



October 2013

CALGARY AT A GLANCE: RESULTS OF THE 2011 FEDERAL CENSUS PROGRAM

The results of Statistics Canada's 2011 Census of Canada and National Household Survey (NHS) are now available at the Calgary City level¹. All released information is publically available on the [Statistics Canada website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Language:** 16.0 per cent of Calgarians spoke a non-official language (i.e. not English or French) most often at home.
- Immigration:** Approximately one in four Calgarians were immigrants. Their most common countries of birth were the Philippines, India and China. Almost one-quarter (22.9 per cent) of all immigrants were recent immigrants who moved to Canada between 2006 and 2011.
- Citizenship:** One out of ten Calgarians did not hold Canadian citizen status.
- Education:** Calgarians are highly educated. More than two-thirds (67.4 per cent) aged 25 years and over had completed some level of postsecondary education.
- Employment:** Calgary's top three employment industries were professional, scientific and technical services, retail trade, and health care and social assistance
- Commuting:** The majority of Calgarians traveled to work using a private vehicle; only 17.2 per cent used public transit. The median commuting time was 25.1 minutes.
- Home ownership:** Most households in Calgary owned their home; only 27.6 per cent rented. Among renters, 38.7 per cent were overspending on shelter, which means that more than 30 per cent of their total household income was spent on housing-related costs.
- Income:** The median total household income in Calgary for 2010 was \$81,256.
- Low-income:** 10.9 per cent of all Calgarians were living in low income. The prevalence of low income was highest among children under the age of six at a rate of 14.1 per cent.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, the information in this document comes from the following sources:
Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey Profile for Calgary, CY. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE.
Statistics Canada. 2013. National Household Survey Focus on Geography Series – Calgary, CY. 2011 National Household Survey.



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Families, Households & Language

- Most Calgarians (84.0 per cent) were part of a *census family*. Among census families that included a married or common-law couple, approximately half had children at home and half did not. Census families that did not include a couple are, by definition, lone-parent families, which accounted for 14.5 per cent of these households.
- The majority of non-census family persons (63.4 per cent) lived alone, followed by 29.4 per cent that lived with non-relatives and 7.1 per cent that lived with relatives.

Persons in Private Households by Living Arrangements, Calgary 2011		
	Number	Per Cent
Total Persons in Private Households	1,082,230	
Total Census Family Persons	908,765	84.0%
Total Non-Census Family Persons	173,465	16.0%
Total Census Family Households	296,430	
Couple Families	253,360	85.5%
Couple Families with Children at Home	142,805	56.4%
Couple Families without Children at Home	110,550	43.6%
Lone-parent Families	43,070	14.5%
Total Non-Census Family Persons	173,465	
Living with Relatives	12,385	7.1%
Living with Non-Relatives	51,080	29.4%
Living Alone	110,000	63.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Canada.

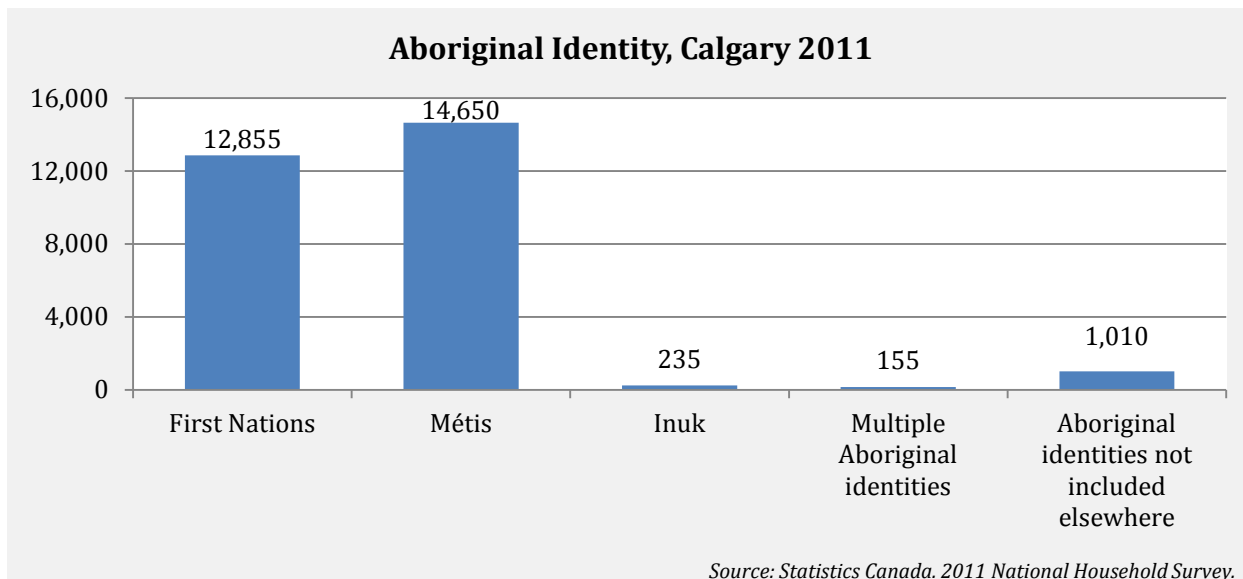
- At the individual, rather than household, level 10.1 per cent of Calgarians lived alone. Among those Calgarians aged 65 years and over, 24.8 per cent lived alone.
- 16.0 per cent of Calgarians spoke a non-official language (i.e. not English or French) most often at home.
- The most common non-official *home languages* were Chinese (including Chinese, Mandarin, Cantonese and all other Chinese languages), Panjabi (Punjabi), and Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino). 5.3 per cent of Calgarians spoke Chinese as a home language, 2.5 per cent spoke Panjabi and 2.4 per cent spoke Tagalog.
- 2.3 per cent of Calgarians were not able to speak either English or French.

² The source for Census data is as follows: Statistics Canada. 2012. Census Profile for Calgary, CY. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE.

NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Aboriginal Peoples

- In Calgary, there were 28,905 people who reported having an *Aboriginal identity*. 50.7 per cent of these identified as Métis, 44.5 per cent as First Nations and just under 1 per cent as Inuk (Inuit).



- In Calgary, most Aboriginal children aged 14 and under (53.9 per cent) lived in a family with both parents, while 32.5 per cent lived in a lone-parent family, 6.2 per cent lived in a step-family and 5.6 per cent in a foster family.
- The Aboriginal population in Calgary was younger than the non-Aboriginal population. Children aged 14 and under accounted for 24.6 per cent of the Aboriginal population, compared to 18.0 per cent for the non-Aboriginal population.
- 3.7 per cent of Aboriginal persons in Calgary reported being able to speak an Aboriginal language, with Blackfoot being the language most frequently reported.

