

2021 Federal Census results to date

November 3, 2022

Population and Dwellings Change

In 2021, the population of Calgary was 1,306,780, up 5.5 per cent from 1,239,220 in 2016. In 2021, there were 531,062 private dwellings in Calgary, up 8.5 per cent from 489,650 in 2016. 502,301 dwellings were occupied by usual or permanent residents, while 28,761 of these dwellings were either unoccupied or occupied only by temporary residents (98-10-0002-01).

Areas in and near the Greater Downtown as well as some new communities on the edges of Calgary experienced the highest rates of population growth between 2016 and 2021 (see Figure 1). Many areas in Calgary experienced population decline over this five-year period (98-316-X2021001).

Gender

Statistics Canada collected data about transgender and non-binary populations for the first time on the 2021 census. Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people. Data is available for the population aged 15 and over in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area¹.

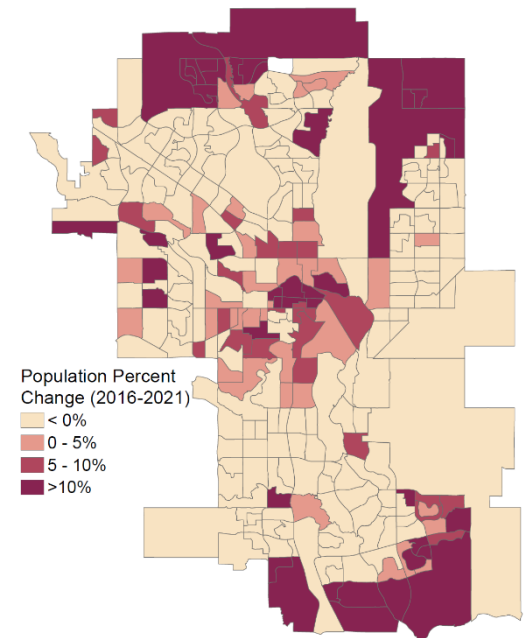
In 2021, there were 4,640 transgender and non-binary Calgarians, including 1,245 transgender men, 1,525 transgender women and 1,870 non-binary persons. About two-thirds of transgender and non-binary people in Calgary were aged 15 to 34 years (98-10-0037-01).

Age

In 2021, there were 177,405 Calgarians aged 65 years and over, up 28 per cent from 138,405 in 2016. Over the past 20 years, the population aged 65 years and over was the fastest growing age group in Calgary. Since 2001, the population aged 65 years and over has more than doubled from 81,150. In 2021, 14 per cent of the population in Calgary was aged 65 years and over (98-10-0022-01; 95F0300XCB2001006).

In 2021, there were 240,245 Calgarians aged 15 to 29, down 3 per cent from 248,510 in 2016. Over the past 20 years, the population aged 15 to 29 years was the slowest growing age group in Calgary. Since 2001, the population aged 15 to 29 years increased by 21 per cent, less than half the rate of increase for the general population. In 2021, 18 per cent of the population in Calgary was aged 15 to 29 (98-10-0022-01; 95F0300XCB2001006).

Figure 1: per cent population change by census tract, 2016-2021



¹ The Calgary CMA is composed of Calgary, Airdrie, Rocky View County, Cochrane, Chestermere, Crossfield, Tsuu T'ina Nation, Irricana, and Beiseker

Compared with major Canadian cities in 2021, Calgary had a relatively low median age, at 38 years. Edmonton and Regina had lower median ages than Calgary, while Montreal, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, and Greater Vancouver had higher median ages (98-10-0022-01).

Median age varied greatly across Calgary. Areas in and near the Greater Downtown, the University of Calgary, and newer communities in the northeast, south, and north had the lowest median ages (see Figure 2). A census tract south of the Glenmore reservoir had the highest median age in Calgary at 60 years (98-316-X2021001).

Dwellings

In 2021, there were 502,300 private dwellings in Calgary that were occupied by usual or permanent residents. **About half of occupied private dwellings in Calgary (55 per cent) were single-detached houses while about one in four (24 per cent) were apartments** (98-10-0041-01).

Areas in the Greater Downtown had the highest percentage of apartments, followed by areas in older communities in the developed areas as well as some new communities in the south, northwest, and west (see Figure 3). Many areas in Calgary had few or no apartments (98-316-X2021001).

