



Downtown

Overall, there are more young people than seniors in the City centre.

The City of Victoria is one of the most livable cities in the world. Its compact Downtown is situated on a picturesque harbour featuring waterfront paths, magnificent vistas and open spaces. It is bounded by the water to the west, Chatham Street to the north, roughly Blanshard Street to the east and Belleville Street to the south. Its well-designed network of cycling and pedestrian paths make the heart of the city easily accessible.

Victoria has approximately 65% of the designated heritage sites in British Columbia with a concentration of 240 heritage buildings in its Downtown. This rich heritage gives the city centre a distinctive character. Old Town, Chinatown and Store Street serve to draw many residents and visitors. Many are attracted to the wide variety of shops, restaurants and entertainment. Over 17 annual music and cultural festivals are celebrated Downtown each year.

Serving as a focal point for over 325,000 people in the Region, there has been major civic investment in revitalization and beautification initiatives such as Bastion and Centennial Squares, Douglas and Broad Streets.



In addition, new hotel and housing developments encourage a vibrant core. Residents who live Downtown to be close to jobs and services reside in a variety of housing, from high-end condominiums, subsidized apartments to work-live studios.

Population

Gender/Age

Current:

There are 1,270 people living Downtown, representing 1.7% of the entire city's population. Young people are drawn to Downtown living: 40.6% of the population is between 20 and 34 years of age. There are few children and youth

with only 3.9% of the population under the age of 19. Seniors comprise 14.6% of the population. Gender differences are apparent in the city's core as 61% of the population is male. The higher ratio of men to women begins in the early 20s and the gap widens after the age of 35. The pattern reverses after 65 when there are more women to men.

Trends:

Over ten years, the population has increased 30.9% from a total of 970 in 1991 to 1,270 in 2001. The population dropped between 1991 and 1996 followed by a rapid increase over the past five years. The largest growth

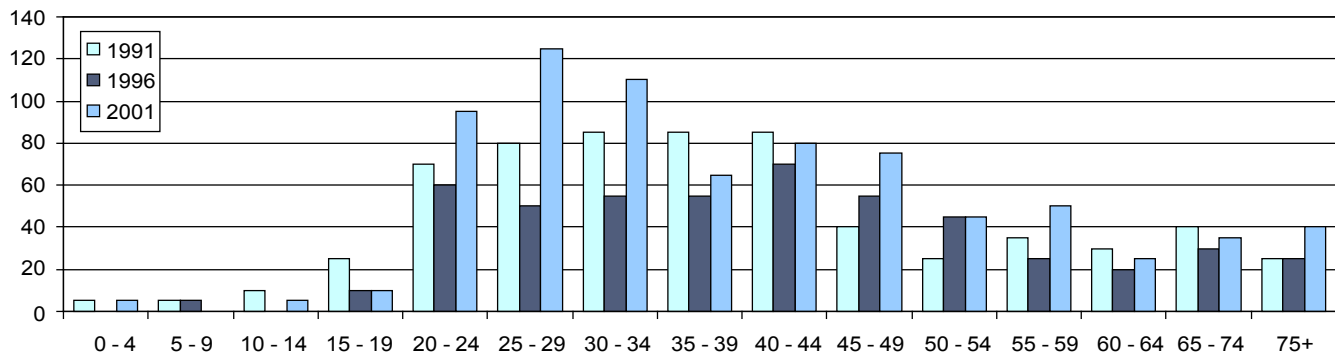
occurred among 20 - 34 year olds and 45 - 59 year olds. In contrast, the number of children and youth under 19 fell over the past ten years. When examining gender patterns, the number of men 35 - 44 years of age dropped almost 15% and the number of women in this age category increased since 1991.

Analysis:

The rapid growth in population may be attributed to the significant rise in housing development Downtown over the past five years. The higher proportion of men in this neighbourhood is consistent with special needs housing in the center.

