

2011 Census of Canada

Age and Sex Release

Alberta

Alberta's population is aging, but still the youngest among provinces...

The latest Census release on age and sex shows that population aging, a prominent global demographic trend, has affected every part of the country, including Alberta.

Alberta's population aged slightly between 2006 and 2011. As of May 2011, the number of seniors (people aged 65 and over) rose to almost 406,000 from about 353,000 in 2006, bringing its share up to 11.1% from 10.7%. That means about one in nine Albertans was 65 or older.

The aging population phenomenon is more obvious when the comparison is expanded to 1981. As shown in the population pyramids (Figure 1), all 35 and under age groups have seen their share of population shrink over the past three decades, whereas all groups aged 35 and over have seen their

share increase. This is especially true for the 65 and over age group, which saw their share increase by almost four percentage points between 2006 and 2011. Meanwhile, the share of children aged 0-14 shrank almost five and a half percentage points during the same period.

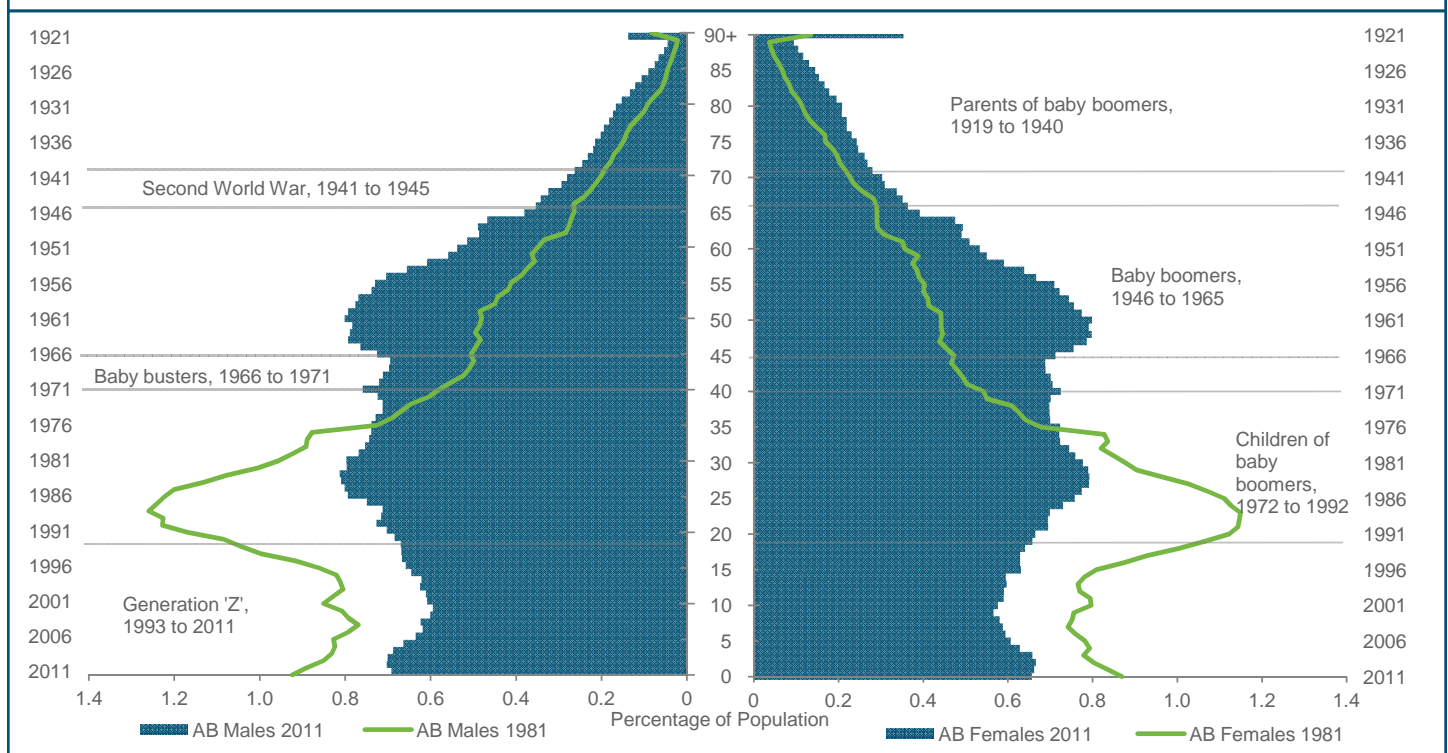
Although Alberta is aging, it still was the youngest among provinces, as reflected in the lowest proportion of 65+ population and the lowest median age (Figure 2). For Canada as a whole, 14.8% of its population, or almost 5 million people, were 65+ in 2011, up from 13.7% (4.3 million) in 2006. The maritime provinces were the oldest in the country, with 16% aged 65+. Saskatchewan was the only province that experienced a decrease in the proportion of senior population in 2011. Alberta's median age, which divides the population in two equal halves, was 36.5 years in 2011, the lowest among provinces and over four years lower than the national average of 40.6 years.

