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Profile of the Canadian population by age and sex: Canada ages

This document provides detailed analysis of the 2001 Census population data released July 16, 2002.

To access the complete report, including colour maps, charts, tables and photographs, please consult Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). On the home page, choose Census.



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Canada

Median age reaches all-time high

New census data on age and sex show that as of May 15, 2001, the median age of Canada's population reached an all-time high of 37.6 years, an increase of 2.3 years from 35.3 in 1996. This was the biggest census-to-census increase in a century. Median age is the point where exactly one-half of the population is older, and the other half is younger.

The decline in the number of births that occurred since 1991 is a major factor behind both the record-low growth in population between 1996 and 2001, and the record increase in median age. Had the number of births remained at the 1991 level, the median age would have increased by 1.8 years between 1996 and 2001, an intercensal increase within the range of those observed since 1976.

The nation's median age has been rising steadily since the end of the baby boom in 1966, when it was only 25.4 years.

The increase in the median age is one of many indicators that the nation's population is aging, a development that has implications for the labour force, economy, social services and health-care systems.

Between 1991 and 2001, the population aged 80 and over soared 41% to 932,000. It is expected to increase an additional 43% from 2001 to 2011. By then, it will have surpassed an estimated 1.3 million.

The population aged 45 to 64 increased 36% between 1991 and 2001, due to the entry of the baby boomers into this group. As a result, Canada's working-age population has become more dominated by older individuals.

The 2001 Census showed that seniors aged 65 or over accounted for 13% of the nation's population in 2001, up from almost 12% in 1991. Projections indicate this proportion will reach 15% by 2011. At the other end of the age spectrum, 26% of the population was aged 19 or younger, down from 28% in 1991. If fertility remains low, this could fall to less than 23% by 2011.

Nova Scotia and Quebec were the nation's oldest provinces, each with a median age of 38.8 years. Alberta was the youngest with a median age of 35.0.

Population gain fastest among the oldest

The group to increase at the fastest pace was that aged 80 and over. Between 1991 and 2001, their numbers soared 41.2% to 932,000. The number of people aged 80 or over is expected to increase an additional 43% from 2001 to 2011, during which time it will surpass an estimated 1.3 million.

At the same time, Canada has undergone a substantial decline in the number of children aged four and under. In 2001, the Census counted 1.7 million children in this age group, down 11.0% from 1991, the result mostly of Canada's declining fertility rate. By 2011, this group may decline to an estimated 1.6 million.

These trends started in 1966 at the end of the baby boom when fertility began to drop drastically. Between 1966 and 2001, Canada's total population increased 50% from about 20 million to 30

million. During this 35-year period, the population aged 19 and under declined 8% to 7.7 million, while the population aged 65 and over more than doubled from 1.5 million to 3.9 million.

The proportion of people aged 65 and over will start to increase more rapidly by 2011 when the oldest baby boomers, those born in 1946, reach 65. At the same time, the proportion of those aged 20 to 64 will start to decline, and their median age will stabilize.

Shifts in population size within various age groups have far-reaching social, economic and policy impacts. The number of pre-schoolers, students, workers at the beginning, middle or end of their careers, retirees and so on have a profound effect on labour and housing markets, the demand for products and services, and the policy agenda.

For more details on the population growth and decline of different age groups, see "Shifts in population size of various age groups".

Working-age population increasingly made up of older people

The nation's working-age population is becoming older. In other words, there are more individuals than ever before in the older age brackets of the working-age population, and fewer individuals than ever in the younger brackets.

During the past 10 years, the population aged 45 to 64 in Canada increased 35.8% to almost 7.3 million. This increase was fuelled mainly by the entry into this group of the oldest baby boomers, those individuals born between 1946 and 1965.

People aged 45 to 64 alone accounted for virtually one-quarter of Canada's total population of just over 30 million in 2001, compared with only 20% in 1991. The population of this group is expected to jump a further 30% during the next 10 years to about 9.5 million. In 2011, these individuals are expected to represent almost one-third of the nation's total population.

In 2001, the median age within the core working group (20 to 64) was 41.3 years, up 3.2 years from 38.1 a decade earlier, the biggest increase since 1921. By 2011, this median age is projected to reach 43.7.

Data show that there are fewer young people entering the working-age population to replace individuals in the age group nearing retirement. In 1991, for every person aged 55 to 64, there were 1.6 individuals in the group aged 15 to 24. By 2001, the ratio was down to 1.4, and by 2011, if current demographic trends continue, the potential exists for a parity situation.

Senior men gaining ground on senior women

Overall, as a result of differences in mortality, women outnumbered men slightly in the total population in 2001. The Census counted 14.7 million men and 15.3 million women, a ratio of 96 men for every 100 women. (At birth, the ratio is 105 boys for 100 girls.) The gap between the sexes was most pronounced among seniors aged 65 and over.

However, because of narrowing gender mortality differences, senior men have been regaining some of the ground that they lost to their female counterparts in the four decades between 1951 and 1991.

In 2001, there were 75 senior males for every 100 senior women, up from 72 in 1991. Prior to 1991, the ratio of men to women had been declining steadily since 1951 when it was virtually

one-to-one. Before 1951, senior men had outnumbered their female counterparts, to a great extent because of maternal mortality.

Centenarians: Women outnumber men four to one

The Census enumerated 3,795 people aged 100 and over in 2001 compared with 3,125 in 1996, a 21% increase.

Among these individuals, 3,055 were women and 740 were men. They were distributed among the provinces in just about the same proportions as the total population: 36% lived in Ontario, 21% in Quebec and 14% in British Columbia.

The life expectancy of the generation born in 1901 is estimated at 56 years and the probability of reaching age 100 at a little over 1%. The exceptional longevity of the centenarians enumerated in the 2001 Census is probably due to a combination of genetic predisposition, good environment and healthy lifestyle.

Canada and the G8: Younger than Europe, but older than the United States

Among the G8 nations, Canada's median age is higher than that of the United States and Russia but lower than that of Germany, Japan or Italy. It is about the same as that of France and the United Kingdom. Canada's median age is higher than that of Australia, which is not a G8 member.

Because of its higher fertility rate, the United States is aging somewhat less rapidly than other developed nations. In fact, between 1990 and 2000, the share of its population aged 65 and over actually declined a little. In 1990, 12.6% of the American population was aged 65 and over, compared with 11.6% in 1991 in Canada. Now the situation is reversed. In 2000, 12.3% of the United States population was aged 65 and over, compared with 13.0% in 2001 in Canada.

Because of the impact of Canada's baby boom, and the speed of the decline in fertility at the end of the 1960s, the population of core working ages is older in Canada than in all other G8 countries, except Germany and Japan.

Along with Japan, Canada has the lowest ratio of younger individuals in the workforce (20 to 39) to those aged 40 to 59. In no other G8 country is there such a contrast in the population sizes of the younger to the older population in the core working ages. Hence, there is a need to prepare younger generations for the impact of the retirement of the baby boomers.

Given Canada's current age distribution, overall population aging is unavoidable. While immigration brings additional support to the labour market, it has limited impact on population aging. During the decade between 1981 and 1991, 1.4 million immigrants arrived in Canada. This level almost doubled to 2.2 million between 1991 and 2001. Yet, the median age continued to increase by just about four years during both periods.

With an assumed annual inflow of 225,000 immigrants, the median age is projected to increase by a further 3.4 years between 2001 and 2011. Projections envisaging twice as many immigrants, far above any past level, still indicate an increase of 2.4 years in the median age.

Provinces and territories

East-West split in aging patterns

Generally speaking, there was an east-west split among the provinces in patterns of aging in 2001.

The Atlantic provinces and Quebec had populations older than the Canadian average. Ontario and the western provinces, as well as the territories, had younger populations. The single exception to this general pattern was British Columbia, where the population was relatively older due to the migration of older people.

The median age of all four Atlantic provinces and Quebec, was higher than the median age for the country in 2001. The Atlantic region's older profile is attributable to its recent low fertility and population losses through interprovincial migration. This aging process has occurred fairly rapidly in the Atlantic region. Only a decade ago, the median age of the four Atlantic provinces was lower than the median age of the nation.