Ethnic Origin

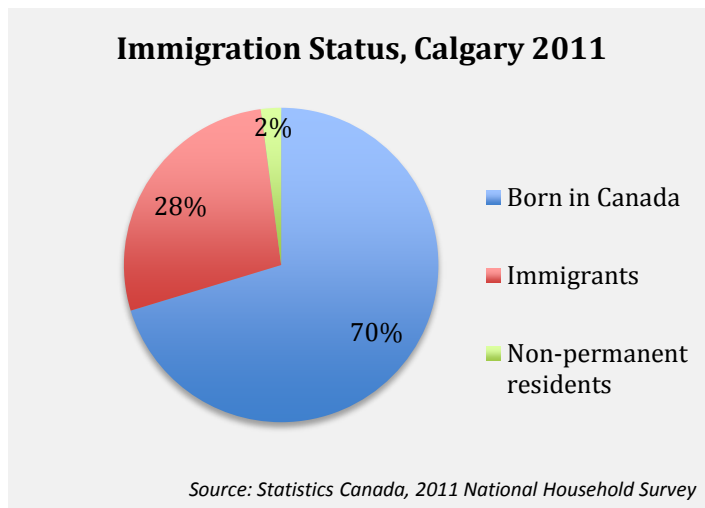
- Among Calgarians, the most common *ethnic origin* was English (23.3 per cent), followed by Canadian (19.4 per cent) and Scottish (17.9 per cent).
- The remaining top ten ethnic origins included the following European origins: Irish (14.9 per cent), German (14.8 per cent), French (9.0 per cent) and Ukrainian (6.6 per cent); and the following Asian origins: Chinese (7.8 per cent), East Indian (5.9 per cent) and Filipino (4.6 per cent).

Visible Minorities

- Of people living in Calgary, 30.1 per cent identified as a *visible minority*. The top three visible minority groups were: South Asian (7.5 per cent), Chinese (6.8 per cent) and Filipino ³ (4.4 per cent).

Immigration

- 298,820 Calgarians (27.6 per cent) reported that they were *immigrants* and 22,470 (2.1 per cent) were *non-permanent residents*.

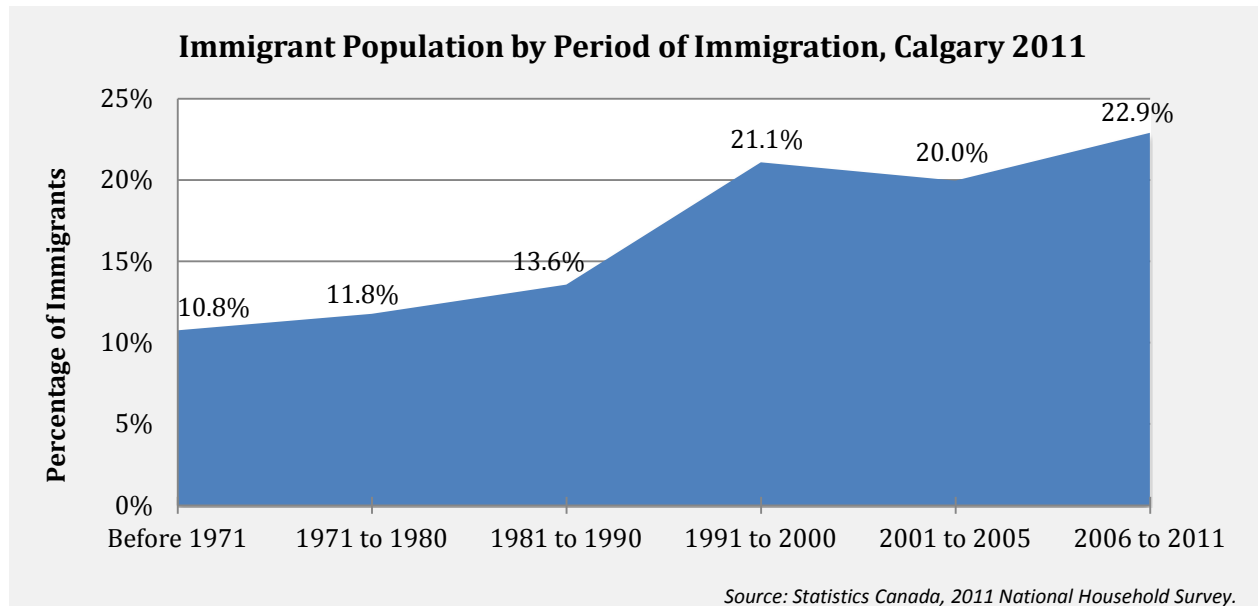


- The largest proportion of immigrants in Calgary (42.7 per cent) were between the ages of 25 to 44 when they came to Canada. Only 9.2 per cent of all immigrants arrived in Canada after the age of 44.

³ Statistics Canada cautions that evidence suggests that the Filipino population group is overestimated at the national level and that the risk of error increases for geographic levels smaller than this (Statistics Canada. 2013. *Visible Minority and Population Group Reference Guide, National Household Survey, 2011*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-010-X2011009).

Immigration (continued)

- 128,025 (42.9 per cent) immigrants living in Calgary landed in Canada between 2001 and 2011; of these, 59,625 (20.0 per cent) immigrated between 2001 and 2005, and 68,400 (22.9 per cent) immigrated between 2006 and 2011⁴.