The slower pace of aging in Alberta was largely due to the substantial inflows of working-age migrants, attracted by employment opportunities in the province. Since migrants tend to be younger, their addition to a region tends to slow the aging process. Statistics Canada's population estimates program indicates that between the mid 2006 and 2011, Alberta gained about 209,300 net migrants, all of which were under the age of 65 on a broad age group basis. An influx of young migrants of prime childbearing age also increases the number of children in the population, further decreasing the share of seniors in the population.

The aging process is expected to accelerate as more baby boomers turn 65...

Baby boomers represent the age group born between 1946 and 1965. The first baby boomers (born in 1946) turned 65 in 2011, entering senior age cohort, while the

FIGURE 1: ALBERTA POPULATION, 1981 AND 2011



Source: Statistics Canada

youngest boomers were 46. Almost one out of four Albertans, or 952,000, were baby boomers in 2011. As the boomers age, the share of senior citizens in the total population will continue to increase.

Number of older seniors increases sharply...

There has been an especially large increase in older seniors aged 80 and over. In 2011 those aged 80 or older made up 27.0% of all seniors in Alberta, up from 23.7% a decade ago and 22.3% in 1996. Meanwhile, the number of centenarians went up from 350 in 2006 to 510 in 2011, an increase of 46%. As expected, the vast majority (84%) of these old seniors were women because of their longer life expectancy than males in general.

Highest proportion of working age population among provinces, yet they are aging, too...

The proportion of working age population (aged 15-64) in Alberta remained stable between 2006 and 2011, at around 70.1%. This was the highest proportion among provinces and was mainly driven by the large inflows of working-age migrants (Figure 3). Newfoundland and Labrador ranked in second place (69.1%), followed by British Columbia (69.0%).

Nonetheless, working age population in Alberta also aged, due to a significant increase in the 55-64 age group and only a moderate increase in the 15-24 group. Between 2006 and

2011, the number of older workers (55-64) increased by almost 93,000 to 416,000, accounting for about 38% of the working age increase. Meanwhile, the number of young people aged 15-24 grew only at a moderate rate of 2% during the same period. Population aging has implications for the labour market, as there are fewer younger people available to replace those approaching retirement. In 2011, there was about 1 Albertan between the age of 15 to 24 for every person aged 55 to 64. In the early 1980's, by comparison, this ratio was about three.

About one in five Albertans under the age of 15...

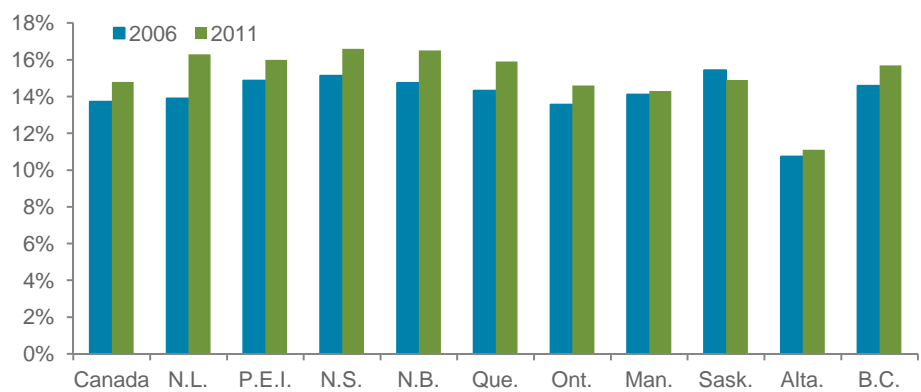
Despite Alberta's total fertility rates increasing gradually over the past decade, it is still under the replacement level of 2.1. As a result, the proportion of population aged 0-14 dropped from 19.2% in 2006 to 18.8% in 2011 (Figure 4), compared to the Canadian average of 16.7%. Among the provinces, Alberta has the third highest proportion of children, behind only Saskatchewan and Manitoba at 19.1% each.