Because of lower fertility, the aging process in Quebec has occurred over a somewhat longer period, starting before 1981. Projections suggest that all five provinces will continue to age more rapidly than the rest of Canada in the next 10 years.

With their important Aboriginal communities, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories had, by far, the lowest median age in Canada in 2001, and the highest proportion of their population aged below 20. The median age of Nunavut was 22.1 years, well below the national level of 37.6, while the median age for the Northwest Territories was 30.1. Almost one-half (47%) of Nunavut's population, and 35% of the Northwest Territories, was aged 19 and under, far higher than the national average of 26%. This reflects the high fertility of their populations.

Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were the youngest provinces. The median age of Alberta was 35.0 years; Saskatchewan, 36.7; and Manitoba, 36.8.

The age profile of Manitoba and Saskatchewan is heavily influenced by the high fertility of their Aboriginal populations. Some 13% of the population of both provinces indicated Aboriginal ancestry at the 1996 Census. However, individuals with Aboriginal ancestry made up one-fifth of the population aged 19 and under in both provinces.

Seniors aged 65 or over accounted for only 10% of Alberta's population, lowest among the provinces, and a bare 2% of Nunavut's population, the lowest in Canada.

The two provinces with the oldest populations were Nova Scotia and Quebec, each with a median age of 38.8 years. However, the two with the highest proportions of seniors aged 65 or over were Saskatchewan (15%) and Manitoba (14%).

Generally, the eastern provinces had an older population among those in the core working-age group (20 to 64). The median age of this core working age group in Newfoundland and Labrador was 42.1 years, the highest in Canada. Alberta had the youngest core group among the provinces with a median age of 40.3 years. The median for Nunavut was only 35.4 years.

Aging affects the population of the various age groups at the provincial level as much as it does nationally. The evolution in the size of the pre-school, school, working ages and retired populations, between 1991 and 2001 and between 2001 and 2011, is comparable from one province to another. However, the magnitude depends on the overall population change in each province.

In provinces where the total population growth is lower than the Canadian average, the growth is generally lower in all age groups. In provinces where the total population growth is higher, the growth is generally higher in all age groups.

Women outnumber men in all provinces

Women outnumbered men in all provinces, particularly in the Atlantic. In 2001, Nova Scotia had 468,920 women and 439,090 men, a ratio of only 93.6 men for every 100 women, lowest in Canada. The national average was 96.1 men for every 100 women.

In Alberta, there was virtually one man for every woman.

However, men outnumbered women in all three territories, and the northern regions of most provinces, because of the nature of the labour market and the youthful composition of the population. There were 107.2 men for every 100 women in Nunavut in 2001, the highest ratio in Canada.

Sub-provincial

Striking differences in population age distributions exist at the sub-provincial level. In general, the population living in the nation's northern regions and in most census metropolitan areas had a lower median age than the Canadian average.

Smaller urban centres with core population between 10,000 and 99,999, as well as small town and rural areas, had older populations.

Census metropolitan areas: Victoria no longer the oldest

Victoria, British Columbia, is no longer the oldest of Canada's 27 census metropolitan areas (CMA).

Trois-Rivières, Quebec, was the oldest in 2001 with a median age of 41.2 years, an increase of 3.6 from 1996, third largest increase among metropolitan areas.

Victoria, the oldest up to 1996, became second oldest, with a median age of 41.0 years, up 2.3. St. Catharines-Niagara maintained its position as third oldest with a median of 40.2 years, an increase of 2.6.

Saskatoon kept its rank as the nation's youngest census metropolitan area, with a median age of 34.4 years. It was followed by Calgary, at 34.9, and Kitchener, Ontario, with a median of 35.3. Calgary replaced the census metropolitan area of St. John's in Newfoundland and Labrador, which slipped from second to tenth youngest with a median age of 36.3 years, up 3.0 from 1996.

The largest gain in median age among metropolitan areas was 3.7 years recorded by both Greater Sudbury and Chicoutimi-Jonquière.

The median age of the population of the census metropolitan areas of Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg and Thunder Bay was heavily influenced by the relatively high proportion of their Aboriginal population.

In general, the 19 million people who lived in the 27 metropolitan areas were younger than the people who lived outside them. Overall, the median age of individuals living in CMAs was 37.0 years, compared with 38.8 years for the population in the rest of the country. The national average was 37.6 years.

Twelve metropolitan areas had median ages above the national average of 37.6 years, and 15 were below.

Depending on the fertility and mortality levels, the point where a population has more deaths than births, is generally reached when its median age is between 40 and 45 years.

Inverse relationship between growth and aging

The 2001 Census showed a clear relationship between population growth and population aging. Census metropolitan areas that had the largest growth in population did so by attracting relatively young migrants. Most of these migrants were aged between 20 and 39, and many had children.

In general among census metropolitan areas, the faster the population growth, the lower the increase in median age.

Between 1996 and 2001, 10 census metropolitan areas had an increase in population of at least 6%: Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Abbotsford, Toronto, Oshawa, Kitchener, Hamilton, Ottawa-Hull and Windsor. These metropolitan regions aged only 2.2 years at most.

On the other hand, six census metropolitan areas declined in population, and had a growth in median age of at least 2.8 years: Greater Sudbury, Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Trois-Rivières, Thunder Bay, Saint John, N.B., and St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

The polarization in growth induces a certain polarization in population aging. In 1996, the gap in median age between the oldest and youngest census metropolitan areas was 6.0 years. By 2001, this gap had increased to 6.8 years.

Four large urban regions: Two relatively young, two relatively old

As reported in the census release of March 12, 2002, four major urban regions account for a large and growing proportion of the nation's population, from a demographic point of view. These regions are: Ontario's extended Golden Horseshoe; Montréal and the adjacent region; British Columbia's Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island; and the Calgary-Edmonton corridor.

In 2001, these regions had 15.3 million people and accounted for 51% of the national total.

Altogether, the population of these four regions increased 7.6% between 1996 and 2001. During the same period, the median age of their combined population increased 1.8 years from 35.2 years to 37.0. In contrast, the population outside these four regions increased only 0.5%. The median age of this population rose 2.9 years from 35.5 years to 38.3.

Put another way, the gap in median age between the four main urban regions and the rest of the country rose from 0.3 years in 1996 to 1.3 years in 2001.

Two of these regions had relatively young populations: the Calgary-Edmonton corridor with a median age of 35.2 years, and the extended Golden Horseshoe with a median age of 36.4 years. Both were below the national average of 37.6 years.

The other two had somewhat older populations: Montréal and adjacent region, and the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island, both with a median age of 38.1.

- **Calgary-Edmonton corridor**

Among the four main urban regions, the Calgary-Edmonton corridor had the biggest increase in population between 1996 and 2001, and had the youngest population which aged the least.

However, the population was older in the Calgary-Edmonton corridor than in the rest of Alberta. The median age in the Calgary-Edmonton corridor increased only 1.5 years from 33.7 to 35.2. In the rest of the province, it increased 1.9 years from 32.6 to 34.5.

The Calgary-Edmonton corridor encompasses some 100 municipalities, although 72% of its population is concentrated in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton. In Calgary, the median age was 34.8 years, and in Edmonton, 35.3. Red Deer, the third largest city, had a median of 33.1.

Other municipalities in the corridor with populations of 5,000 or more also had relatively young populations. This was the case for Airdrie (31.9 years); Okotoks (32.3); and Sylvan Lake (31.6).

The latter two were among the 25 fastest growing municipalities in Canada between 1996 and 2001.

The 25 municipalities that had a population with a median age above 41 were mostly very small villages. Their combined population reached only 5,300.

- **Extended Golden Horseshoe**

The extended Golden Horseshoe consists of five census metropolitan areas and two urban centres with core population between 10,000 and 99,999. The 6.1 million people who lived in this region were considerably younger, about two years, than the population in the rest of Ontario.