Citizenship and Place of Birth

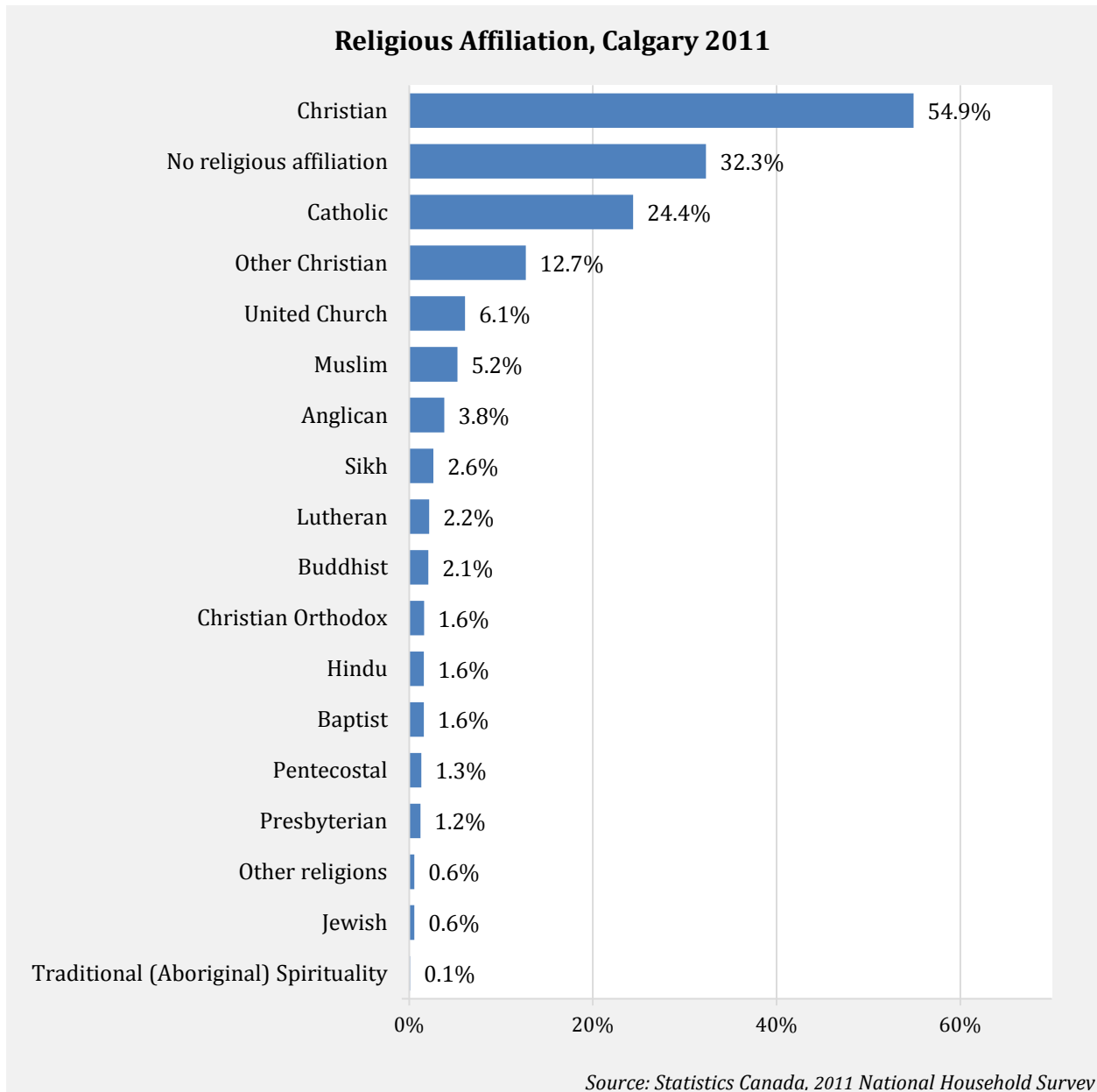
- One out of ten Calgarians did not hold Canadian citizen status.
- 11.1 per cent of all immigrants were born in the Philippines, 10.1 per cent in India and 9.9 per cent in China⁵.
- 18.6 per cent of all *recent immigrants* in Calgary were born in the Philippines, 12.5 per cent in India and 8.7 per cent in China.

⁴ Statistics Canada states that there was undercoverage of recent immigrants in the 2011 NHS. This applies to all levels of geographies, however the risk of error increases for smaller geographies or population groups (Statistics Canada, 2013. *Place of Birth, Generation Status, Citizenship and Immigration Reference Guide, National Household Survey, 2011*. Catalogue no. 99-010-XWE2011008).

⁵ A comparison with data from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada shows that 2011 NHS figures on persons born in the Philippines were overestimated at the national level and that the risk of error increases at geographies smaller than this (Statistics Canada, 2013. *Place of Birth, Generation Status, Citizenship and Immigration Reference Guide, National Household Survey, 2011*. Catalogue no. 99-010-XWE2011008).

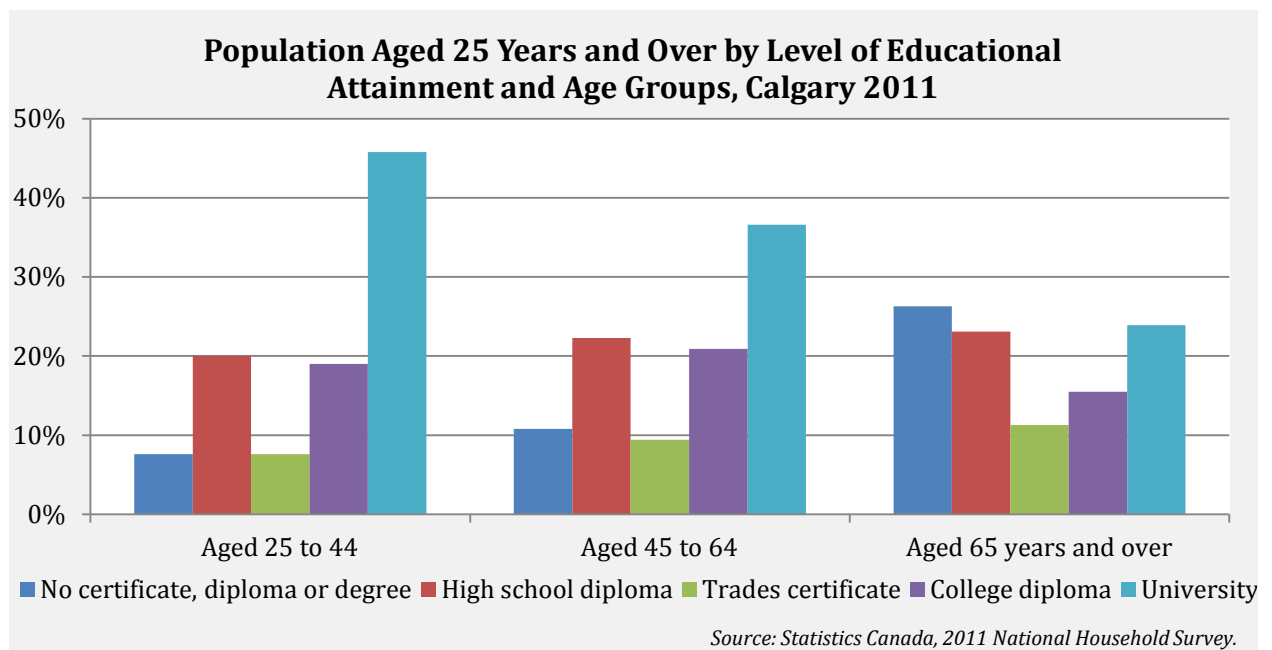
Religion

- Two-thirds of Calgarians reported having a *religious affiliation*.
- Over half of people in Calgary identified as Christian (54.9 per cent), while the most frequently reported non-Christian religions were Muslim (5.2 per cent), Sikh (2.6 per cent) and Buddhist (2.1 per cent).