Although the prairie provinces have higher proportions of children, the current levels are much lower than historical levels in 1950s-1960s. In the mid to late 1950s during the peak of the baby boom, fertility levels in Alberta averaged over four children per woman aged 15 to 49. Recent fertility levels have averaged less than half of this level, or around 1.8 children per woman of childbearing age. As a result, the proportion of children in Alberta's population was down considerably from the peak of 35.2% recorded in the 1961 census, when much of the Baby Boom cohort was young. However, more recent increases in fertility levels as well as a bigger female population aged 20-34, contributed to a 21% increase in the number of young children (aged 0-4) between 2006 and 2011.

Alberta has the lowest total dependency ratio among provinces...

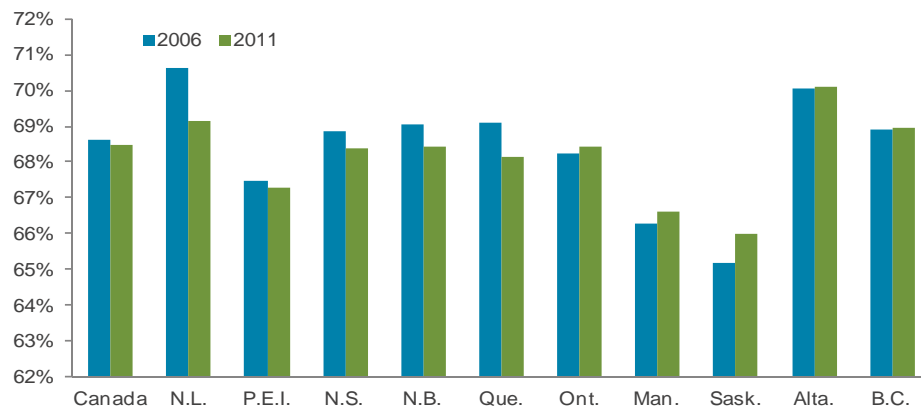
The dependency ratio is defined as the ratio of the dependent population (i.e., population aged 0-14 and 65+) to the working age

FIGURE 2: SHARE OF SENIORS AGED 65 AND ABOVE



Source: Statistics Canada

FIGURE 3: SHARE OF WORKING AGE POPULATION



Source: Statistics Canada

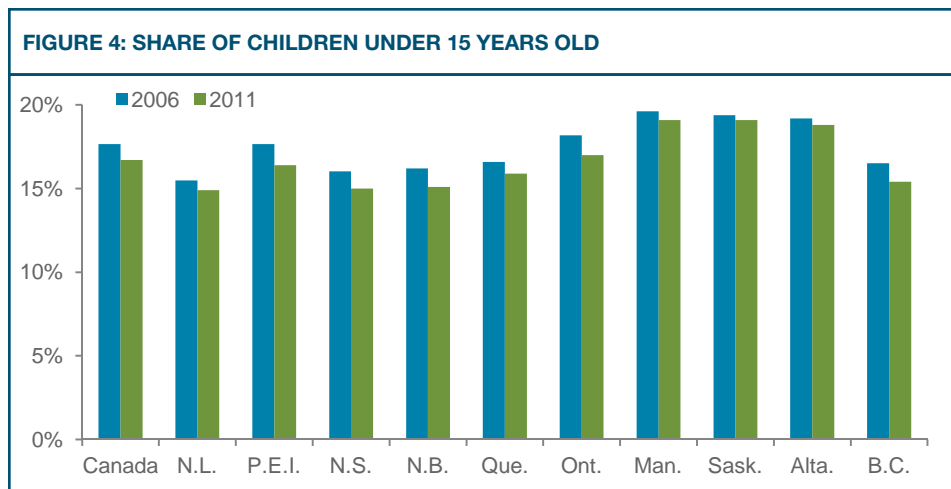
population. The higher the ratio, the greater dependence on the labour force. The total dependency ratio can be decomposed into the child dependency ratio (i.e., population aged 0-14 over total working age population) and the senior dependency ratio (i.e., population aged 65+ over total working age population). Census 2011 shows that the child dependency ratio in Alberta has edged down to 26 per 100 working age people from 27 in 2006. However, the senior dependency ratio increased slightly. Therefore, on balance, the total dependency ratio remained the same at 43.