In 2001, the median age within the Golden Horseshoe was 36.4 years, an increase of 1.7 years from 34.8 in 1996. In contrast, the median age of the population in the rest of Ontario was 38.4 years, up 2.5 from 35.9 in 1996.

The census metropolitan area with the youngest population was Kitchener at 35.3 years. The oldest was St. Catharines-Niagara at 40.2. The census metropolitan area of Toronto had a median age of 36.2.

The municipalities of Vaughan, Brampton and Barrie, the populations of which increased more than 20% between 1996 and 2001, had relatively young populations. All had median ages below 34.2 years, well below the national average of 37.6. The population of Mississauga had a median age of 35.0.

The four municipalities with the oldest populations were Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Colborne and Pelham in the census metropolitan area of St. Catharines-Niagara, and the rural municipality of Puslinch, near Guelph. Their median ages were all above 41 years.

- **Montréal and adjacent region**

Montréal and adjacent region had a younger population in 2001 than the rest of Quebec, and the gap between the two widened from 0.2 years in 1996 to 1.5 in 2001.

Between 1996 and 2001, the median age of this urban region increased 2.0 years from 36.1 years to 38.1. At the same time, the median age of the population in the rest of the province of Quebec increased 3.3 years from 36.3 to 39.6.

The median ages of the six urban centres adjacent to the census metropolitan area of Montréal, Joliette, Lachute, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Saint-Hyacinthe and Sorel-Tracy, were all older than the median age for the CMA, which was 37.9.

The population was also quite old in some of the oldest and most affluent suburbs of Montréal, such as Côte-Saint-Luc (50.5 years), Saint-Lambert (46.9), Senneville (45.3), Hudson (44.7) and Westmount (44.6).

The newest suburbs that grew the most in population had the youngest median age. These included Varennes, Saint-Amable, Sainte-Julie, Saint-Constant and Otterburn Park on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, as well as Lachenaie, Blainville, Saint-Colomban and Mirabel, on the north shore.

- **Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island**

In 1996, the population of the urban area consisting of the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island was slightly older than that in the rest of the province. Five years later, the urban area's population was younger.

The median age of the urban region increased 2.1 years from 36.0 years in 1996 to 38.1 in 2001. At the same time, the median age of population in the rest of British Columbia increased 3.4 years from 35.8 to 39.2.

There was a sharp five-year difference in the median age of the population between the Lower Mainland, which was 37.8 years, and southern Vancouver Island, which was 42.8. On southern Vancouver Island, the median age of the population of the census metropolitan area of Victoria was 41.0 years, second highest in Canada. The urban centres of Nanaimo had a median age of 40.5; Duncan, 41.1; and Parksville, 52.2.

On the Lower Mainland, the census metropolitan area of Vancouver had a median age of 37.4 years, and the new census metropolitan area of Abbotsford, 35.4.

Rural and small town areas

The median age of the population living in rural and small town areas was 39.0 years, higher than in census metropolitan areas where it was 37.0 years. It increased 3.5 years between 1996 and 2001, compared with 1.8 among census metropolitan areas.

One extreme was Newfoundland and Labrador. As young people left the countryside, the province's rural and small town areas declined 11% in population between 1996 and 2001. At the same time, the median age of its population increased 5.4 years in just five years to 39.5.

The median age of the population of the rural and small town areas increased the least in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, in large part, because of the high fertility of their Aboriginal populations.

The contrast in the median age between the population living in census metropolitan areas and the population living in rural and small town areas was above three years in three provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. This was likely the result of the migration of young people from the countryside into metropolitan areas.

Only in Manitoba, is the population younger in the rural and small town areas than in the only census metropolitan area of the province, Winnipeg.

Within rural and small town areas, the youngest populations were those living in the most remote areas and those living closest to the large urban centres: the former partly because of the high proportion of Aboriginal population, the latter because it is simply the next layer of young suburbs in the course of development.

Suburban population aging more rapidly

The 2001 Census showed that, during the past five years, the population of suburban municipalities has aged at a faster rate than the population of the core municipalities.

Between 1996 and 2001, the median age of the population of the core municipalities of the census metropolitan areas globally increased 1.7 years, from 35.2 years to 36.9. At the same time, the median age of the population in the suburban municipalities increased 2.2 years from 35.0 years to 37.2. The median age was, therefore, just slightly higher in 2001 in the suburban municipalities than in the core municipalities.

One explanation for this phenomenon is that, while migrants renew the population of many core municipalities, in several of the oldest suburbs, children have left home, leaving behind aging parents.

In 2001, the median age of the population was significantly higher in a third of the main suburban municipalities than in the core municipalities of the 27 census metropolitan areas. This was 1.5 times the proportion of only a fifth in 1996.

However, the population of a fair proportion of generally more remote suburbs is young and growing rapidly.

Municipalities with the youngest median age and those with the oldest

Among municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more, 13 of the 25 youngest were in Alberta, underscoring the youthful profile of the province. The capital cities of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories are also on the list.

The municipality with the youngest population was Mackenzie No. 23 in Alberta's extreme north, with a median age of 22.0 years, far below the provincial average of 35.0. Many of the youngest municipalities are located in remote areas.

Many of these municipalities were in booming resource-based regions, such as Slave Lake, Alta., with a median age of 28.1. Two municipalities, Oromocto, N.B., and Petawawa, Ont., owe their young median age to military bases. The ski resort towns of Banff, Alta., and Whistler, B.C., were also on the list.

Many of these municipalities, notably Iqaluit in Nunavut and Whistler, B.C., are growing rapidly in population.

Eleven of these 25 municipalities had populations with 10% or more who were Aboriginal, according to the 1996 Census, underscoring the youthful profile of the Aboriginal population.

Among the 25 youngest municipalities, seven were also on the list of municipalities where there were predominantly more men than women: Oromocto, N.B., Whistler, B.C., Iqaluit, as well as the Alberta municipalities of Taber, Brooks, Whitecourt and Wood Buffalo.

Fourteen of the 25 municipalities which had predominantly more men than women were in Alberta, and 16 are in resource-based areas. In Quebec, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue owes its high ratio of men to women to the veterans' hospital, while in Port-Cartier and Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, this high ratio is due to local prisons.

All 25 oldest municipalities were in British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario, the three largest provinces. Thirteen of these oldest municipalities were on southern Vancouver Island and in the Okanagan Valley. Many are suburbs.

Heading the list was the town of Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island with a median age of 58.1 years, well above the provincial average of 38.4. It was followed by White Rock, a municipality in the census metropolitan area of Vancouver, at 50.9.

The oldest municipality in Quebec was Côte-Saint-Luc with a median age of 50.5 years. The oldest in Ontario was the former resource town, now retirement centre, of Elliot Lake, with a median of 49.4.

Many of the oldest municipalities are either declining in population or growing very slowly, with the exception of some growing cottage areas: Lac Brome, Que.; Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.; and Parksville and White Rock, B.C.

Because women comprise the majority of the elderly population, seven of the oldest municipalities were also on the list of the 25 municipalities where there were predominantly more women than men. These are: the Quebec municipalities of Sillery, Shawinigan, Saint-Lambert and Côte-Saint-Luc, as well as the British Columbia municipalities of White Rock, Sidney and Oak Bay. Sillery, Quebec, has a high proportion of its population living in old-age institutions, as well as large religious communities.

Methodological notes

One of the goals of every census is to enumerate the entire population on Census Day. Inevitably, however, a number of people are not counted for various reasons. On the other hand, a small number of people may be counted twice.

To determine how many individuals were missed or counted twice, Statistics Canada conducts post-censal coverage studies of a representative sample of individuals. The results of these studies will be available in the spring of 2003.

However, the experience from past censuses shows that young adults, particularly males, are missed in higher proportions. For instance, it is estimated that 8.2% of males and 4.2% of females in the 25-29 age group were missed in the 1996 Census, compared with an overall undercoverage rate of 3.4% for males and 1.9% for females. This implies that population aging appears a little more pronounced than it really is when measured using census data.