Education

- Approximately two-thirds of Calgarians aged 25 years and over (67.4 per cent) had postsecondary education as their highest level of educational attainment. Those with a university certificate or degree made up 39.3 per cent of Calgarians in this age bracket, while 19.3 per cent had a college diploma and 8.8 per cent had a trades certificate.
- For 21.3 per cent of Calgarians 25 years and older, a high school diploma was the highest level of educational certificate attained. 11.3 per cent had not completed high school.
- Men aged 15 years and older were somewhat more likely than women to have an apprenticeship or trades certificate/diploma (11.0 per cent compared to 4.9 per cent), while women were more likely to have a college diploma (19.5 per cent compared to 15.4 per cent).
- Older Calgarians were less likely than younger Calgarians to have completed high school. Of those aged 65 years or older, 26.3 per cent did not have a certificate or degree, compared to only 7.6 per cent of those aged 25 to 44.
- Members of this younger age group were almost twice as likely to have a university degree. Of those in the 25 to 44 age group, 45.8 per cent had a university degree, while the proportion for the 65 years and over age group was 23.9 per cent.



Education (continued)

- The top five most common fields of study for Calgarians with postsecondary qualifications were:
 - architecture, engineering and related technologies (14.6 per cent);
 - business, management and public administration (14.0 per cent);
 - health and related fields (7.6 per cent);
 - social and behavioural sciences and law (6.1 per cent);
 - and education (3.9 per cent).
- Many of the fields of study varied based on gender. Men were more likely to study architecture and engineering and women were more likely to study health, education and social and behavioural sciences and law.

Postsecondary Field of Study for those Aged 15 Years and Older by Gender, Calgary, 2011					
Field of Study	Total	Men		Women	
		#	%	#	%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	129,640	112,775	87.0%	16,860	13.0%
Business, management and public administration	123,705	50,880	41.1%	72,830	58.9%
Health and related fields	67,535	13,415	19.9%	54,115	80.1%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	53,635	19,795	36.9%	33,845	63.1%
Education	34,715	75,65	21.8%	27,145	78.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey.

- Most Calgarians aged 15 years and over (52.0 per cent) completed their postsecondary degree Alberta. Those who completed it outside of Alberta were equally split between studying in another province or territory and studying abroad.

Mobility

- Almost half of Calgarians (46.6 per cent) moved in the five years between 2006 and 2011 and 15.8 per cent had moved in the year between 2010 and 2011.
- In the case of those who had moved between 2006 and 2011, 62.7 per cent moved within the city, 7.6 per cent came from somewhere else in Alberta, 14.6 per cent came from another province, and 15.1 per cent came from another country.
- For those who moved between 2010 and 2011, 71.2 per cent moved within the city, 8.4 per cent came from somewhere else in Alberta, 10.0 per cent came from another province and 10.4 per cent came from another country.

Labour

- The total number of Calgarians aged 15 years and over in the *labour force* in 2010 was 656,545, of whom 617,045 were employed and 39,500 were unemployed. The employment rate was 69.7 per cent and the unemployment rate was 6.0 per cent.
- Men were more likely to participate in the labour market than women (79.7 per cent compared to 68.6 per cent) and their employment rate was also higher (75.0 per cent compared to 64.3 per cent). However, the unemployment rate for men and women was relatively similar (5.9 per cent for men and 6.2 per cent for women).

Total Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Labour Force Status and Gender, Calgary 2011			
	Total	Male	Female
Total	885,845	440,880	444,965
In the labour force	656,545	351,360	305,185
Employed	617,040	330,790	286,250
Unemployed	39,505	20,570	18,935
Not in the labour force	229,305	89,525	139,780
Participation rate	74.1%	79.7%	68.6%
Employment rate	69.7%	75.0%	64.3%
Unemployment rate	6.0%	5.9%	6.2%
<i>Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey.</i>			

- The top three *occupations* in Calgary were sales and services (22.2 per cent), business, finance and administration (19.0 per cent) and trades, transport, equipment operators and related occupations (13.8 per cent).
- Calgary's top three *industries* were professional, scientific and technical services (11.9 per cent), retail trade (10.8 per cent) and health care and social assistance (9.4 per cent).
- The majority of Calgarians aged 15 years and over in the labour force were employees (88.0 per cent) and 10.4 per cent were self-employed.
- Of those that worked in 2010, 82.3 per cent did so on a *full-time* basis, while 17.7 per cent worked *part-time*.
- Women were twice as likely to work part-time as men (65.8 per cent compared to 34.2 per cent).

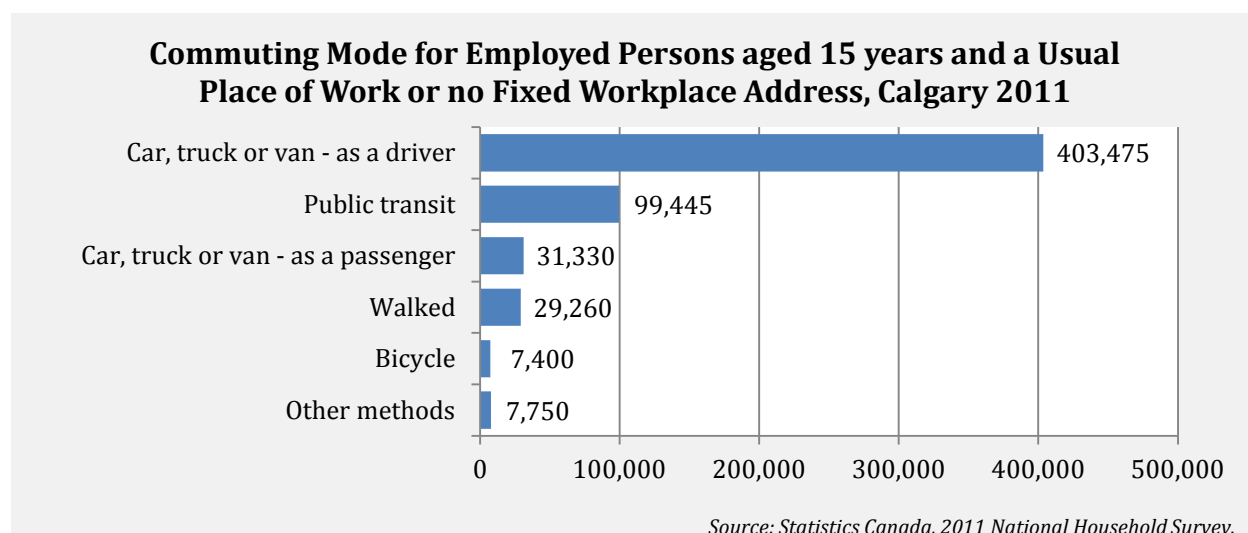
Total Population Aged 15 Years and Over in the Labour Force by Full /Part-time and Gender, Calgary 2010					
	Total	Male		Female	
		#	%	#	%
Total	656,540	351,360	53.5%	305,185	46.5%
Did not work in 2010	30,510	14,225	46.6%	16,285	53.4%
Worked in 2010	626,035	337,135	53.9%	288,905	46.1%
Worked full-time in 2010	515,425	299,305	58.1%	216,120	41.9%
Worked part-time in 2010	110,610	37,830	34.2%	72,780	65.8%
<i>Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey.</i>					