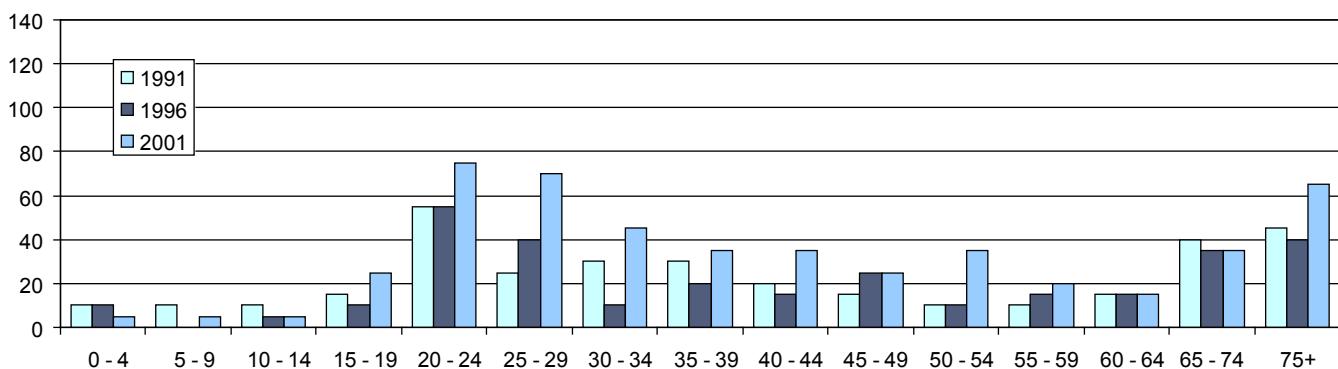
Gender/Age 1991/1996/2001

Males



Gender/Age 1991/1996/2001

Females



Ethnic Origin

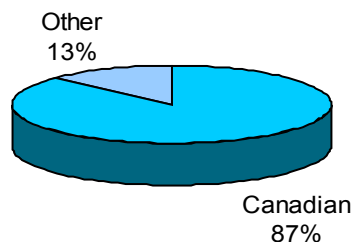
A large proportion of respondents report at least one English ancestor. The next most commonly reported ancestry is Scottish, followed by Canadian and Chinese.

Aboriginal Population

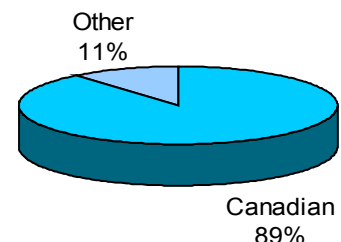
Aboriginals form 0.9% of the total population residing Downtown, down from 4.5% in 1996.

Citizenship 1996/2001

1996



2001



Knowledge of Official Languages

Both national languages are spoken by 14.5% of the population, compared to 12.1% across the city.

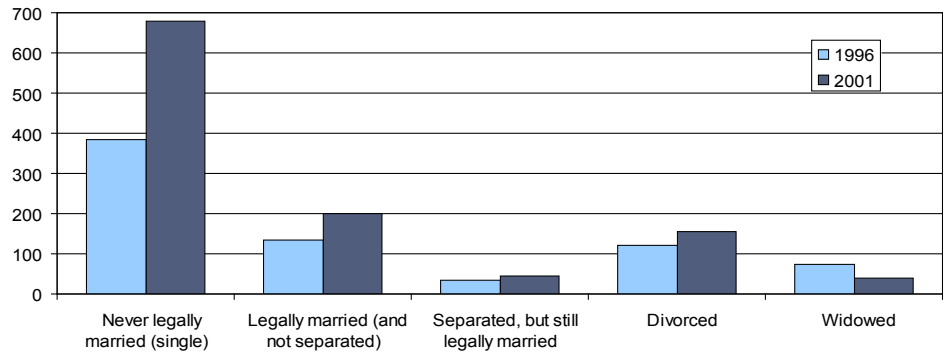
Knowledge of Official Languages 96/01	1996	2001	% Change
English only	640	930	45.3
French only	0	0	0.0
Both English and French	85	165	94.1
Neither English or French	45	40	-11.1
Total sample	770	1135	47.4

Marital Status

About 60% of Downtown residents have never been married.