The average household size in Calgary in 2021 was 2.6 persons. The average household size in Calgary remains unchanged from 20 years ago. Average household size varied with the structural type of dwelling with single-detached houses having the highest average size at 3.0 persons and apartments in buildings with five or more storeys having the lowest average size at 1.6 persons (98-10-0041-01; 95F0323XCB2001006).

In 2021, 16,550 residents of the Calgary CMA lived in collective dwellings. Collective dwellings are commercial, institutional, or communal in nature and provide care or services or have certain common facilities such as a kitchen or bathroom that are shared by the occupants. Examples include lodging or rooming houses, hotels, motels, tourist establishments, nursing homes, residences for senior citizens, hospitals, staff residences, military bases, work camps, correctional facilities and group homes (98-10-0046-01).

Figure 2: median age by census tract, 2021

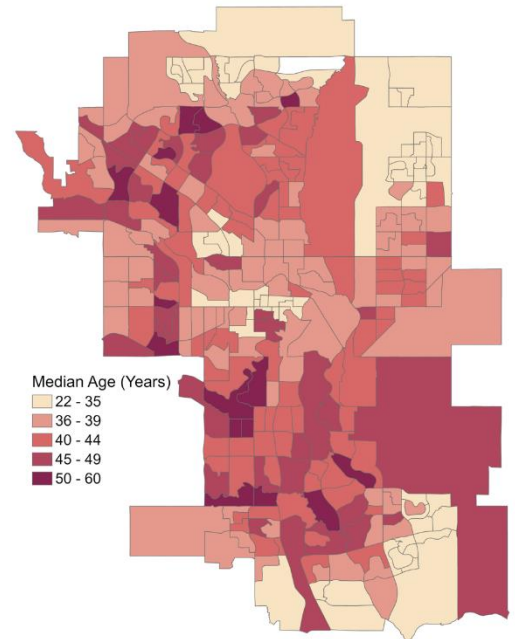
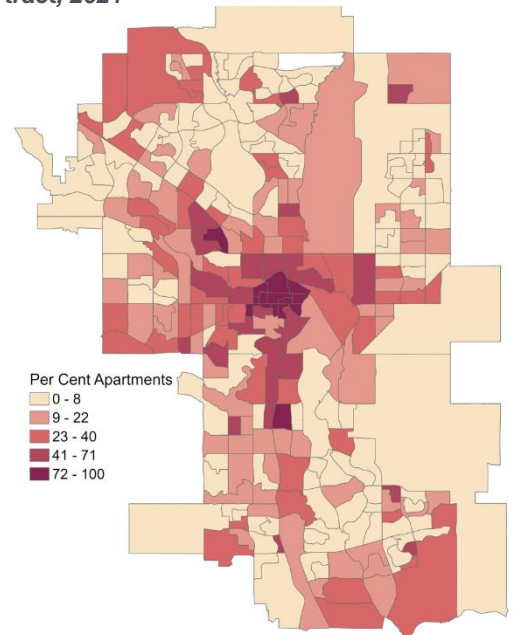


Figure 3: per cent apartments by census tract, 2021



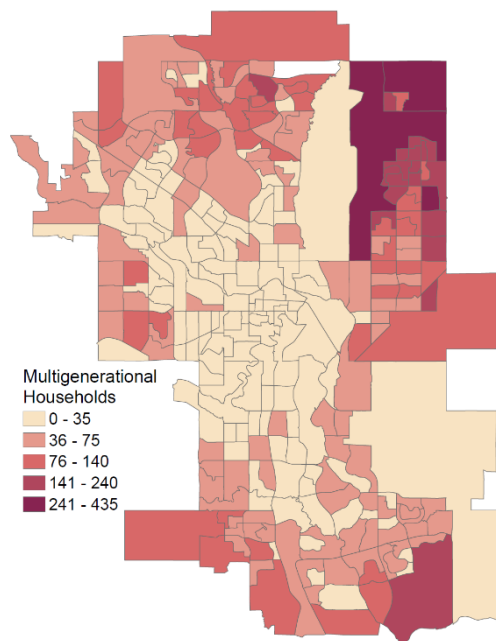
Families

A census family is a married couple (with or without children), a common-law couple (with or without children) or a one-parent family. **In 2021, there were 356,225 census families in private households in Calgary and the average family size was about three people.** Approximately 46 per cent of families had two people while 44 percent of families had three or four persons. About nine percent of families were made up of five or more persons ([98-316-X2021001](#)).