Place of Work

- Of those Calgarians 15 years and older who were employed, 81.1 per cent had a *usual place of work* and 5.8 per cent worked at home.
- Those without a fixed workplace address accounted for 12.8 per cent of Calgarians. This percentage was markedly higher among men than women (18.0 per cent compared to 6.7 per cent), which is likely due to the overrepresentation of men in jobs such as building and landscape contractors, travelling salespersons, truck drivers, etc.
- Only a very small percentage worked outside of Canada (0.4 per cent).

Commuting to Work

- The median commuting duration for Calgarians was 25.1 minutes.
- Over half (53.1 per cent) left for work between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- Most Calgarians (75.1 per cent) travelled to work in a private vehicle, followed by 17.2 per cent who used public transit. The remaining people walked (5.1 per cent) or cycled (1.3 per cent)⁶.

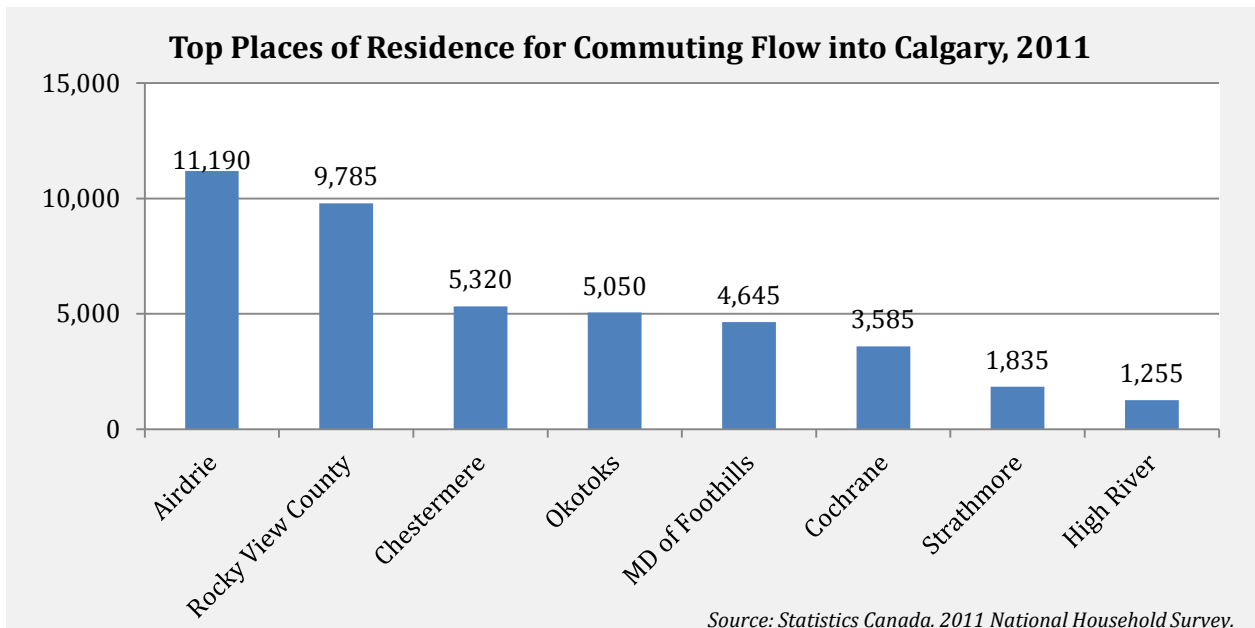


- A substantial number of Calgarians worked outside of the city. Over 5,000 lived in Calgary but worked in Rocky View County, 2,600 worked in Airdrie, 1,700 worked in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (i.e. Fort McMurray and surrounding area), and 1,400 worked in the Municipal District of Foothills.

⁶ Persons who used more than one mode of transportation were asked to identify the single mode they used for most of the travel distance. As a result, the question provides data on the primary mode of transportation to work. The question does not measure multiple modes of transportation, nor does it measure the seasonal variation in mode of transportation or trips made for purposes other than the commute from home to work. (Statistics Canada, 2013. *National Household Survey Dictionary, 2011*. Catalogue no. 99-000-XWE).

Commuting to Work (continued)

- There are also many people who did not live in Calgary but worked in the city. For example, over 11,000 people lived in Airdrie and commuted to Calgary.