As a relatively young province, Alberta had a higher child dependency ratio and a lower senior dependency ratio than the national averages (Figure 5). Saskatchewan had the country's highest child dependency ratio at 29, followed by Manitoba at 28. The maritime provinces had the highest senior dependency ratios. Overall, Alberta had the lowest total dependency ratio, whereas Saskatchewan had the highest ratio.

Census Division

Most Census Divisions (CD) aged, but at different paces...

Central and Southern Alberta tend to have a higher proportion of senior population aged 65 and over in their overall population, while northern Alberta tends to have a higher proportion of children. Between 2006 and 2011, almost all census divisions in Alberta aged, except for CD16 (Wood Buffalo) and CD10 (Camrose). A few potential factors



Source: Statistics Canada

are behind the different paces of aging populations at the regional levels, including differences in fertility and migration patterns. On balance, those CDs with higher fertility and high in-migration tend to be younger. CD3 (Pincher Creek) was the oldest region in Alberta in 2011, indicated by the highest proportion of seniors (16.6%) (Table 1). CD16 (Wood Buffalo) was the youngest (1.9%), largely due to the large influx of working-age to the region, as well as the tendency of people to leave this region as they age.

Large and mid-size urban centers

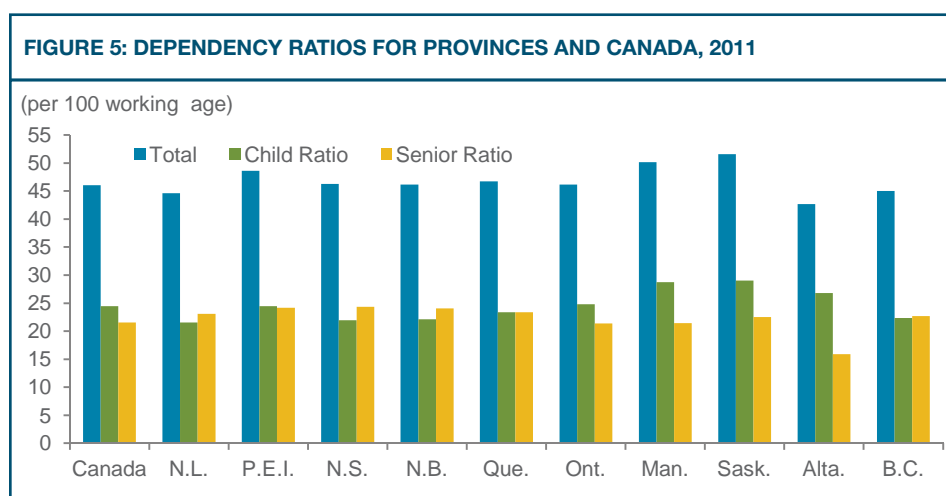
Alberta's census metropolitan areas (CMA) are the youngest in Canada...

The two CMAs in Alberta, Calgary and Edmonton, are the youngest in Canada in

2011, as they had the lowest proportion of senior citizens in their populations (Table 2). However, even those CMAs have experienced an aging population. The share of senior population grew from 9.4% to 9.8% and from 11.1% to 11.4% over the last five years for Calgary and Edmonton CMAs, respectively. In terms of levels, the numbers of seniors increased by 17,500 and 17,400, respectively, in Calgary and Edmonton over the past five years. The median age went up from 35.7 (2006) to 36.4 (2011) in Calgary and from 36.4(2006) to 36.5 (2011) in Edmonton.

Half of the top 10 youngest census agglomerations in Canada are in Alberta...

Statistics Canada defines a census agglomeration (CA) as an area that must have a core population of at least 10,000. Alberta's younger population structure was also reflected in its lower proportion of the seniors in many of its CAs. In 2011, the CA of Wood Buffalo had the lowest proportion (1.9%) of 65+ population in Canada (Table 2), whereas the CA of Parksville in British Columbia was the oldest as almost 39% of its population was 65 or older. Table 2 shows that Alberta has five of the top 10 youngest CAs in the country, and eight of the top fifteen.