Of all families, 85 per cent were couple families and the remaining 15 per cent were one-parent families. In nearly four out of five one-parent families, the parent was a woman² ([98-316-X2021001](#)).

New in 2021, Statistics Canada published to information about different-gender couples, same-gender couples and transgender or non-binary couples. **In the Calgary CMA, there were 5,000 same-gender, transgender or non-binary couple families.** These families made up 1.5 per cent of all couple families ([98-10-0136-01](#)).

Figure 4: multigenerational households by census tract, 2021



Households

A household is a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling. The household may consist of a family group, two or more families sharing a dwelling, a group of unrelated persons or a person living alone. **In 2021, there were 502,300 households in Calgary, including 17,040 multigenerational households and 132,690 one-person households.** Areas on the edges of Calgary, particularly those in the northeast, had the highest numbers of multigenerational households (see Figure 4) ([98-316-X2021001](#)).

Living arrangements in Calgary have changed somewhat over time. **In 2021, 12.6 per cent of adults aged 15 and over living in private households were living alone,** compared to 11.5 per cent in 2016. **In 2021, the proportion of young adults aged 20 to 34 that were living with at least one parent was 32.8 per cent,** compared to 28.6 per cent in 2016 ([Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census](#)).

Income

Note: the COVID-19 pandemic had significant impacts on the income of Canadians. Typically, the 2021 census results would include income figures from only the 2020 calendar year. To provide baseline information about the economic impact of COVID-19, Statistics Canada has provided some additional information about the income of individuals in 2019.

In 2020, the median before-tax income of individuals in Calgary was \$44,440, up slightly from 2019 when the median income was \$43,600. Median individual incomes were highest on the west side of Calgary (see Figure 5). **In 2020, the median before-tax household income in Calgary was \$98,000** ([98-316-X2021001](#)).

² Statistics Canada collected data about transgender and non-binary populations for the first time on the 2021 census. "Men+" includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons. "Women+" includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons.

Likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the composition of individual income changed between 2019 and 2020. In 2019, Calgarians received 92 per cent of their income from market sources like employment and 8 per cent from government transfers like employment insurance. In 2020, the share of income from market sources fell to 86 per cent, with 14 per cent coming from government transfers (98-316-X2021001).

The gender wage gap in Calgary shrunk slightly between 2019 and 2020, possibly due to the equalizing effect of COVID-19 financial supports. In 2019, the median before-tax income of women+ was 73% that of men+. In 2020, the median before-tax income of women+ was 78% that of men+, up five percentage points (98-316-X2021001).

Seven out of ten households in the Calgary CMA contributed to a registered savings account in 2020. Registered savings accounts are tax free savings accounts, registered retirement savings plans and registered pension plans. Households where the major income earner was aged 15 to 24 years or 71 years and over were less likely to contribute. About 37 per cent households with incomes less than \$50,000 after-tax contributed, compared with 90 per cent of households with incomes \$100,000 or more (98-10-0085-01).

Income inequality

In 2020 in Calgary, 115,560 people were in low income based on the Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT), up slightly from 112,505 in 2015. In all, 8.9 per cent of the population was in low income. Seniors and people aged 0 to 17 years had slightly higher rates of low income than the general population at 10.4 per cent and 10.7 per cent, respectively. Low-income rates were lowest around the edges of Calgary (see Figure 6) (98-10-0103-01).

New in 2021, Statistics Canada has provided data regarding income inequality in Canada. The Gini index indicates how equally income is distributed in a population. A value closer to 0 indicates a more equal distribution of income and a value closer to 1 indicates a more unequal distribution of income. **The Gini index for Calgary in 2020 was 0.376**, indicating more equal incomes than in 2015 when the index value was 0.442 (98-316-X2021001).

Another measure of income inequality is the ratio of income between the top and bottom earners. **In 2020, the highest earning 10 per cent of households earned 4.1 times more than the lowest earning 10 per cent of households**, indicating more equality than in 2015 when the highest earning households earned 5.1 times more than the lowest (98-316-X2021001).

Improved income equality in 2020 was observed across Canada and may be due to the equalizing effect of COVID-19 financial supports. **In comparison with the twelve Canadian cities with a population of 500,000 or more, Calgary is the third most unequal based on both the Gini index and the ratio of income between top and bottom earners, after Toronto and Vancouver** (98-10-0096-01).