Language used at Work

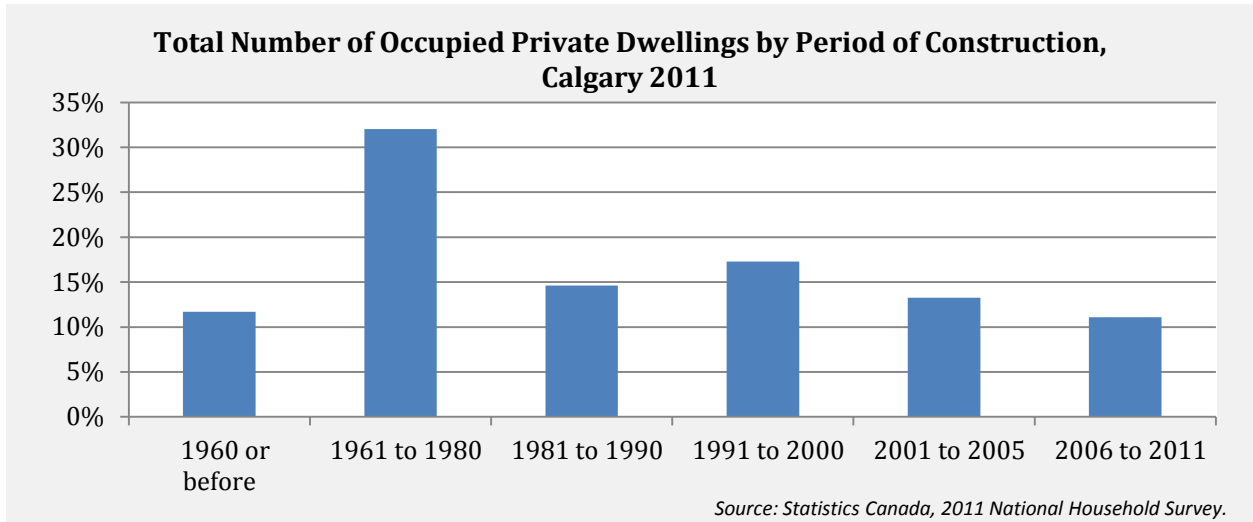
- The vast majority of Calgarians (97.8 per cent) spoke only English most often at work.
- The non-official languages that were used most often at work were Chinese languages, Panjabi (Punjabi) and Spanish. Approximately 4,700 spoke a Chinese language most often at work, which accounts for 0.7 per cent of the employed population aged 15 years and over. The figures for Panjabi and Spanish speakers were, respectively, 1,900 (0.3 per cent) and 1,100 (0.2 per cent).

Housing

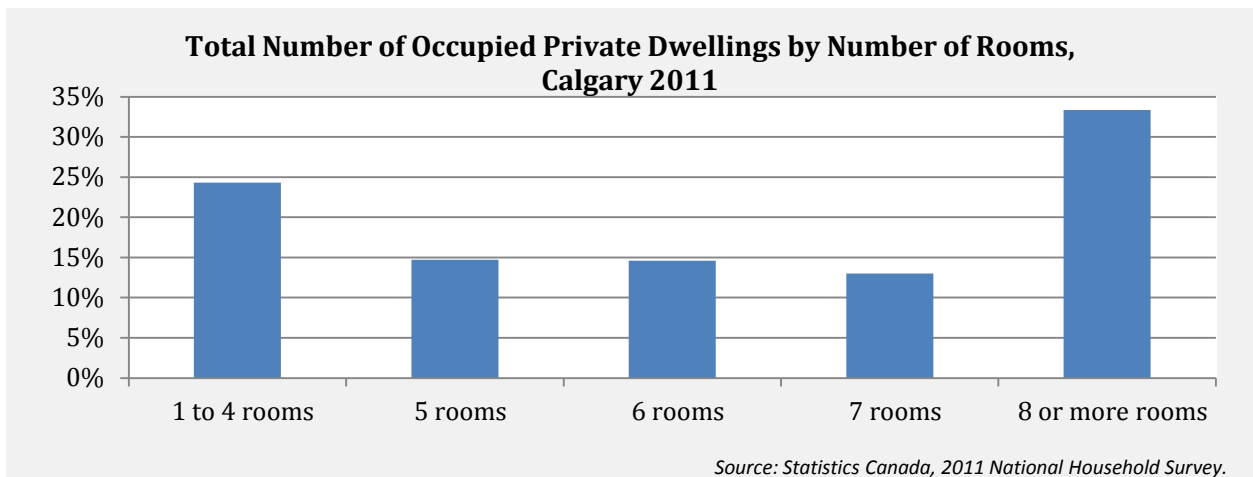
- In 2011, there were 423,415 occupied private dwellings in Calgary. The majority of these (94.7 per cent) required *regular maintenance* or *minor repairs* only, while a small percentage (5.3 per cent) required *major repairs*.

Housing (continued)

- Dwellings that were built in the years between 1961 and 1980 made up 32.0 per cent of occupied dwellings in Calgary, compared to 41.7 per cent that were built between 1991 and 2011.



- Just over one-third of all dwellings in Calgary (33.4 per cent) had eight or more *rooms* and 24.3 per cent had one to four rooms.⁷

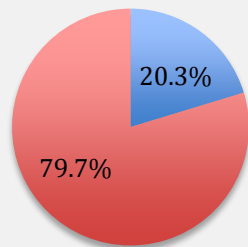


⁷ According to Statistics Canada, data on number of rooms and bedrooms is affected by respondent errors due to inconsistent reporting on the total number of rooms and bedrooms per dwelling. The risk of error increases the smaller the number of rooms and bedrooms per dwelling. Thus, especially in small geographic areas, statistics on the number of rooms and bedrooms may not accurately reflect the respondent's actual situation.

Housing (continued)

- Most houses had three *bedrooms* (37.0 per cent), 29.4 per cent had four or more bedrooms, 21.6 per cent had two bedrooms and only 12.0 per cent had zero or one bedroom.
- 72.4 per cent of households Calgary in 2011 were owner households and 27.6 per cent were renter households.⁸
- 21.0 per cent of all private households in Calgary were part of a condominium development in 2011.
- The majority of households (58.2 per cent) had one household maintainer, 38.5 per cent had two and 3.3 per cent had three or more.
- Most primary household maintainers were between the ages of 25 and 54 (64.9 per cent) and 14.7 per cent were persons 65 years of age and older.
- The majority of Calgarians in private households (94.7 per cent) lived in *suitable housing* conditions; however 5.3 per cent lived in housing conditions considered unsuitable.
- Among private households, 25.3 per cent spent more than 30 per cent of their total household income on shelter (*spending on shelter*).
- Of those households spending more than 30 per cent of their total household income on shelter, 58.2 per cent were owners and 42.2 per cent were renters. However, among owners only, 20.3 per cent were overspending on shelter. This figure was 38.7 per cent among renters.

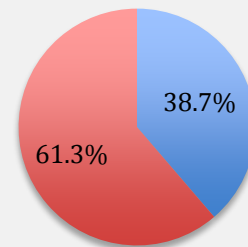
Owner Households by Spending on Shelter, Calgary 2011



- Owner households spending 30% or more of total household income on shelter
- All other owner households

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey.

Tenant Households by Spending on Shelter, Calgary 2011



- Tenant Households Spending 30% or more of Total Household Income on Shelter
- All other tenant households

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey.

⁸ Comparative tests conducted by Statistics Canada between the NHS and other surveys and administrative data showed statistically significant differences in homeownership rates. Thus, homeownership rates for Calgary may be overestimated.

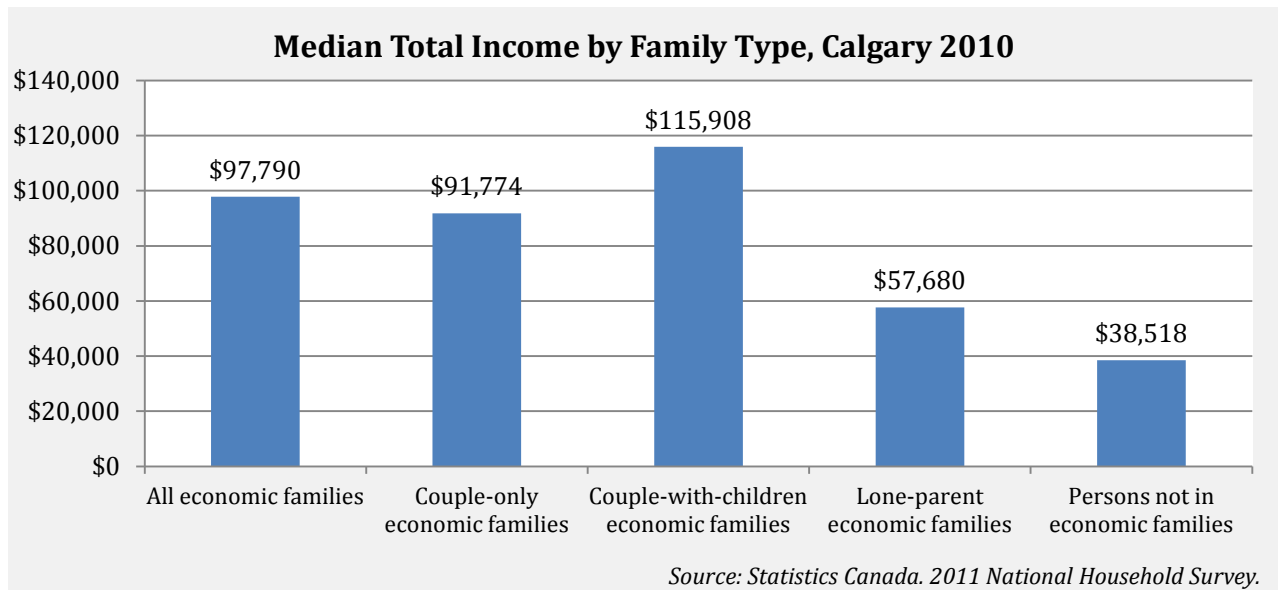
Housing (continued)

- Almost two-thirds (64.6 per cent) of owner households carried a mortgage. The median *shelter cost* for owned dwellings in Calgary was \$1,366 per month and the median value of these dwellings was \$400,697.
- The median shelter cost for rented dwellings was \$1,093 per month.
- 11.2 per cent of all renter households lived in *subsidized housing*.

Income

Income data is reported based on income earned during the year 2010.

- The *median income* for private households in Calgary for 2010 was \$81,256; for *economic families* it was \$97,790; and for individuals (15 years of age and over) it was \$37,697.



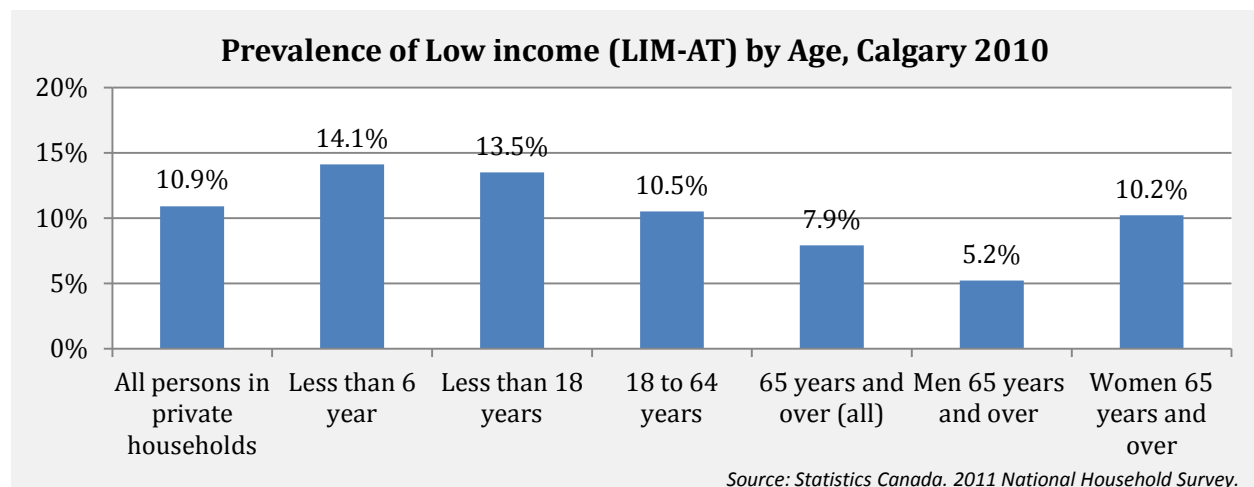
- 39.1 per cent of Calgary households had an annual *total income* (before tax) of over \$100,000 and 19.9 per cent had an income of more than \$150,000.
- Income varied depending on the gender of the individual. The median total personal income for men in Calgary was \$45,781 and for women it was \$30,516. Based on these figures, women's income was 66.7 per cent of that of men.
- The *median income* from employment for Calgarians who worked *full-year, full-time* was \$57,468.

Income (continued)

- Total income is comprised of *market income* and *government transfers*. In Calgary, almost all income (94.0 per cent) was market income in 2010, while the remaining (6.0 per cent) was from government transfers.

Income Composition for Individuals, Calgary 2010
Market income – 94.0%
Employment income - 82.2%
Wages and salaries - 79.0%
Self-employment income – 3.2%
Investment income – 6.5%
Retirement pensions; superannuation and annuities - 3.2%
Other money income – 2.0%
Government transfer payments – 6.0%
Canada/Quebec Pension Plan benefits – 1.6%
Old Age Security pensions and Guaranteed Income Supplement – 1.4%
Employment Insurance benefits – 1.1%
Child benefits – 1.0%
Other income from government sources – 1.0%
<i>Source: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.</i>

- Based on the *low-income measure after-tax (LIM-AT)*, there were 118,325 people in low income in Calgary in 2010. This accounted for 10.9 per cent of the total population.
- When broken down by age, children under six years of age had the highest rate of low income at 14.1 per cent and those 65 years and over have the lowest rate at 7.9 per cent. However, the low income rate of 10.2 per cent for women aged 65 years and over was markedly higher than that of men in this age group at 5.2 per cent.



DEFINITIONS⁹

- **Aboriginal identity:** refers to whether the person reported being an Aboriginal person, that is First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or being a Registered or Treaty Indian (as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada) and/or being a member of a First Nation or Indian band.
- **Bedrooms:** refers to rooms that are designed for sleeping purposes even though they may be used for other purposes during the time of the survey, e.g. as guest rooms etc.
- **Census family:** refers to a married couple (with or without children), a common-law couple (with or without children) or a lone parent family.
- **Economic family:** refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law, adoption or a foster relationship. A couple may be of opposite or same sex.
- **Ethnic origin:** refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors.
- **Full-time employment:** refers to employment t in which a person worked 30 hours or more per week.
- **Full-year, full-time employment:** refers to employment t in which a person worked 49 to 52 weeks mostly full time (30 hours or more per week).
- **Government transfers:** refers to all cash benefits received from federal, provincial, territorial or municipal governments during 2010 (includes Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, child benefits).
- **Home language:** refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home.
- **Immigrant:** refers to a person who is or has ever been a landed/permanent resident.
- **Industry:** refers to the general nature of the business that was being carried out in an establishment.
- **Labour force:** refers to persons who, during the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2011, were either employed or unemployed.
- **Low-income measure after-tax (LIM-AT):** refers to a dollar threshold that defines low income as half of median adjusted after-tax income of households, where 'adjusted' indicates that the number of people in a household is taken into account.

⁹ Statistics Canada. 2012. *2011 Census Dictionary*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-301-XWE. Ottawa, Ontario. February 8. <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=98-301-X&lang=eng>.
Statistics Canada. 2012. *2011 National Household Dictionary*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-000-XWE. Ottawa, Ontario. May 8. <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=99-000-X&lang=eng>

Definitions (continued)

- **Major repairs:** a “condition of dwelling” category that includes dwellings needing major repairs such as dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring or dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings.
- **Market income:** refers to the sum of employment income (wages and salaries and self-employment income), investment income, retirement pensions, superannuation and annuities (including those from Registered Retirement Savings Plans and Registered Retirement Income Funds) and other money income.
- **Median income:** refers to the middle value where half of Calgarians earn more and half of Calgarians earn less.
- **Minor repairs:** a “condition of dwelling” category that includes dwellings needing only minor repairs such as dwellings with missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles or defective steps, railing or siding.
- **Non-permanent resident:** refers to a person from another country who has a work or study permit or who is a refugee claimant, and any non-Canadian-born family member living in Canada with them.
- **Occupation:** refers to the kind of work performed during the reference period (May 1 to May 7, 2011).
- **Part-time:** refers to employment in which a person worked less than 30 hours per week.
- **Recent immigrant:** refers to an immigrant who has landed in Canada within the last five years (2006-2011).
- **Regular maintenance:** a “condition of dwelling” category that includes dwellings where only regular maintenance such as painting or furnace cleaning is required.
- **Religion/religious affiliation:** refers to the person’s self-identification as having a connection or affiliation with any religious denomination, group, body, sect, cult or other religiously defined community or system of belief. Religion is not limited to formal membership in a religious organization or group.
- **Rooms in a private dwelling:** includes all enclosed areas that are finished and suitable for year round living. This includes kitchens, bedrooms and finished rooms in basements and attics. Bathrooms, halls and rooms used for business purposes are excluded.
- **Spending on shelter/shelter costs:** includes expenses such as the monthly rent (for tenants) or the mortgage payment, property taxes and condominium fees (for owners) and the costs of electricity, heat, municipal services, etc. If these costs exceed 30% of total household income, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the provinces consider the household to be overspending on shelter.

Definitions (continued)

- **Subsidized housing:** includes housing that is rent geared to income, social housing, public housing, government-assisted housing, non-profit housing, rent supplements or housing allowances.
- **Suitable housing:** refers to dwellings that have enough bedrooms for the size or composition of the household (taking in consideration age, sex and relationship among household members) as based on the National Occupancy Standard that was developed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.
- **Total income:** refers to before tax income from all sources, including employment income, income from government programs, pension income, investment income and any other money income.
- **Usual place of work:** refers to a workplace location that has a specific address and to which persons typically report to at the beginning of each shift.
- **Visible minority:** refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the *Employment Equity Act*, and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The *Employment Equity Act* defines visible minorities as ‘persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.’ The main visible minority groups are: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.

BACKGROUND ON THE CENSUS OF CANADA AND THE NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

In the past, the Census of Canada conducted by Statistics Canada consisted of a short-form questionnaire sent to all Canadian households and the long-form questionnaire. The latter, sent to 20 per cent of all Canadian households, contained an additional 53 questions on top of what was included on the short-form. Both questionnaires were mandatory.

In 2011, the short-form Census remained mandatory and three language-related questions were added in addition to the standard questions on age, sex, marital status, families, households and language. As with earlier Censuses, this questionnaire was sent to all Canadian households.

The previously mandatory long-form Census was replaced by the voluntary National Household Survey and was sent to 30 per cent of Canadian households. The questions asked in this survey were similar to the previous long-form censuses.

Of those households selected in Calgary to complete the National Household Survey, 71.9 per cent responded to the survey.

DATA QUALITY

Census

- Statistics Canada advises caution when comparing of the 2011 Census language data with that of previous Censuses as changes in response patterns to mother tongue and home language have been observed. These changes may be related to modifications made in the placement and context of these questions in the survey.

National Household Survey

- **Non-response bias:** Certain groups of people are historically less inclined to respond to surveys (e.g. people with lower education and/or income levels, immigrants, etc), which means that these groups will likely be under-represented in the results.
- **Historical comparability:** There is a high risk that the results from the National Household Survey will not be comparable with results from previous censuses. If this is the case, it will be difficult to accurately assess trends over time.
- **Data availability:** Low response rates may compromise the availability of data at small levels of geography (e.g. communities) and for data tables that cross-tabulate several indicators (e.g. low income persons broken down by age and education).