Given that a number of Indian reserves are incompletely enumerated, the undercoverage is also higher for the Aboriginal than the non-Aboriginal population. Given the youthful profile of the Aboriginal population, this is a second factor why population aging appears a little more pronounced than it really is when measured using census data.

In 1996, the median age of the population was 0.2 years lower after adjustment for net undercount.

Shifts in the population size of various age groups

The size of the population at a given age on a given date depends essentially on the size of the corresponding birth groups. The most famous is the baby boom group, that is, people born between 1946 and 1965. Baby boomers were aged between 36 and 55 at the 2001 Census. At 9.4 million in 2001, they represent nearly one-third of the total population.

The following table identifies several birth cohorts that put into perspective population changes by age group that occurred between 1991 and 2001. Projections to 2011 are based on a continuation of current trends.

Cohort	Year of birth	Age in 2001	Average number of births per year	Size
Pre-WW1	Before 1914	88+	201,000	Relatively small
WW1	1914-1919	82-87	244,000	Relatively small
1920s	1920-1929	72-81	249,000	Relatively large
Depression	1930-1939	62-71	236,000	Relatively small
WW2	1940-1945	56-61	280,000	Relatively large
Baby boom	1946-1965	36-55	426,000	Very large
Baby bust	1966-1979	22-35	362,000	Relatively small
Children of the boomers	1980-1995	6-21	382,000	Relatively large
Children of the baby bust cohorts	1996 on	0-5	344,000	Relatively small

It is the passage of the above cohorts through different ages that determines the size of the population at these ages. The following paragraphs describe the growth and decline of the population of different age groups, as the birth cohorts move in and out of them.

The **pre-school** population, aged 0 to 4, declined 11% from 1.9 million in 1991 to 1.7 million in 2001, as the children of the baby boomers were replaced by the children of the baby bust cohorts. If fertility remains constant, the pre-school population could decline a further 3% in the next decade to just over 1.6 million in 2011. At that point, it could start to increase again as the children of the boomers start to have children of their own.

The **kindergarten and elementary school** population, aged 5 to 12, rose 6% between 1991 and 2001 to 3.2 million. However, it is expected to decline 14% in the next decade, as the relatively small cohorts of baby bust children replace the relatively large cohorts of baby boomers' children.

The population in **high schools, colleges and universities**, aged 13 to 24, increased from almost 4.6 million in 1991 to more than 4.8 million in 2001, as the baby bust cohorts graduated and were replaced by the more numerous cohorts of the baby boomers' children. The population of this group is expected to increase a little over the next decade, as the cohorts of baby boomers' children will still be studying at these education levels.

The population in the **younger working-age groups**, aged 25 to 34, declined 18% between 1991 and 2001 to below 4 million, as the tail end of the baby boomers was replaced by the much smaller baby bust generation. Projections show that by 2011, it could increase a little (4%) with the arrival of the first generations of the baby boomers' children.

The **mid-career** population, aged 35 to 44, increased 17% to 5.1 million, as the larger generations of the end of the baby boom replaced the smaller ones of the beginning of the boom.

However, the population is projected to decline 12% between 2001 and 2011, as these large generations will themselves be replaced by the small cohorts of the baby bust.

The **older working-age** population, aged 45 to 64, incurred the second largest percentage increase (36%) of any age group between 1991 and 2001, soaring from 5.4 million to almost 7.3 million. During the next decade, it is expected to increase an additional 30% to 9.5 million. The birth cohorts in this age group in 1991 were the relatively small ones born during the Depression of the 1930s and the Second World War. In 2001, they were the individuals born during the Second World War and the first half of the baby boom. In 2011, they will be the cohorts of baby boom.

The population of **young retirees**, aged 65 to 69, grew 6% to just over 1.1 million between 1991 and 2001. However, it is expected to soar 31% between 2001 and 2011, when the relatively small cohorts born during the Depression will be replaced by the comparatively large cohorts born during the Second World War.

The population aged **in the seventies** grew 27% between 1991 and 2001 to more than 1.8 million, as the relatively large cohorts born in the 1920s entered this age group, replacing the smaller cohorts born during the First World War. However, since these relatively large cohorts will be replaced during the next decade by the smaller cohorts born during the Depression, the population in this age group is expected to increase only slightly by 2011.

Finally, the **oldest** population, aged 80 and over, the fastest-growing age group, incurred the largest percentage increase between 1991 and 2001, soaring 41% to about 932,000. During the next decade, their population is expected to jump another 43% to 1.3 million. Cohorts born before the First World War were replaced by the larger cohorts born during the war who will, in turn, be replaced by the larger cohorts born during the 1920s. Part of the increase in this age group is due to gains in life expectancy.

Provincial and territorial highlights

Newfoundland and Labrador: Fastest pace in population aging

Newfoundland and Labrador experienced the nation's biggest decline in the population of children and young people during the past 10 years, according to the 2001 Census.

Between 1991 and 2001, the number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 33%, from 37,240 to 24,815, three times the rate of decline at the national level. There were similar decreases among elementary school children aged 5 to 12 (-30%), and among young people aged 13 to 24 (-28%).

The biggest increase in any age group occurred among individuals aged 80 and over, whose population rose 41% from 10,595 to 14,970.

In 1991, there were 2.4 young people aged 15 to 24, who were about to enter the workforce, for every individual aged 55 to 64, preparing for retirement. By 2001, this ratio had narrowed to 1.4 young people.

The province's working-age population is increasingly made up of older individuals. The number aged 25 to 34 entering the working-age population declined 30% during the past 10 years. At the same time, the population aged 45 to 64 rose 37%. This group is projected to gain another 22% by 2011.

The main factors in these shifts were a very low fertility (the lowest in the country) and the most negative net interprovincial migration.

The population of Newfoundland and Labrador has also grown older. As of May 15, 2001, the median age of the province was 38.4 years, up 7.6 years from 30.8 in 1991. This was the province's biggest 10-year increase in median age, and the biggest ever in the country.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 25% of Newfoundland and Labrador's population; those aged 20 to 64 made up 63%; and seniors aged 65 and over made up 12%.

The 2001 Census counted 261,970 women and 250,960 men in Newfoundland and Labrador. Of these, 50 were aged 100 and over.

In 1996, St. John's had the second youngest population among census metropolitan areas, with a median age of 33.3 years. By 2001, Calgary had replaced St. John's as the second youngest, and St. John's had slipped to tenth. In both 1996 and 2001, Saskatoon had the youngest population.

During this five-year period, the median age of the population of St. John's increased a relatively rapid 3.0 years. Even so, it had a relatively young population compared with the rest of the province. The median age in St. John's was 36.3 years, compared with 39.5 years outside the metropolitan area, a difference of 3.2 years.

Prince Edward Island: Record increase in median age

The median age of the population of Prince Edward Island increased from 32.8 years in 1991 to 37.7 in 2001, a record 4.9 years, taking it to just above the national average, according to the 2001 Census. The national average was 37.6 years.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 27% of Prince Edward Island's population; individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 59%; and seniors aged 65 and over made up 14%.

There were some significant shifts among some age groups during the past decade. For example, the number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 21% from 9,495 to 7,555.

The province's working-age population is increasingly made up of older individuals. The number of individuals aged 25 to 34 entering the working-age population declined 20% during the past 10 years. At the same time, the population aged 45 to 64 rose 40%, a relatively high increase in Canada in this age group.

In addition, the number of elderly people aged 80 and over rose 22% from 4,205 to 5,145.

The 2001 Census counted 69,540 women and 65,750 men in Prince Edward Island, a ratio of 94.5 men per 100 women, the second lowest in the country after Nova Scotia. Of these, around 35 were aged 100 and over.

Nova Scotia: Lowest ratio of men to women in Canada

Nova Scotia had the nation's lowest ratio of men to women, according to the 2001 Census.