Figure 5: median before-tax income by census tract, 2020

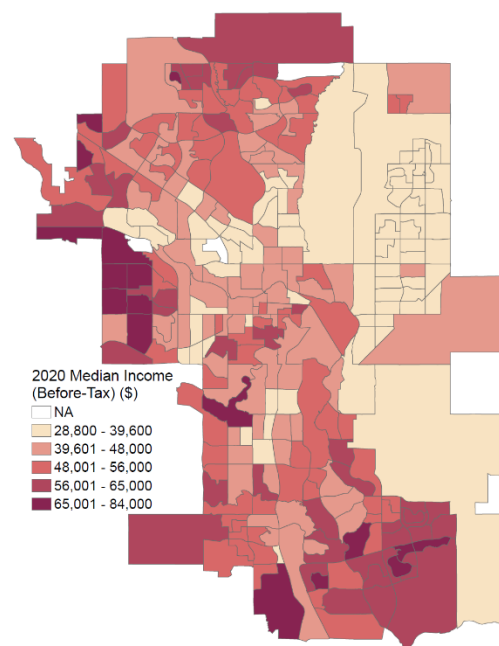
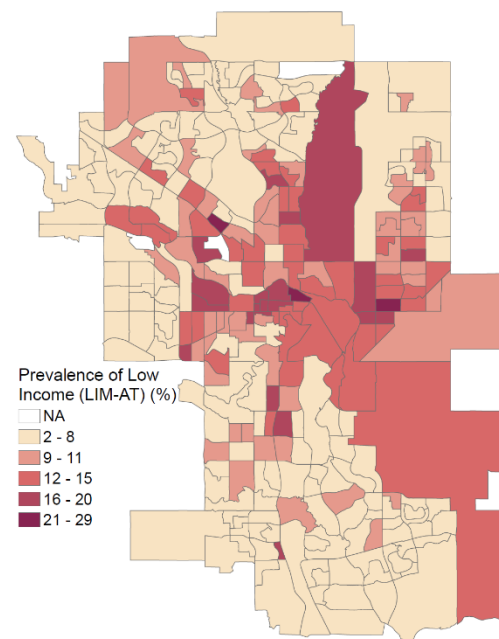


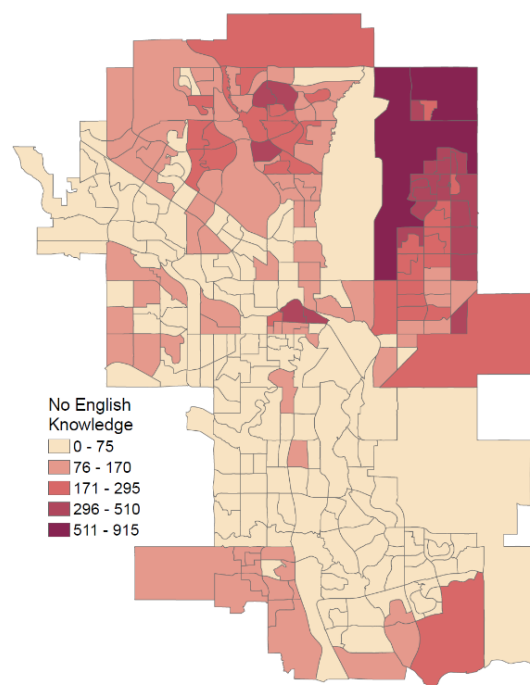
Figure 6: per cent in low income (LIM-AT) by census tract, 2020



Knowledge of Official Languages

Knowledge of official languages refers to whether the person can conduct a conversation in English only, French only, in both or in neither language. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, this includes languages that the child is learning to speak at home. **In 2021, 97.4 per cent of the population in private households in Calgary had knowledge of English.** A person who has knowledge of French only or neither English nor French is considered to have no English knowledge. **In 2021, in Calgary there were 33,345 people or 2.6 per cent of the population who had no English knowledge.** The percentage of the population with no English knowledge remained stable between 2016 and 2021. Most of the people with no English knowledge resided in NE Calgary (see Figure 7) ([98-316-X2021001](#)).