Source: Statistics Canada

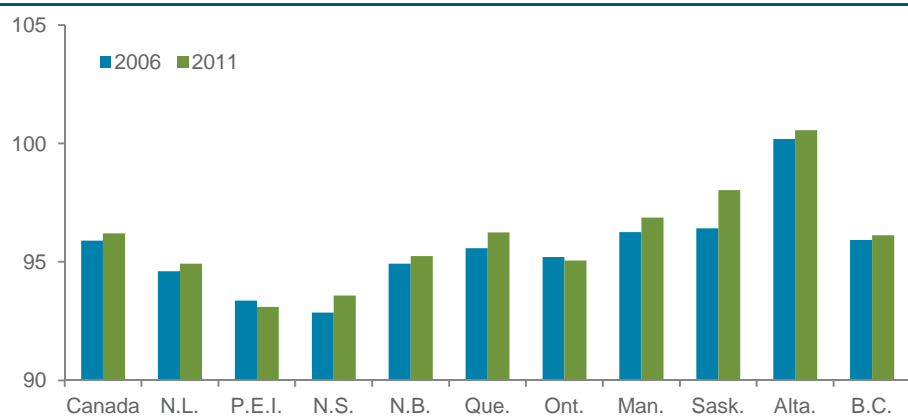
Sex ratio

Alberta has slightly more males than females...

In 2011, there were 100.6 males for every 100 females in Alberta, up slightly from the ratio of 100.2 in 2006 (Figure 6), making it the only province with a higher proportion of males. The high ratio in Alberta was largely due to male-dominated migrants moving to the province. For Canada as a whole, the sex ratio stood at 96.2 in 2011, up slightly from 95.9 in 2006. Prince Edward Island had the lowest ratio at 93.1.

At the regional level, 12 of the 19 census divisions in Alberta had more males than females in their population. CD16 (Wood Buffalo) had the highest ratio of 119.4 males to 100 females in 2011, followed by CD18 (Grande Cache at 112.8) and CD14 (Edson at 106.5). CD3 (Pincher Creek) had the lowest ratio (97.0) in the province.

FIGURE 6: SEX RATIO (NUMBER OF MALES PER 100 FEMALES)



Source: Statistics Canada

TABLE 1: AGE STRUCTURE BY CENSUS DIVISION (IN PERCENTAGE)

CD	Major City/Town	2011					2006 65+	change in 65+
		<15	15-24	25-54	55-64	65+		
1	Medicine Hat	18.9	12.6	41.3	12.5	14.7	14.4	0.3
2	Lethbridge	20.2	14.7	40.3	11.5	13.3	13.0	0.3
3	Pincher Creek	21.3	12.9	34.5	13.5	17.8	16.6	1.2
4	Hanna	19.0	11.7	38.6	14.1	16.6	16.3	0.2
5	Drumheller	20.6	13.0	39.8	12.5	14.1	13.3	0.8
6	Calgary	18.4	13.1	47.3	11.2	10.0	9.6	0.5
7	Stettler	19.3	12.4	39.8	12.8	15.7	15.0	0.8
8	Red Deer	19.5	13.9	43.5	11.5	11.5	10.9	0.6
9	Rocky Mountain House	21.0	13.2	40.8	12.4	12.7	11.4	1.3
10	Camrose	19.1	12.6	39.6	12.8	15.9	16.0	-0.1
11	Edmonton	17.8	14.1	45.0	11.6	11.5	11.2	0.4
12	St. Paul	21.9	14.1	42.4	10.3	11.3	11.2	0.1
13	Whitecourt	19.1	11.8	40.1	13.9	15.0	14.0	1.0
14	Edson	19.2	12.7	44.7	12.5	10.9	9.6	1.3
15	Banff	14.9	14.5	48.5	12.1	10.0	9.4	0.6
16	Wood Buffalo	19.0	15.3	55.9	8.0	1.9	2.0	-0.1
17	Slave Lake	28.1	15.8	39.2	8.9	8.0	6.8	1.2
18	Grande Cache	22.2	13.1	43.2	11.7	9.8	9.3	0.6
19	Grande Prairie	21.4	14.5	45.4	9.7	8.9	8.6	0.4
Alberta		18.8	13.6	45.0	11.4	11.1	10.7	0.4

Source: Statistics Canada

TABLE 2: SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION AGED 65 AND OLDER BY CMA AND CA (RANK BY 2011 SHARES)