The Census counted 439,090 men and 468,920 women in Nova Scotia. Put another way, for every 100 women, there were 93.6 men, compared with the national average of 96.1

Nova Scotia was also one of the two provinces in the nation with the oldest population. Between 1991 and 2001, the median age of the province's population grew 5.4 years from 33.4 years to 38.8, the province's highest 10-year growth in median age this century. The median age of Quebec's population was also 38.8 years. The national average was 37.6.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 25% of Nova Scotia's population; individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 61%; and seniors aged 65 and over made up 14%.

There were significant shifts among some age groups during the past decade. For example, the number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 22% from 60,970 to 47,455. There were also declines in the population of children aged five to 12 (-6%), and the population of high school and university aged students aged 13 to 24 (-10%).

The number of elderly people aged 80 and over rose 38% from 24,825 to 34,235. This population is projected to increase another 18% in the next decade.

In addition, the province's working-age population is becoming more dominated by older individuals. The number aged 25 to 34 in the young working ages declined 26% during the past 10 years. At the same time, the population aged 45 to 64 in the older working ages rose 35%. This population is expected to increase another 25% by 2011.

Nova Scotia had 145 women and 20 men aged 100 and over in 2001.

The 2001 Census showed that the census metropolitan area of Halifax had a relatively young population compared with the rest of the province. The median age in Halifax was 36.6 years, compared with 40.3 years outside the metropolitan area, a sharp difference of 3.7 years. This makes Halifax a relatively young census metropolitan area in an old province.

The population of Halifax increased 4.7% between 1996 and 2001, strengthening its position as the major urban centre of Atlantic Canada.

New Brunswick: One of the oldest populations

New Brunswick had one of the oldest populations among the provinces, according to the 2001 Census.

Between 1991 and 2001, the median age of the province's population grew 5.4 years from 33.2 years to 38.6, the province's highest 10-year growth in median age this century. This was just short of the nation's highest median age of 38.8 years in both Nova Scotia and Quebec.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 25% of New Brunswick's population; individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 62%; and seniors aged 65 or over made up 14%.

The Census showed significant declines in the province's population of children and young people during the past decade. The number of pre-school children aged four and under fell 20% from 47,365 to 37,690.

In addition, the population of school children aged 5 to 12 declined 11%, while the number of young people of high school and college age (13 to 24) dropped 12%. Similar declines are projected for the pre-school and high school and college population for the next decade. The elementary school population is projected to decline twice as fast during the decade from 2001 to 2011, compared with the last 10 years.

The number of elderly people aged 80 and over rose 35% from 19,325 to 26,050. The population of this group of seniors is projected to rise another 24% by 2011.

In 1991, there were 1.9 young people aged 15 to 24, who were about to enter the workforce, for every person aged 55 to 64 preparing for retirement. By 2001, this ratio had narrowed to 1.3 young people.

In addition, the province's working-age population is becoming more dominated by older individuals. The number of people aged 25 to 34 in the young working-age population declined

23% during the past 10 years. At the same time, the population aged 45 to 64 in the oldest working ages rose 38%. This population is expected to increase another 24% by 2011.

The 2001 Census counted 372,790 women and 356,705 men in New Brunswick. Of these, 110 women and 30 men were aged 100 and over.

The population of the census metropolitan area of Saint John had a median age of 37.9 years, just above the national average of 37.6. The median of the population was lower in the urban centre of Fredericton (36.6) than in Saint John. It was 37.8 in the urban centre of Moncton.

Quebec: One of two provinces with the oldest population

Quebec was one of the two provinces with the oldest population, according to the 2001 Census.

Between 1991 and 2001, the median age of Quebec's population grew 4.6 years from 34.2 years to 38.8, the province's highest 10-year growth in median age this century, just barely faster than the 4.5-year increase of the previous decade. The median age of Nova Scotia's population was also 38.8 years in 2001.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for only 24% of Quebec's population, the lowest proportion in Canada; individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 63%; and seniors aged 65 and over made up 13%.

The Census showed significant shifts among some age groups during the past 10 years. For example, the number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 16% from 445,340 to 375,765.

The number of elderly people aged 80 and over in Quebec rose 42%, from 151,655 to 215,000. This population is projected to increase another 46% in the next decade.

The province's working age population is increasingly made up of older people. The number of individuals aged 25 to 34 in the young working-age population declined 26% during the past 10 years. Meanwhile, the population aged 45 to 64 in the oldest working ages increased 29%. This group is expected to gain another 21% by 2011.

The 2001 Census counted 3,704,635 women and 3,532,845 men in Quebec. Of these, 660 women and 130 men were aged 100 and over.

The Census also showed that Trois-Rivières had the oldest population among the nation's 27 census metropolitan areas, taking over that spot from Victoria, B.C. Trois-Rivières became the oldest with a median age of 41.2 years, an increase of 3.6 years from 1996, the third biggest gain in the country after Greater Sudbury, Ont., and Chicoutimi-Jonquière.

The median age of the population of each census metropolitan area in Quebec was above the national average of 37.6 years, except the Quebec part of Ottawa-Hull (36.5). With an increase in median age of only 1.9 years, the population of the census metropolitan area of Montréal aged the slowest in the last five years. Its median age was 37.9 years.

In addition, six of the 25 oldest municipalities with populations of 5,000 or more were in Quebec. The municipality with the oldest population was Côte-Saint-Luc with a median age of 50.5 years.

Ontario: Lowest increase in median age

The median age of Ontario's population increased 3.6 years during the past decade, the slowest gain among provinces and territories. Ontario had a population slightly younger than the national average, according to the 2001 Census.

Between 1991 and 2001, Ontario's median age grew from 33.6 years to 37.2, the province's highest 10-year gain this century. The national average was 37.6 years.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 26% of Ontario's population; individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 61%; and seniors aged 65 and over made up 13%.

There were substantial increases among the elderly. The population in the age group 70 to 79 rose 33% to 701,085, while the number of people aged 80 and over increased 39% to 340,205. This latter age group is expected to gain another 49% during the next 10 years.

On the other hand, the number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 5% from 707,595 to 671,250. This is the smallest decline for this population among the provinces.

In 1991, there were 1.6 young people aged 15 to 24 about to enter the workforce in Ontario for every person aged 55 to 64, who were preparing for retirement. In 2001, that ratio had narrowed to 1.4.

The province's working-age population is increasingly made up of older individuals. The number aged 25 to 34, the young working-age population, declined 14% during the past 10 years. At the same time, the population aged 45 to 64, the oldest working-age group, rose 34%. This latter group is projected to increase another 34% in the next 10 years.

The 2001 Census counted 5,832,990 women and 5,577,055 men in Ontario. Of these, 1,110 women and 270 men were aged 100 and over.

St. Catharines-Niagara kept its ranking as the third oldest of the nation's 27 census metropolitan areas, with a median age of 40.2 years, an increase of 2.6 since 1996. Kitchener was third youngest, with a median of 35.3 years. The median age of the population of Toronto was 36.2 years, an increase of 1.6 years since 1996.

The median age of the population in the extended Golden Horseshoe (36.4 years) was two years lower than in the rest of the province.

The largest gain in median age among all census metropolitan areas between 1996 and 2001 was 3.7 years recorded by both Greater Sudbury and Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Que.

In addition, six of the 25 oldest municipalities with populations of 5,000 or more were in Ontario. The Ontario municipality with the oldest population was the retirement town of Elliot Lake, with a median of 49.4 years.

Manitoba: Record increase in median age

The median age of Manitoba's population increased a record 3.8 years during the past decade, from 33.0 years to 36.8, the province's highest 10-year growth this century. However, it was still lower than the national average of 37.6 years, according to the 2001 Census.

Manitoba's age profile is heavily influenced by the high fertility of the Aboriginal population. The median age of the non-Aboriginal population in Manitoba would be 38.6 years, a year older than the Canadian average.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 28% of Manitoba's population; individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 58%; and seniors aged 65 and over made up 14%.

The Census showed significant shifts among various age groups during the past decade. For example, the number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 14% from 82,135 to 70,670.