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Marital Status 1996/2001



Census Family Size

Families tend to be small in size, comprised of two persons.

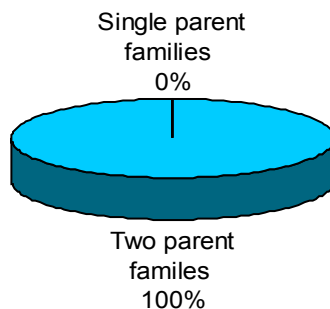
Census Family Size 96/01	1996	2001	% Change
2 persons	90	120	33.3
3 persons	0	25	0.0
4 persons	15	0	-100.0
5 or more persons	0	0	0.0
Total census families	100	135	35.0
Average number per census family	2.3	2.1	-8.7

Census Family Structure

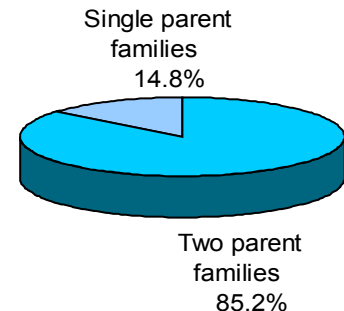
There are 35 additional families living in the city's centre. Most families tend to be couples without children living at home (70.4%). There are 20 additional single-parent families since 1996, all led by women. Couples without children Downtown may be "empty nesters" or young couples that have not yet started a family.

Census Family Structure 1996/2001

1996



2001

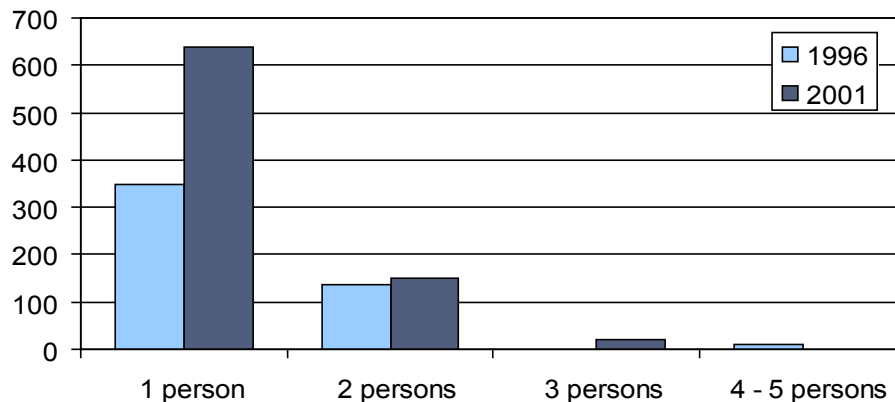


Household Size and Type

The majority of households are one-person households. On average, there are 1.3 persons per household, the same as five years earlier. Households in the city centre increased 66% to reach 820, the majority of which are non-family.

There are 20 additional single-parent families since 1996, all led by women.

Household Size 1996/2001



Household Type 96/01	1996	2001	% Change
One family - households	95	125	31.6
Multiple - family households	0	10	0.0
Non - family households	395	685	73.4
Total sample	495	820	65.7

Income

Employment Income - Males/Females

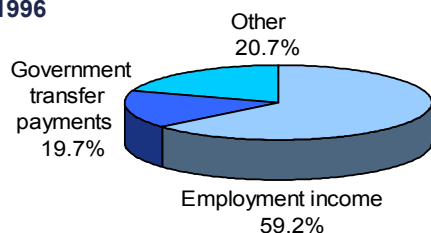
Over half of employed men and women work full year/full time, a reversal of the 1996 pattern when the majority worked part year/part time. Income from full time employment has dropped to an average of \$33,985 annually.

Composition of Total Income

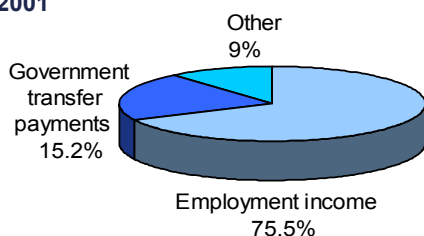
Residents' income from employment increased significantly since 1996, rising to 75.5% of their income sources. The importance of government transfer payments (i.e. Old Age Security, CPP, EI benefits) fell between Census periods.