Figure 7: people with no English knowledge by census tract, 2021



Knowledge of non-official languages

In Calgary in 2021, about 40 per cent of the population had knowledge of at least one non-official language. The top ten Indigenous languages spoken by Calgarians were Blackfoot, Cree, Nehiyawewin, Tsuu T'ina, Stoney, Saulteau, Ojibway, Inuktitut, Michif, and Nehinawewin. The top ten non-official, non-Indigenous languages were Tagalog, Punjabi, Spanish, Mandarin, Hindi, Cantonese, Arabic, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Russian ([98-316-X2021001](#)).

Mother Tongue

Mother tongue refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the person at the time the data was collected. **In 2021, about 64 per cent of Calgarians had English as their mother tongue.** Among non-official languages, the top ten mother tongue languages were Punjabi, Tagalog, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Vietnamese, Korean, and Russian ([98-316-X2021001](#)).

Table 1: top 10 non-official languages spoken most often at home, Calgary, 2016 and 2021

Ranking	2016	2021
1	Punjabi	Punjabi
2	Tagalog	Tagalog
3	Cantonese	Mandarin
4	Mandarin	Cantonese
5	Spanish	Spanish
6	Arabic	Arabic
7	Urdu	Urdu
8	Vietnamese	Vietnamese
9	Persian	Korean
10	Korean	Russian

Language spoken most often at home

Language spoken most often at home refers to the language the person spoke most often at home at the time of data collection. A person could report more than one language as "spoken most often at home" if the languages were spoken equally often. **In Calgary in 2021, among the people who most often spoke a single language at home, about 75 per cent spoke English.** Approximately 19 per cent of the people spoke a single non-official language most often at home. The top ten non-official languages spoken most often of at home were Punjabi, Tagalog, Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Vietnamese, Korean, and Russian. The top 10 languages spoken most often at home remained very similar between 2016 and 2021 (see Table 1) ([98-316-X2021001](#)).

Knowledge of official language and Income

In 2020, the median before-tax income of individuals in Calgary CMA was \$44,800. **The median income was higher for individuals with knowledge of both English and French at \$50,800 compared to individuals with knowledge of English only at \$45,600.** The median income for those who had knowledge of neither English nor French was \$21,600 (98-10-0202-01).

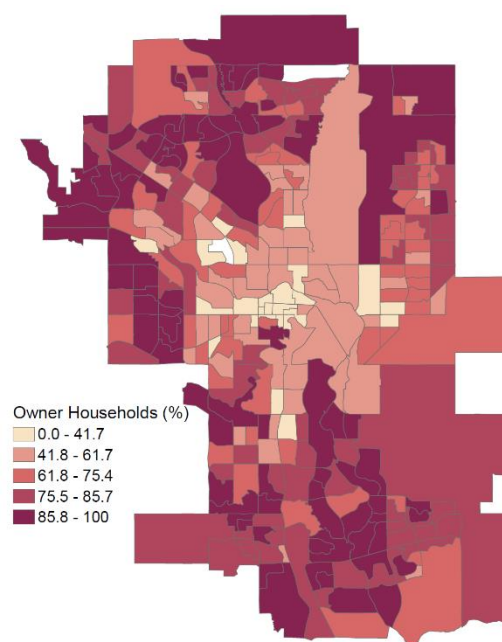
Knowledge of official language and Age

In 2021, about 98 per cent of those aged between 0 to 64 years in private households in Calgary had knowledge of English while about 92 per cent of people aged 65 years and over had knowledge of English. **In 2021, there were 33,345 Calgarians with no knowledge of English. People aged 65 years and over made up 43 per cent of those without a knowledge of English but only 14 per cent of the population of Calgary** (98-10-0170-01).

Housing tenure

In Calgary in 2021, there were 502,305 households. Of these households, about seven in 10 owned their homes. Between 2016 and 2021, home ownership rate in Calgary remained stable. Of the 345,690 owner households, 65.2 per cent had a mortgage. The median monthly shelter costs for owned dwellings was \$1,720. Of the 156,615 renter households, 9.0 per cent lived in subsidized housing. The median monthly shelter costs for rented dwellings was \$1,350. The Greater Downtown area has the lowest percentage of owner households in Calgary (see Figure 8) (98-316-X2021001).

Figure 8: Per cent owner households by census tract, 2021



Housing suitability, adequacy, affordability and core housing need

Inadequate housing is housing that requires major repairs. **In Calgary in 2021, 22,780 households lived in housing requiring major repairs** (98-316-X2021001).