There were also substantial increases among the elderly. The number of people aged 80 and over increased 30% from 34,025 to 44,205. This latter age group is expected to gain another 20% during the next 10 years.

Manitoba's working-age population is increasingly made up of older individuals. The number aged 25 to 34, the young working-age population, declined 22% during the past 10 years. At the same time, the population aged 45 to 64, the oldest working-age group, rose 28%. This latter group is projected to increase another 24% in the next 10 years.

The 2001 Census counted 569,985 women and 549,600 men in Manitoba. Of these, 170 women and 45 men were aged 100 and over.

Saskatchewan: Record increase in median age

The median age of Saskatchewan's population increased a record 4.1 years during the past decade, but it was still younger than the national average of 37.6 years, according to the 2001 Census.

Between 1991 and 2001, it grew from 32.6 years to 36.7, the province's highest 10-year gain this century. The national average was 37.6 years.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 29% of Saskatchewan's population, the highest level among the provinces. Individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 56%, the lowest percentage among the provinces, while seniors aged 65 and over made up 15%, also highest among the provinces.

The Census showed significant shifts among various age groups during the past decade. For example, the number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 22% from 78,170 to 60,940. The population of school children aged 5 to 12 fell 10%, and this group is expected to decline a further 23% in the next 10 years.

There were also substantial increases among the elderly in Saskatchewan. The population of the group aged 80 and over increased 32% from 33,345 to 44,155. Projections show that this group can expect to gain another 18% by 2011.

The Census showed the province's working-age population is increasingly made up of older individuals. The number aged 25 to 34, the youngest working-age population, declined 27% during the past 10 years. At the same time, the population aged 45 to 64, the oldest working-age group, rose 22%. This latter group is projected to increase another 26% in the next decade.

The 2001 Census counted 497,185 women and 481,750 men in Saskatchewan. Of these, 140 women and 50 men were aged 100 and over.

Saskatoon had the youngest population among the nation's 27 census metropolitan areas in 2001, with a median age of only 34.4 years. With a median age of 35.9 years, Regina ranked seventh youngest.

The median age of the combined populations of Regina and Saskatoon was 35.1 years, compared with 38.5 years for the population in the rest of the province.

Alberta: The youngest province

Alberta, which had Canada's highest census-to-census growth rate in population, was also the nation's youngest province, according to the 2001 Census.

Between 1991 and 2001, the median age of Alberta's population increased 3.7 years from 31.3 years to 35.0, the province's highest 10-year growth this century. This was well below the national average of 37.6 years.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

Alberta was also the only province where the ratio of men to women was virtually equal. The Census counted 1,488,220 women and 1,486,590 men.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 28% of Alberta's population, while individuals aged 20 to 64 made up almost 62%. However, seniors aged 65 and over accounted for only 10%, the lowest proportion of any province.

The population of every age group in Alberta increased between 1991 and 2001, except for two. The number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 10% from 207,585 to 186,435. In addition, the number aged 25 to 34, the young working-age population, declined 12%.

There were also substantial increases among the elderly in Alberta. The population of the age group 70 to 79 rose 37% to 142,365, while the number of individuals aged 80 and over increased 50% to 73,225. Projections show this latter group can expect to rise another 54% by 2011.

As in other provinces, Alberta's working-age population is increasingly made up of older individuals. During the past decade, the population aged 45 to 64, the oldest working-age group, soared 51%, and is projected to gain another 38% by 2011.

The Census counted 230 women and 65 men aged 100 and over in Alberta.

Calgary replaced the census metropolitan area of St. John's in Newfoundland and Labrador as the nation's second youngest metropolitan area. Calgary had a median age of 34.9 years, almost on par with the provincial average of 35.0. The population of Edmonton had a median age of 35.4 years, fifth youngest in Canada.

Among municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more, 14 of the 25 youngest were in Alberta. The municipality with the youngest population was Mackenzie No. 23, with a median age of 22.0. The ski resort town of Banff was also one of the youngest. Alberta's rural and small town areas are the youngest among the provinces.

British Columbia: One of the oldest provinces

British Columbia had one of the highest median ages in the nation, according to the 2001 Census.

Between 1991 and 2001, the median age of British Columbia's population increased 3.7 years from 34.7 years to 38.4. This was just short of the nation's highest median age of 38.8 years in both Nova Scotia and Quebec.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 25% of British Columbia's population; individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 61%; and seniors aged 65 and over made up 14%.

The population of every age group in British Columbia increased between 1991 and 2001, except for two. The number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 7% from 220,830 to 205,655, and the number aged 25 to 34 declined 8%.

On the other hand, British Columbia experienced substantial increases in its oldest working-age population, and large increases among the elderly.

The population aged 45 to 64 soared 49%, and is projected to gain another 35% by 2011.

Among seniors, the population aged 70 to 79 increased 27% to 248,130. The number aged 80 and over soared from 87,065 to 134,175 a 54% increase, the highest such growth among the provinces. According to projections, this latter group can expect to gain another 43% by 2011.

The 2001 Census counted 1,988,635 women and 1,919,100 men in British Columbia. Of these, 410 women and 115 men were aged 100 and over.

In 2001, the census metropolitan area of Victoria no longer had the oldest population among the nation's 27 largest metropolitan areas. Trois-Rivières, Que., moved into that spot with a median age of 41.2 years. Victoria is now second, with a median age of 41.0 years, up 2.3 years from 1996. The median age of Vancouver's population was 37.4 years.

The median age of the population of the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island increased 2.1 years, from 36.0 years in 1996 to 38.1 years in 2001. There was a sharp five-year difference in the median age of the population between the Lower Mainland, which was 37.8 years, and southern Vancouver Island, which was 42.8 years.

Among municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more, 13 of the 25 oldest were in British Columbia. Heading the list was the town of Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island with a median age of 58.1 years, well above the provincial average of 38.4 years. It was followed by White Rock, at 50.9.

Yukon: Record increase in median age

The median age of Yukon's population increased a record 5.1 years during the past decade, but it was still younger than the national average, according to the 2001 Census.

Between 1991 and 2001, it grew from 31.0 years to 36.1, the territory's highest 10-year growth this century. The national average was 37.6 years.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 29% of Yukon's population, while individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 65%, the highest in the country. On the other hand, seniors aged 65 and over accounted for only 6%.

The Census showed significant shifts among various age groups during the past decade. For example, the number of pre-school children aged four and under declined 30% from 2,415 to 1,695. The population of school children aged 5 to 12 fell 8% from 3,685 to 3,410. This latter group is expected to decline a further 28% in the next 10 years.

Yukon experienced hefty increases among the elderly population, which remained relatively small in absolute terms. The population of seniors aged 70 to 79 rose 55% to 740, while the population aged 80 and over soared 86% to 300. The population of this latter group is expected to gain another 71% by 2011.

In 1991, there were 2.4 young people aged 15 to 24 about to enter the workforce in Yukon for every person aged 55 to 64, preparing for retirement. By 2001, this ratio had narrowed to 1.6 young people.

The territory's working-age population is increasingly made up of older individuals. The number aged 25 to 34, the youngest working-age population, declined 32% during the past 10 years. At the same time, the population aged 45 to 64, the oldest working-age group, rose 60%. This latter group is projected to increase another 18% by 2011.

The three territories were the only jurisdictions in Canada in which men outnumbered women. In Yukon, the 2001 Census counted 14,440 men and 14,230 women, for a ratio of 101.5 men for every 100 women. This is the lowest ratio of men to women ever for Yukon.

Northwest Territories: Second youngest population in Canada

The population of the Northwest Territories was the second youngest in Canada, according to the 2001 Census.

The median age of the population as of May 15, 2001, was 30.1 years, much younger than the national average of 37.6. It was second only to that of Nunavut, which was 22.1 years.

Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger. An increase is one of many indicators that the country's population is aging. An aging population has implications for Canada's labour force, economy, social services and health care systems.

In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 35% of the Northwest Territories' population, while individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 61%. On the other hand, seniors aged 65 and over accounted for only 4%.