Composition of Total Income 1996/2001

1996



2001



Employment Income 96/01 (15 yrs +)	1996	2001	% Change
Males			
Total males who worked	300	460	53.3
Average employment income	\$24,654	\$27,154	10.1
Males who worked full time	100	265	165.0
Average employment income	\$47,498	\$32,546	-31.5
Males who worked part time or part year	200	190	-5.0
Average employment income	\$13,307	\$20,224	52.0
Females			
Total females who worked	105	280	166.7
Average employment income	\$17,442	\$28,480	63.3
Females who worked full time	25	145	480.0
Average employment income	\$31,876	\$36,613	14.9
Females who worked part time or part year	80	135	68.8
Average employment income	\$13,280	\$19,756	48.8
Total working population	400	735	83.8

Gender and Total Income

Current:

Downtown residents have relatively low incomes – 46% earn under \$15,000. Almost 30% of the population earn \$30,000 + and 12.6% earn moderate to higher incomes, \$50,000 and over. Residents' average earnings are about \$2,900 less than the city-wide average.

About 44% of all adult males earn less than \$15,000 annually. Half of all adult women earn less than \$15,000.

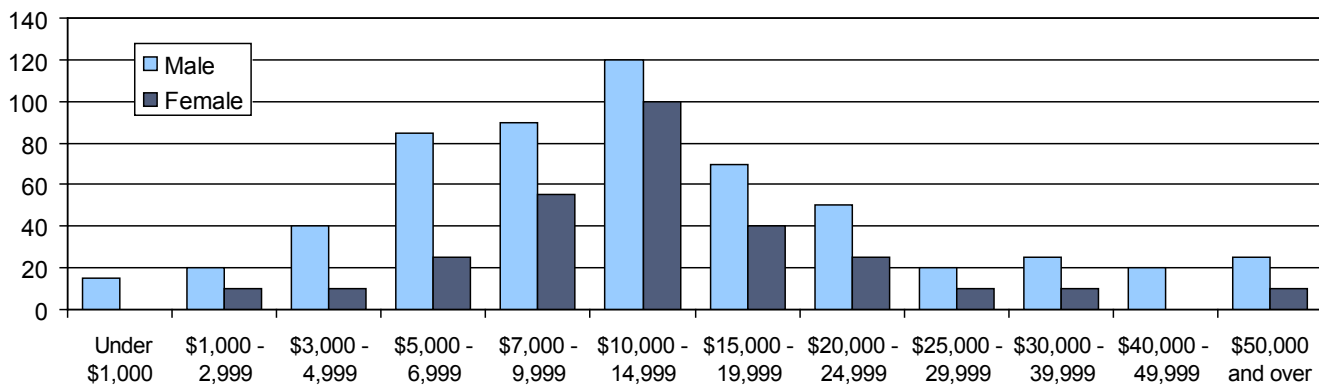
One third of women earn \$30,000 + compared to a lower proportion of men (27.5%). But, more men than women earn higher incomes, \$50,000 and over.

Trends :