Housing is considered affordable if shelter costs are equal to or less than 30 per cent of the household's before-tax income. **In Calgary in 2021, 114,470 households were living in housing that was unaffordable to them** (98-316-X2021001).

Housing suitability is a measure of crowding and refers to whether a dwelling has enough bedrooms for the household. **In Calgary in 2021, 25,515 households lived in unsuitable housing** (98-316-X2021001).

Core housing need refers to the percentage of households whose dwellings are crowded, in poor repair, or unaffordable and who cannot afford housing that meets their needs in their community. **In Calgary in 2021, 49,860 households were in core housing need.** This means that about one in 10 households in Calgary had limited or no housing options in their community that meets their needs and were at risk of poor housing outcomes (98-316-X2021001).

Households across Calgary experience core housing need, with the highest concentrations in central Calgary (see Figure 9).

Age and tenure of primary household maintainer

Primary household maintainer is the first person in the household identified as someone who pays the rent, or the mortgage, or the taxes, or the electricity or other services or utilities for the dwelling. **In Calgary in 2021, six out of 10 primary household maintainers were aged 35 to 64 years and of these 75 per cent were owners.** Roughly 60 per cent of primary household maintainers aged 15 to 34 years were renters in 2021 in Calgary (98-10-0232-01).

Indigenous population

Indigenous identity includes people who identify as First Nations, Métis and/or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who report being registered under the *Indian Act* of Canada as Treaty Indians and/or those who report having membership in a First Nation or Indian Band. **Between 2016 and 2021, the Indigenous identity population grew at a faster rate than the population of Calgary overall. In 2021, 41,350 people in Calgary had an Indigenous identity, up 17 per cent from 35,195 in 2016.** During that same five-year period, the population of Calgary overall grew by 5.5 per cent (98-316-X2021001).

Of the Calgarians who had an Indigenous identity, 18,440 identified as First Nations, 20,855 as Métis, 430 as Inuk and 1,630 as having other Indigenous identities including multiple Indigenous identities (98-316-X2021001).

Areas in East Calgary have the largest Indigenous populations in Calgary (see Figure 10).

Indigenous income

In the Calgary CMA, people with an Indigenous identity had lower income than those with a non-Indigenous identity. In 2020, the median income of Indigenous peoples in the Calgary CMA was \$38,800 compared with \$45,200 for those with a non-Indigenous identity (98-10-0282-01).

Currently, low-income (LIM-AT) statistics for people with an Indigenous identity are only available at the provincial level. **In Alberta in 2020, 17.1 per cent of people with an Indigenous identity were in low-income compared with 9.2 per cent of Albertans overall.** (98-10-0283-01)

Figure 9: per cent households in core housing need by census tract, 2021

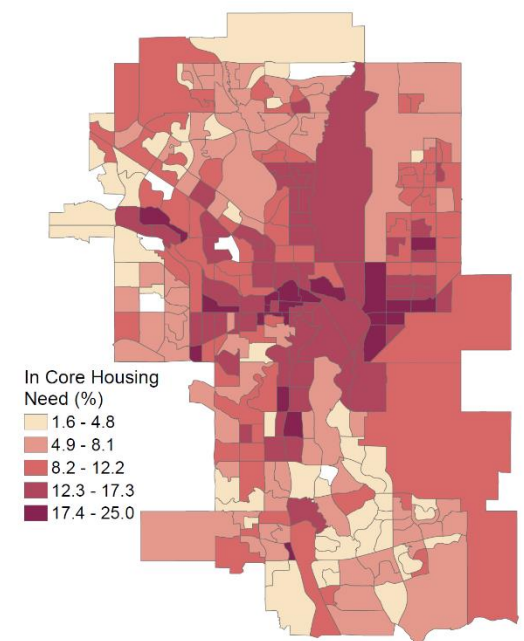
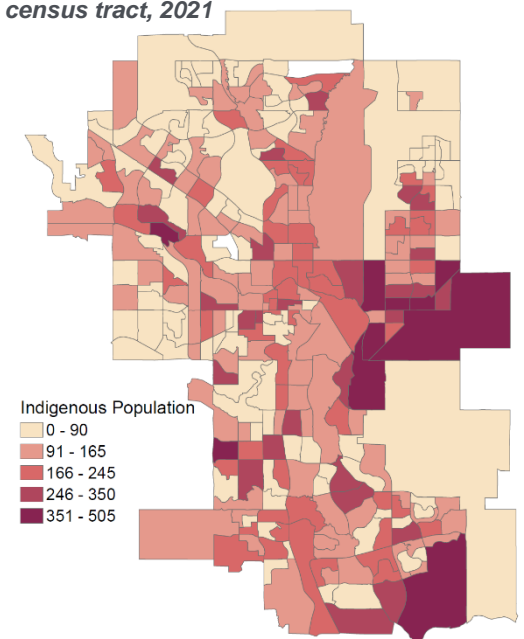


