%	34.3
Alberta	2,117,001	18.3%	68.2%	13.5%	37.0

Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division