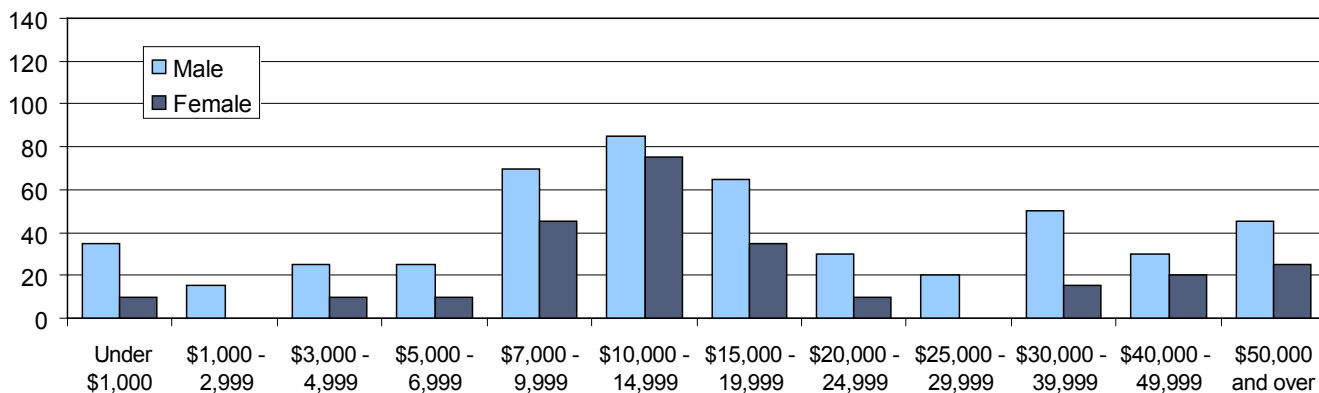
Over ten years, average incomes for both men and women have risen, increasing from \$15,405 in 1991 to \$24,231 in 2001. Although incomes are lower than the city as a whole, fewer residents are reporting low incomes: less than half of residents earn under \$15,000 annually compared to two thirds in 1991.

There has been a dramatic shift in the moderate to higher income ranges: ten years ago one tenth of the population earned \$30,000 +, compared to 30% in 2001. Residents earning \$50,000 and over jumped from 35 to 140 people, comprising 12.6% of the total population in 2001.