Figure 10: number of Indigenous persons by census tract, 2021



Indigenous housing

Poor housing condition and crowding are longstanding housing issues that Indigenous populations in Canada face.

In the Calgary CMA in 2021, the rates of crowding are similar between all residents and those with an Indigenous identity, with about one in 10 people living in unsuitable housing. However, **the rates of crowded housing was much higher for those who report being registered under the *Indian Act* of Canada as Treaty Indians, at two in 10 people living in unsuitable housing (98-10-0285-01).**

People with an Indigenous identity in the Calgary CMA in 2021 were about twice as likely to live in housing requiring major repairs than the population of Calgary overall. About 7 per cent of people with an Indigenous identity lived in housing requiring major repairs, compared with about 4 per cent of people in the Calgary CMA overall (98-10-0287-01).

Indigenous languages

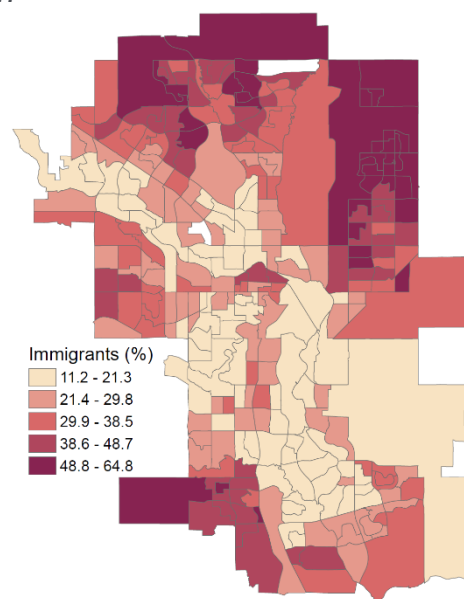
In Calgary in 2021, 1,600 people had knowledge of an Indigenous language. The most commonly known Indigenous languages were Blackfoot, Cree (dialect not specified) and Nehiyawewin (Plains Cree) (98-316-X2021001).

Immigrants

Statistics Canada defines immigrants as persons who are, or who have ever been, landed immigrants or permanent residents. In 2021 in Canada, 23 per cent of the population were immigrants, a new record, the previous record was 22.3 per cent set in 1921. **In Calgary in 2021, 33.3 per cent of the population were immigrants, up from 31 per cent in 2016.** Most immigrants live in and around the Downtown and on the edges of Calgary (see Figure 11) (98-316-X2021001).

Together, first and second generation immigrants represent 6 out of 10 residents in Calgary in 2021. In other words, majority of Calgarians today are either first or second generation immigrants (98-316-X2021001).

Figure 11: per cent immigrants by census tract, 2021



Recent Immigrants

Recent immigrant refers to an immigrant who first obtained their landed immigrant or permanent resident status between January 1, 2016, and May 11, 2021. **Between 2016 and 2021, 81,315 recent immigrants came to Calgary. Recent immigrants made up 19 per cent of all immigrants to Calgary, a decline from 23 per cent in 2016 (98-316-X2021001).** There could be multiple reasons behind the decline in recent immigrant numbers in Calgary including drop in global oil prices in 2014, and subsequent fewer employment opportunities in Alberta, and COVID-19 travel restrictions in 2020 and 2021. When 2011-2021 is compared to previous decade (2001-2011), the general trend is more recent immigrants to Calgary (170,980 vs 125,255) (98-316-X2021001, 98-316-X2016001, 99-004-XWE, 92-591-XWE).

Areas on the edges of Calgary, particularly those in the northeast, had the highest number of recent immigrants (see Figure 12) (98-316-X2021001).

In the Calgary CMA, 16 per cent of recent immigrants were aged between 0 to 14 years, 67 per cent were between 25 to 64 years, and 5 per cent were 65 years and over (98-10-0318-01).