According to projections, during the next 10 years the population of the Northwest Territories is expected to increase 9.7% from 37,360 to 40,980. However, this will be accompanied by far greater swings among various age groups.

For example, the population of school children aged 5 to 12 is expected to decline 24% from 5,750 in 2001 to about 4,400 by 2011.

In addition, the working-age population is expected to become increasingly made up of older individuals. The number aged 45 to 64 is expected to soar almost 48% from 7,110 to about 10,500.

The Northwest Territories will also have far more seniors in a decade. The population aged 65 and over is expected to soar 61% from 1,635 in 2001 to more than 2,600 in 2011.

The three territories were the only jurisdictions in Canada in which men outnumbered women. In the Northwest Territories, the Census counted 19,115 men and 18,245 women, for a ratio of 104.8 men for every 100 women.

Nunavut: Youngest population in Canada

The population of the territory of Nunavut was by far the youngest in Canada, according to the 2001 Census. This is explained, in large part, by its high fertility.

Nunavut's median age as of May 15, 2001, was 22.1 years, much younger than the national average of 37.6. Median age is the point where exactly one half of the population is older, and the other half is younger.

Because of high fertility, the age distribution is completely different in Nunavut than in the rest of Canada. In 2001, young people aged 19 and under accounted for 47% of Nunavut's population, while individuals aged 20 to 64 made up 51%. On the other hand, seniors aged 65 and over accounted for only 2%. At the national level, 26% of the population is aged 19 and under, 61% is aged 20 to 64 and 13% is aged 65 and over.

According to projections, during the next 10 years, Nunavut's population is expected to increase 17% from 26,745 to 31,300. However, this will be accompanied by far greater swings among various age groups.

For example, the population of school children aged five to 12 is expected to decline 22% from 5,370 to about 4,185 by 2011.

In addition, the working-age population is expected to become more dominated by older individuals. The number of people aged 45 to 64 is expected to soar 68% from 3,545 to 5,950.

Nunavut will also have far more seniors in a decade. Their population is expected to almost double from 600 last year to almost 1,150 by 2011. Still, seniors will represent only about 4% of the territory's population.

The three territories were the only jurisdictions in Canada in which men outnumbered women. In Nunavut, the Census counted 13,840 men and 12,910 women, for a ratio of 107.2 men for every 100 women, highest in Canada.

The median age of Iqaluit's population was 28.3 years. Among municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more, it was seventh youngest.

Median age and men-to-women ratio, Canada, 1901-2011

	Median age total population	Median age working-age population	Men per 100 women among seniors aged 65 or over
	(in yrs)	(in yrs)	
1901	22.7	35.5	105
1911	23.8	34.7	104
1921	23.9	36.6	105
1931	24.7	37.4	105
1941	27.0	37.3	104
1951	27.7	37.7	103
1956	27.2	38.0	100
1961	26.3	38.7	94
1966	25.4	39.2	87
1971	26.2	38.5	81
1976	27.8	37.2	78
1981	29.6	36.5	75
1986	31.6	37.1	72
1991	33.5	38.1	72
1996	35.3	39.6	73
2001	37.6	41.3	75
2006	39.5	42.8	..
2011	41.0	43.7	..

.. not available for a specific reference period.

Population and growth rate, selected age segments, Canada, 1991, 2001 and 2011

	1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
	(million)			%	%
0-4	1.91	1.70	1.64	-11.0	-3.1
5-12	3.04	3.23	2.77	6.0	-14.1
13-24	4.57	4.81	4.98	5.3	3.6
25-34	4.87	3.99	4.17	-17.9	4.4
35-44	4.37	5.10	4.51	16.7	-11.5
45-64	5.37	7.29	9.47	35.8	29.9
65-69	1.07	1.13	1.49	5.6	31.3
70-79	1.44	1.82	1.99	26.9	8.9
80+	0.66	0.93	1.33	41.2	42.7
Total	27.30	30.01	32.36	9.9	7.8

Selected Age Distribution Indexes, Canada and Selected Countries, 2000 or 2001

	Median Age (in yrs)	0-19	65+	20-64	Median Age	Ratio	
					20-64	20-39: 40-59	15-24: 55-64
					(in yrs)		
Canada (2001)	37.6	25.9	13.0	61.1	41.3	1.0	1.4
Other countries (2000)							
United States	35.5	28.7	12.3	59.0	40.5	1.1	1.6
Germany	40.1	21.1	16.4	62.5	41.5	1.1	0.8
France	37.6	25.3	16.0	58.7	40.8	1.1	1.4
United Kingdom	37.7	25.2	15.8	59.1	40.7	1.1	1.2
Italy	40.2	19.6	18.1	62.3	40.7	1.2	1.0
Japan	41.2	20.6	17.2	62.2	42.7	1.0	1.0
Russia	36.9	26.1	12.5	61.4	41.0	1.1	1.6
Australia	35.2	27.6	12.3	60.1	40.1	1.1	1.6
Mexico	23.3	43.4	4.7	51.9	34.1	2.1	4.0
World	26.5	39.1	6.9	54.0	36.8	1.6	2.7
More developed countries	37.4	25.1	14.3	60.6	40.9	1.1	1.3
Less developed countries	24.2	42.5	5.1	52.4	35.7	1.8	3.3
Least developed countries	18.1	53.9	3.1	43.0	33.7	2.2	4.9

Source: UNITED NATIONS - Population Division - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - February 2001

Population by sex, Canada, provinces and territories, 2001

	Male	Female	Men per 100 women
Canada	14,706,850	15,300,245	96.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	250,960	261,970	95.8
Prince Edward Island	65,750	69,540	94.5
Nova Scotia	439,090	468,920	93.6
New Brunswick	356,705	372,790	95.7
Quebec	3,532,845	3,704,635	95.4
Ontario	5,577,055	5,832,990	95.6
Manitoba	549,600	569,985	96.4
Saskatchewan	481,750	497,185	96.9
Alberta	1,486,590	1,488,220	99.9
British Columbia	1,919,100	1,988,635	96.5
Yukon Territory	14,440	14,230	101.5
Northwest Territories	19,115	18,245	104.8
Nunavut	13,840	12,910	107.2

Median age, Canada, provinces and territories, 1996 and 2001

	1996	2001	Change
Canada	35.3	37.6	2.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	34.2	38.4	4.2
Prince Edward Island	34.7	37.7	3.0
Nova Scotia	35.8	38.8	3.0
New Brunswick	35.5	38.6	3.1
Quebec	36.2	38.8	2.6
Ontario	35.2	37.2	2.0
Manitoba	34.7	36.8	2.1
Saskatchewan	34.4	36.7	2.3
Alberta	33.4	35.0	1.6
British Columbia	35.9	38.4	2.5
Yukon Territory	32.7	36.1	3.4
Northwest Territories	28.1	30.1	2.0
Nunavut	21.4	22.1	0.7

Selected Age Distribution Indexes, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2001

	Median Age	Median Age			Ratio		
		0-19	65+	20-64	20-64	20-39: 40-59	15-24: 55-64
	(in yrs)	%			(in yrs)		
Canada	37.6	25.9	13.0	61.1	41.3	1.0	1.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	38.4	25.0	12.3	62.7	42.1	0.9	1.4
Prince Edward Island	37.7	27.3	13.7	59.0	41.9	0.9	1.4
Nova Scotia	38.8	25.0	13.9	61.1	42.0	0.9	1.3
New Brunswick	38.6	24.8	13.6	61.7	41.9	0.9	1.3
Quebec	38.8	24.2	13.3	62.5	41.9	0.9	1.2
Ontario	37.2	26.3	12.9	60.8	41.0	1.0	1.4
Manitoba	36.8	28.1	14.0	58.0	41.1	1.0	1.5
Saskatchewan	36.7	29.2	15.1	55.8	41.3	1.0	1.7
Alberta	35.0	28.3	10.4	61.4	40.3	1.1	1.8
British Columbia	38.4	25.0	13.6	61.4	41.7	0.9	1.4
Yukon Territory	36.1	29.0	6.0	64.9	42.0	0.8	1.6
Northwest Territories	30.1	35.0	4.4	60.7	38.6	1.3	2.6
Nunavut	22.1	46.5	2.2	51.2	35.4	1.9	3.8

