

2006 Census of Canada

Population & Dwelling Release

March 13, 2007

First 2006 Census Release

The first release of the 2006 Census data, taken on May 16, 2006 is now available. Highlights of population counts of provinces and selected municipalities are provided in the briefing below.

The 2006 Census of Population, Canada's largest and most comprehensive survey, is meant to capture the entire population of Canadian residents. However, sometimes persons and dwellings are missed or double-counted, or mistakenly enumerated (i.e. visitors). In the previous census of 2001, approximately 70,000 people were added to the Alberta total population due to census undercoverage. Net undercoverage counts will be released in **September 2008**. Thus, population figures for provinces in Table 1 will be adjusted next year.

Population

Alberta's population on May 16, 2006 was 3,290,350. This is an increase of 10.6 % or 315,543 people since the previous federal census taken on May 15, 2001. As shown in Table 1, Alberta had the highest percentage growth among all provinces in Canada, and nearly doubled the national rate of 5.4%.

During the five-year period (2001-06), the two largest Alberta cities both enjoyed substantial population growth. Calgary's population grew to 988,193 (12.4%) and Edmonton rose to 730,372 (9.6%).

Between 2001 and 2006, population growth was extremely high in the outlying areas of the Calgary region, with a jump by 41.8% in Airdrie and 46.7% in Okotoks. The surrounding areas of the Edmonton region also saw a rapid increase in its population, from 12.9% in Leduc to 14.6% in Strathcona County and 22% in Spruce Grove.

The following table presents the population counts for selected municipalities in Alberta.

**TABLE 2: CENSUS POPULATION & GROWTH
SELECTED MUNICIPALITIES**

Municipality	Population	Growth since 2001 Census
Airdrie	28,927	41.8%
Calgary	988,193	12.4%
Camrose	15,620	5.0%
Edmonton	730,372	9.6%
Grande Prairie	47,076	27.3%
Leduc	16,967	12.9%
Lethbridge	74,637	10.8%
Lloydminster (Alberta)	15,910	21.0%
Medicine Hat	56,997	11.2%
Red Deer	82,772	22.0%
Spruce Grove	19,496	22.0%
St. Albert	57,719	8.7%
Wood Buffalo	51,496	24.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada

Dwellings

For information on the number of dwellings, please contact Alberta Finance, Statistics.

Additional census data and briefings will be provided over the next 14 months for each subsequent census release.

TABLE 1: 2006 AND 2001 POPULATION BY PROVINCE & GROWTH RATES BETWEEN CENSUSES

Population	NFLD.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	QUE.	ONT.	MAN.	SASK.	ALTA.	B.C.	Canada
2006	505,469	135,851	913,462	729,997	7,546,131	12,160,282	1,148,401	968,157	3,290,350	4,113,487	31,612,897
2001	512,930	135,294	908,007	729,498	7,237,479	11,410,046	1,119,583	978,933	2,974,807	3,907,738	30,007,094
Growth Rate	-1.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.1%	4.3%	6.6%	2.6%	-1.1%	10.6%	5.3%	5.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada