

City of Victoria Profile Q&A's and FAQ's

Why did you create the City of Victoria Profile?

The City of Victoria Profile was developed in response to increased demand for detailed information about the City and its neighbourhoods. The City of Victoria Profile updates previous City reports (*Social and Economic Data, Victoria, 1989*), resource inventories (1990's) and poverty information (*Poverty and Inequality in the Capital Region of BC, 2000*).

What use is this information?

The City of Victoria Profile is a valuable resource to both the general public and City staff. It serves as a "one stop shop" providing comprehensive information about the City and its neighbourhoods in an easily accessible and straightforward way. It will help to identify issues and challenges that we face as a City and assist us to monitor changes as they occur. It may also be used by organizations writing grant applications. People and businesses wishing to relocate Victoria will find the Profile useful in their decision-making process. Its community resources inventory can be used to determine the location of services and identify possible gaps

Where can I find it?

You can download copies free of charge from the City's website at:

<http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/business/profiles>

<http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/residents/profiles>

Are we still the city of the "newly wed and nearly dead?"

"Newly wed and nearly dead" no longer accurately describes our city. Slightly more than 43% of residents are single; the average age of all residents is 42.6 years.

How much has Victoria grown in the past ten years?

The last Census shows there are about 74,125 residents living in Victoria in 2001. Between 1991 and 2001 the City has grown by 2,900 people or 4.1%. The number of children has dropped slightly (-1.6%) but the proportion of youth has remained the same. In 2001 19.2% are between 20 - 29 years and about the same proportion are seniors; 43% of residents are single, a significant increase (+8.8%) since 1996.

Where do most people live?

The largest neighbourhood is James Bay (15% of the population), but Harris Green has seen the most rapid growth over ten years, growing by over 50% from 1,045 to 1,575 residents.

What can you tell me about housing in Victoria?

In 2001, there are 39,590 housing units in the City. Almost two-thirds of homes (64%) are apartments and one fifth are single detached. Sixty-three percent are rental units. There has been a growth in number of households (+3.2% over ten years) which may help explain the growing demand for more housing. Many of our households have remained relatively small in size at about 1.8 persons on average. About 38% of Victoria households pay more than 30% of their income on shelter. About 27% of families pay more than they can they can afford on housing.

Where do residents work?

Over half the city's labour force works within City boundaries. An additional 29% commute to a different municipality within the CRD to get to work and the balance works outside the Capital Region.

Is it true we get less rain than Vancouver?

Yes, Victoria enjoys the mildest climate in the country, and has less rainfall than both Vancouver and Ottawa. Victoria receives an average precipitation level of 609.5mm (24") per year; Ottawa receives 914.2 mm (37") and Vancouver gets 1588.6mm (59.7"), over twice the average of Victoria.

What is our leading industry?

The City of Victoria focuses on service-oriented and knowledge-based industries. The regional economy is strong in tourism, public administration, defense and retail.

Where can I send my comments or suggestions for improvement?

Please send your comments, suggestions or inquiries to:

- For the City Profile, contact the Economic Development Division at 361-0320.
- For Neighbourhood Profiles, contact the Community Development Division at 361-0366.