Median Age by CMA, 1996 & 2001

CMA Name	1996	2001	Change
St. John's	33.3	36.3	3.0
Halifax	34.3	36.6	2.3
Saint John	35.1	37.9	2.8
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	36.1	39.8	3.7
Québec	36.7	39.5	2.8
Sherbrooke	35.5	38.1	2.6
Trois-Rivières	37.6	41.2	3.6
Montréal	36.0	37.9	1.9
Ottawa - Hull	34.6	36.6	2.0
Quebec Part	33.8	36.5	2.7
Ontario Part	34.9	36.7	1.8
Kingston	35.3	38.1	2.8
Oshawa	33.6	35.8	2.2
Toronto	34.6	36.2	1.6
Hamilton	36.1	37.8	1.7
St. Catharines - Niagara	37.6	40.2	2.6
Kitchener	33.5	35.3	1.8
London	34.7	36.9	2.2
Windsor	34.8	36.0	1.2
Greater Sudbury	35.2	38.9	3.7
Thunder Bay	36.1	39.1	3.0
Winnipeg	35.2	37.3	2.1
Regina	33.6	35.9	2.3
Saskatoon	32.7	34.4	1.7
Calgary	33.7	34.9	1.2
Edmonton	33.7	35.4	1.7
Abbotsford	33.5	35.4	1.9
Vancouver	35.5	37.4	1.9
Victoria	38.7	41.0	2.3
All CMAs	35.1	37.0	1.9

Median age, Canada's major urban regions, 1996 and 2001

	1996	2001	Change
Total	35.2	37.0	1.8
Calgary-Edmonton Corridor	33.7	35.2	1.5
Extended Golden Horseshoe	34.8	36.4	1.7
Montreal and adjacent region	36.1	38.1	2.0
Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver island	36.0	38.1	2.1
Rest of province			
Total	35.8	38.6	2.9
Alberta less Calgary-Edmonton corridor	32.6	34.5	1.9
Ontario less extended Golden Horseshoe	35.9	38.4	2.5
Quebec less Montreal and adjacent region	36.3	39.6	3.3
B.-C. less Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver island	35.8	39.2	3.4
Other provinces and territories			
Total	34.8	37.6	2.8
Country outside four large urban regions			
Total	35.5	38.3	2.9

Median age, rural and small town areas, Canada, provinces and territories, 1996 and 2001

	1996	2001	Change
Canada	35.5	39.0	3.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	34.2	39.5	5.4
Prince Edward Island	34.5	37.9	3.4
Nova Scotia	36.9	40.5	3.7
New Brunswick	35.2	39.1	3.9
Quebec	36.3	40.1	3.8
Ontario	36.4	39.5	3.2
Manitoba	33.9	36.0	2.0
Saskatchewan	36.0	38.5	2.5
Alberta	33.0	35.3	2.3
British Columbia	36.3	40.2	4.0
Yukon Territory	32.4	36.9	4.5
Northwest Territories	27.2	29.0	1.8
Nunavut	21.4	22.1	0.7

Median age, CMAs' core and non-core municipalities, 1996 and 2001

	1996	2001	Differences
Core municipalities	35.2	36.9	1.7
Non-core municipalities	35.0	37.2	2.2

25 youngest municipalities of 5000+ population, Canada, 2001

	Median Age
Mackenzie No. 23 (Alta.)	22.0
Stanley (Man.)	25.2
Lloydminster (Sask.)	26.8
Hanover (Man.)	27.8
Slave Lake (Alta.)	28.1
Taber (Alta.)	28.3
Iqaluit (Nvt.)	28.3
Wellesley (Ont.)	28.7
Mapleton (Ont.)	29.2
Oromocto (N.B.)	29.3
Whitecourt (Alta.)	29.3
Lethbridge County (Alta.)	29.4
Banff (Alta.)	29.4
Fort St. John (B.C.)	29.6
Thompson (Man.)	29.7
Grande Prairie (Alta.)	29.7
Brooks (Alta.)	30.0
Whistler (B.C.)	30.2
Big Lakes (Alta.)	30.6
Beaumont (Alta.)	30.7
Bonnyville (Alta.)	30.8
Petawawa (Ont.)	30.9
Wood Buffalo (Alta.)	31.0
Peace River (Alta.)	31.0
Yellowknife (N.W.T.)	31.3

25 oldest municipalities of 5000+ population, Canada, 2001

	Median Age
Qualicum Beach (B.C.)	58.1
White Rock (B.C.)	50.9
Sidney (B.C.)	50.7
Côte-Saint-Luc (Que.)	50.5
Parksville (B.C.)	49.6
Nanaimo G (B.C.)	49.5
Elliot Lake (Ont.)	49.4
Columbia-Shuswap C (B.C.)	48.8
North Saanich (B.C.)	47.8
Oak Bay (B.C.)	47.8
Capital F (B.C.)	47.6
Blue Mountains (Ont.)	47.4
Minden Hills (Ont.)	47.4
South Bruce Peninsula (Ont.)	47.3
Shawinigan (Que.)	47.1
West Vancouver (B.C.)	47.0
Saint-Lambert (Que.)	46.9
Summerland (B.C.)	46.8
Sillery (Que.)	46.7
Trail (B.C.)	46.7
Okanagan-Similkameen D (B.C.)	46.5
Asbestos (Que.)	46.4
Niagara-on-the-Lake (Ont.)	46.3
Lambton Shores (Ont.)	46.3
Lac-Brome (Que.)	46.2

25 municipalities of 5000+ population with the highest men-to-women ratios, Canada, 2001

	Men per 100 Women
Rockwood (Man.)	122.6
Whistler (B.C.)	121.6
Mackenzie (B.C.)	117.6
Sturgeon County (Alta.)	115.9
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (Que.)	112.8
Westlock County (Alta.)	112.6
Algoma, Unorganized, North Part (Ont.)	112.4
Oromocto (N.B.)	112.2
Bonnyville No. 87 (Alta.)	112.2
Red Deer County (Alta.)	112.1
Lac Ste. Anne County (Alta.)	111.9
Port-Cartier (Que.)	111.8
Cypress County (Alta.)	111.3
Stoneham-et-Tewkesbury (Que.)	111.0
Brooks (Alta.)	110.9
Taber (Alta.)	110.7
Wood Buffalo (Alta.)	110.6
Whitecourt (Alta.)	110.2
Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines (Que.)	109.7
Saint-Athanase (Que.)	109.6
Newell County No. 4 (Alta.)	109.6
St. Paul County No. 19 (Alta.)	109.5
Iqaluit (Nvt.)	109.4
Greenview No. 16 (Alta.)	109.3
Ponoka County (Alta.)	109.1

25 municipalities of 5000+ population with the lowest men-to-women ratios, Canada, 2001

	Men per 100 Women
Saint-Lambert (Que.)	79.1
White Rock (B.C.)	80.4
Côte-Saint-Luc (Que.)	80.6
Sidney (B.C.)	81.5
Outremont (Que.)	82.3
Sillery (Que.)	82.4
Perth (Ont.)	82.4
Nicolet (Que.)	82.6
Oak Bay (B.C.)	82.6
Melfort (Sask.)	82.9
New Glasgow (N.S.)	83.0
Yarmouth (N.S.)	83.4
Montréal-Nord (Que.)	83.6
Westmount (Que.)	83.7
Joliette (Que.)	83.9
Pembroke (Ont.)	84.1
Dauphin (Man.)	84.2
Charlottetown (P.E.I.)	84.4
Victoria (B.C.)	84.5
Shawinigan (Que.)	84.8
Woodstock (N.B.)	85.0
Rimouski (Que.)	85.0
Hanover (Ont.)	85.3
Truro (N.S.)	85.6
Vegreville (Alta.)	85.6