Ten top countries of birth of recent immigrants are presented in Table 2. **Two out of three recent immigrants to Calgary are from one of these countries** (98-316-X2021001).

Around 56 per cent of the total immigrant population in Calgary who arrived since 1980 came as an economic immigrant. Around 28 per cent of immigrants to Calgary were sponsored by family, 15 per cent were admitted as refugees, and 1 per cent as other immigrants. The share of these immigrant admission categories have remained consistent since 2016 (98-316-X2021001).

Among the 81,315 recent immigrants to Calgary in 2021, over 90 per cent came directly from outside Canada while the remaining 10 per cent or roughly 8,000 came through interprovincial migration (98-316-X2021001).

Visible Minority

Statistics Canada defines visible minorities as persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour. **In Calgary in 2021, 41 per cent of the population or 4 out of 10 people identified as a visible minority.** Between 2016 and 2021, the visible minority population in Calgary increased by 5 per cent (98-316-X2021001, 98-316-X2016001).

Religion and Ethnic or Cultural Origin

Religion is defined as a person's self-identification as having a connection or affiliation with any religious denomination, group, body, or other religiously defined community or system of belief. **In 2021 in Calgary, 45 per cent of the population were Christians, making it the largest religious group.** Between 2001 and 2021, the share of Christians in Calgary decreased by more than 20 per cent while the share of the population with no religion and secular perspectives increased by roughly 15 per cent. Table 3 shows the share of Calgarians across different religious groups and beliefs (98-316-X2021001, 95F0450XCB200100).

Ethnic or cultural origin refers to the ethnic or cultural origin of the person's ancestors. **In 2021 in Calgary, 53 per cent of the population identified as having a European ethnic origin.** Also, in 2021 in Calgary, 10 per cent of the population identified as having a Canadian origin, a decline of 9 per cent since 2016. The top five ethnic or cultural origins found in Calgary are shown in Table 4 (98-316-X2021001).

Figure 12: recent immigrants by census tract, 2021

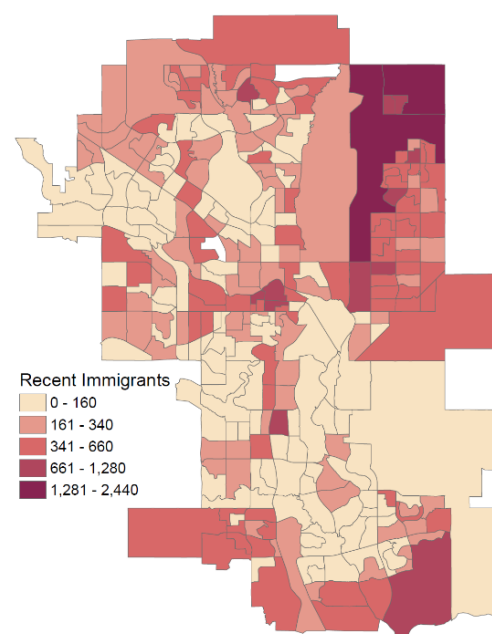


Table 2: top 10 places of birth for the recent immigrant population in Calgary, 2021

Ranking	Countries	Counts	Per Cent
1	Philippines	15,485	19%
2	India	14,070	17%
3	Nigeria	5,885	7%
4	China	5,520	7%
5	Syria	3,070	4%
6	Eritrea	2,525	3%
7	Pakistan	2,315	3%
8	United States of America	2,130	3%
9	Ethiopia	1,845	2%
10	South Korea	1,740	2%

Table 3: religions in Calgary, 2021

Ranking	Religion	Counts	Per Cent
1	Christian	575,250	45%
2	No religion and secular perspectives	499,375	39%
3	Muslim	95,925	7%
4	Sikh	49,465	4%
5	Hindu	33,450	3%
6	Buddhist	20,855	2%
7	Other religions and spiritual traditions	9,695	1%
8	Jewish	6,390	0.50%
9	Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality	1,370	0.10%

Table 4: top 5 ethnic or cultural origins in Calgary, 2021

Ranking	Ethnic or cultural origin	Counts	Per Cent
1	English	205,980	16%
2	Scottish	177,490	14%
3	Irish	153,865	12%
4	German	146,970	11%
5	Canadian	125,490	10%

Questions

Please email socialresearch@calgary.ca