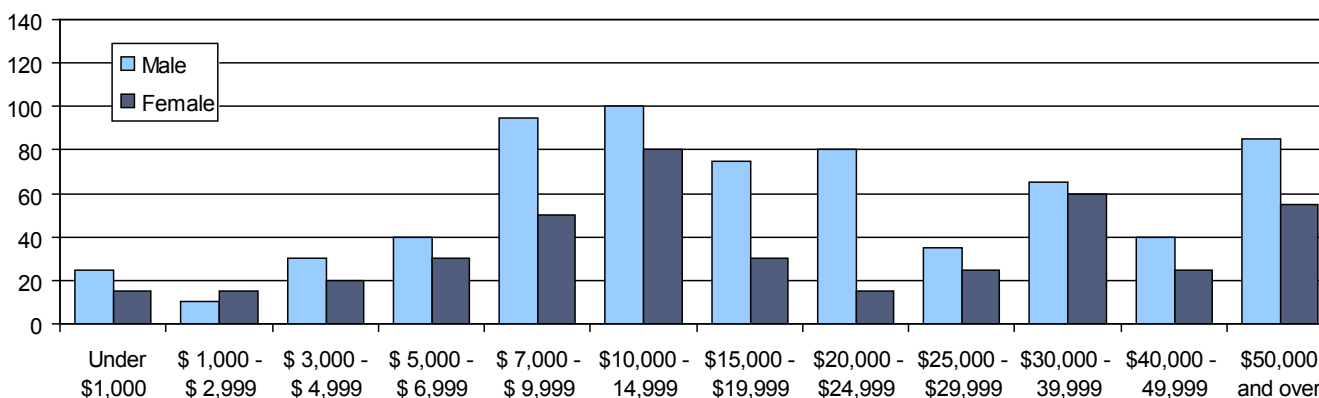
Gender and Total Income 1991



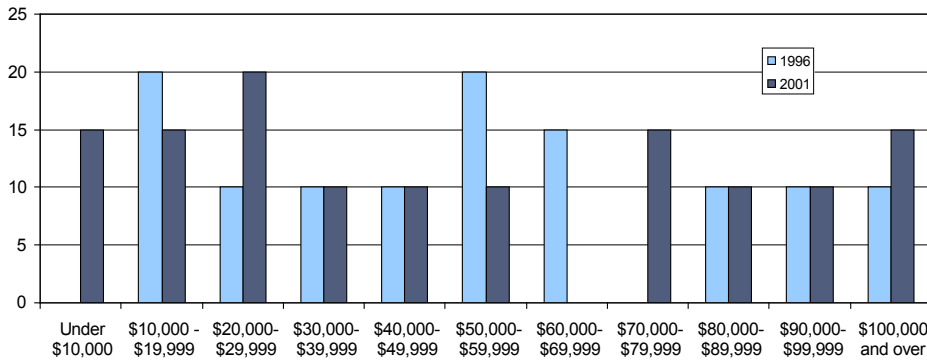
Gender and Total Income 1996



Gender and Total Income 2001



Census Family Income 1996/2001



Household Income 96/01	1996	2001	% Change
Under \$10,000	115	195	69.6
\$10,000 - \$19,999	165	205	24.2
\$20,000 - \$29,999	40	135	237.5
\$30,000 - \$39,999	40	65	62.5
\$40,000 - \$49,999	20	60	200.0
\$50,000 - \$59,999	30	50	66.7
\$60,000 - \$69,999	40	35	-12.5
\$70,000 and over	50	70	40.0
\$70,000 - \$79,999	25	30	20.0
\$80,000 - \$89,999	10	15	50.0
\$90,000 - \$99,999	0	0	0.0
\$100,000 and over	15	25	66.7
Total private households	495	820	65.7
Average household income	\$30,275	\$30,188	-0.3

Low Income Status 96/01	1996	2001	% Change
Total economic families	110	135	22.7
Low income	20	25	25.0
Other	95	105	16.7
Incidence of low income (%)	18.2	19.2	5.5
Total unattached individuals	425	740	74.1
Low income	220	360	63.6
Other	210	380	81.0
Incidence of low income (%)	51.8	48.6	-6.2
Total population in private households	665	1045	57.1
Low income	250	410	64.0
Other	410	635	54.9
Incidence of low income (%)	37.6	39.2	4.3

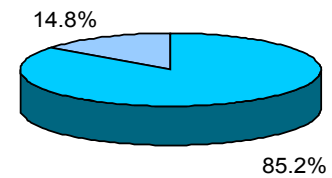
Census Family Income

The number of families earning under \$30,000 has gone up over five years, while there are fewer earning \$30,000 and over. Average family income fell slightly to \$50,391. Although there are 20 more families earning \$70,000 or more, overall it appears families are earning less.

Income by Family Structure

Couple-led families earn about \$32,000 more than single-parent families.

Income by Family Structure 2001



- Couple families, average family income: \$55,497
- Female lone-parent families, average income: \$23,142

Household Income

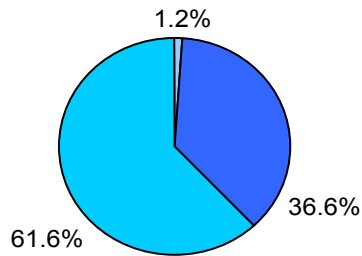
Two thirds of households in Downtown report earning under \$30,000. There has been a significant increase since 1996 in the number of households reporting incomes under \$30,000. Roughly one quarter of households earn under \$10,000 and one quarter earn \$10,000 - \$19,999. But more households report earning \$30,000 and over than in the past and 8.5% report earning \$70,000 and over.

Low Income Status

There are slightly more families living in poverty than in 1996: 19.2% report incomes below the poverty line. Fewer singles live in poverty compared to 1996, however their incidence of low income remains high at 48.6%.



Type of Dwelling 2001



- Semi-detached house
- Apartment, building that has five or more storeys
- Apartment, building that has fewer than five storeys

Condition of Dwelling and Period of Construction

Housing in the city's centre is aging but new housing units are being built. One fifth of dwellings have been created over the last five years and over ten years, about 43% has been added to the total stock. With the formation of new housing, the need for major repairs for major repairs has dropped - only 3.7% require major repairs compared to 9.1% five years earlier.

Any change between years in number of dwellings for particular construction periods may be explained by the creation of secondary suites, conversions and demolitions.

Between 1996 and 2001, 325 dwellings units were added to the housing stock Downtown

Tenure and Shelter Cost

The majority of Downtown housing is rented (82.9%). Half of all households are paying more than 30% of their income on shelter; the majority of these are renters. Families pay an average of \$679 per month on rent which is a 14.7% increase over 1996.