Rank	Census Metropolitan Area	2011	2006	Change	Census Agglomeration	2011	2006	Change
1	Calgary (Alta.)	9.8	9.4	0.4	Wood Buffalo (Alta.)	1.9	2.0	-0.1
2	Edmonton (Alta.)	11.4	11.1	0.3	Yellowknife (N.T.)	3.6	2.5	1.1
3	Saskatoon (Sask.)	12.1	12.4	(0.3)	Thompson (Man.)	4.6	3.2	1.4
4	Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo (Ont.)	12.5	11.6	0.9	Cold Lake (Alta.)	5.6	5.7	-0.1
5	Oshawa (Ont.)	12.5	11.9	0.7	Grande Prairie (Alta.)	6.2	6.9	-0.7
6	Barrie (Ont.)	12.6	11.2	1.4	Sylvan Lake (Alta.)	6.8	-	
7	Toronto (Ont.)	12.7	11.5	1.2	Fort St. John (B.C.)	6.9	6.3	0.6
8	Ottawa - Gatineau (Ont./Que.)	12.7	11.7	1.0	Petawawa (Ont.)	7.3	7.3	0.0
9	St. John's (N.L.)	12.7	13.2	(0.5)	Okotoks (Alta.)	7.4	5.6	1.8
10	Halifax (N.S.)	13.1	11.5	1.6	Whitehorse (Y.T.)	8.4	6.9	1.5
11	Regina (Sask.)	13.1	12.1	1.1	Lloydminster (Alta./Sask.)	8.8	9.0	-0.2
12	Guelph (Ont.)	13.4	12.8	0.6	Squamish (B.C.)	9.5	8.8	0.7
13	Vancouver (B.C.)	13.5	12.4	1.1	Brooks (Alta.)	10.0	8.7	1.3
14	Winnipeg (Man.)	14.1	13.8	0.3	Canmore (Alta.)	10.1	8.2	1.9
15	Abbotsford - Mission (B.C.)	14.1	13.2	0.9	Red Deer (Alta.)	10.4	9.8	0.6
16	Moncton (N.B.)	14.6	13.0	1.6	Prince George (B.C.)	11.6	9.5	2.1
17	Montréal (Que.)	14.6	13.6	1.0	Prince Rupert (B.C.)	11.8	10.5	1.3
18	Windsor (Ont.)	14.9	13.8	1.1	Strathmore (Alta.)	12.6	-	
19	London (Ont.)	15.0	13.7	1.3	Estevan (Sask.)	12.6	14.8	-2.2
20	Saint John (N.B.)	15.1	14.6	0.5	Terrace (B.C.)	12.7	10.5	2.2
21	Brantford (Ont.)	15.2	13.9	1.3	Val-d'Or (Que.)	13.1	11.8	1.3
22	Hamilton (Ont.)	16.0	15.1	1.0	Dawson Creek (B.C.)	13.3	11.8	1.5
23	Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury (Ont.)	16.1	14.9	1.2	Brandon (Man.)	13.4	14.6	-1.2
24	Kingston (Ont.)	16.3	14.5	1.8	Prince Albert (Sask.)	13.5	13.6	-0.1
25	Québec (Que.)	16.5	14.4	2.1	Sept-Îles (Que.)	13.7	11.9	1.8
26	Sherbrooke (Que.)	16.7	15.3	1.3	Fredericton (N.B.)	13.7	12.5	1.2
27	Thunder Bay (Ont.)	17.2	16.0	1.2	Williams Lake (B.C.)	13.7	11.4	2.3
28	Saguenay (Que.)	17.5	15.1	2.3	Timmins (Ont.)	13.8	12.7	1.1
29	Victoria (B.C.)	18.4	17.8	0.6	Ingersoll (Ont.)	14.2	13.7	0.5
30	St. Catharines - Niagara (Ont.)	19.2	17.7	1.4	Lethbridge (Alta.)	14.4	14.2	0.2
31	Kelowna (B.C.)	19.2	19.0	0.2	Lacombe (Alta.)	14.4	-	
32	Trois-Rivières (Que.)	19.4	18.2	1.2	Rouyn-Noranda (Que.)	14.8	13.0	1.8
33	Peterborough (Ont.)	19.5	17.0	2.5	Medicine Hat (Alta.)	14.8	14.5	0.3

Source: Statistics Canada