Housing

Type of Dwelling

Housing in the city's Downtown is primarily apartments. About 62% of units are located in smaller apartment buildings. Between 1996 and 2001, 325 dwellings units were added to the housing stock Downtown.

Condition of Dwelling 96/01	1996	2001	% Change
In need of regular maintenance	390	710	82.1
In need of minor repairs	65	85	30.8
In need of major repairs	45	30	-33.3
Total sample	495	820	65.7

Period of Construction 96/01	1996	2001	% Change
Before 1946	220	210	-4.5
1946 - 1960	50	10	-80.0
1961 - 1970	0	25	0.0
1971 - 1980	30	100	233.3
1981 - 1990	120	115	-4.2
1991 - 2001	75	350	366.7
Total sample	495	815	64.6

Tenure and Shelter Costs 96/01	1996	2001	% Change
All households: Tenant occupied			
Total dwellings	440	680	54.5
Average gross rent \$	\$493	\$615	24.7
Households spending 30% of income or more on shelter costs	190	380	100.0
All households: Owner occupied			
Total dwellings	55	140	154.5
Average value of dwelling \$	\$139,179	\$150,899	8.4
Average owner's major payment	\$746	\$917	22.9
Households spending 30% of income or more on shelter costs	15	35	133.3
One family households: Tenant occupied			
Total dwellings	60	70	16.7
Average gross rent \$	\$592	\$679	14.7
Households spending 30% of income or more on shelter costs	10	30	200.0
One family households: Owner occupied			
Total dwellings	35	55	57.1
Average owner's major payment \$	\$979	\$1,012	3.4
Households spending 30% of income or more on shelter costs	10	10	0.0
Total sample	495	815	64.6

Employment

Labour Force - 15+ Years – Total Workforce

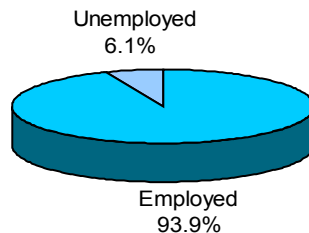
There are 735 people in the labour force, a participation rate of 65.6%. The unemployment rate dropped significantly from 17.4% in 1996 to 6.1%, lower than the city-wide unemployment rate (8.6%). The size of the labour force has increased by 71% since 1996.



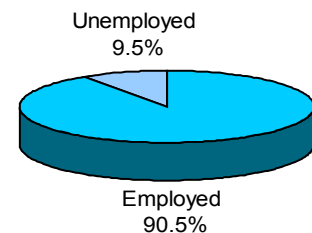
Labour Force - 15-24 Years – Youth Workforce

The participation rate in the youth workforce is roughly the same as the total work force. Youth also have a higher unemployment rate, when compared to the total workforce. But, one tenth of youth report being unemployed, a significant improvement since 1996 when over 26% report being unemployed.

Total Labour Force 2001



Youth Labour Force



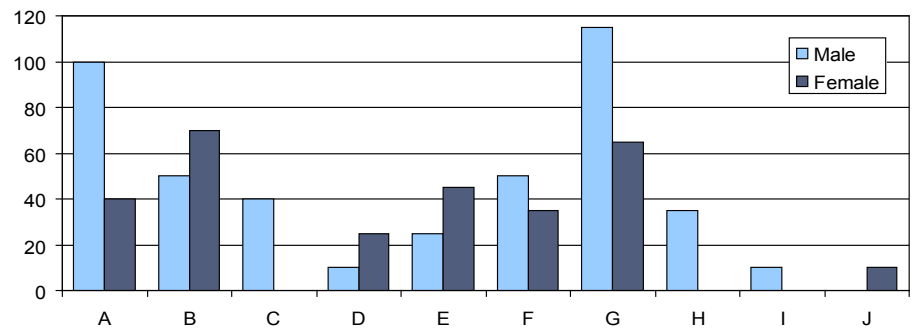
The unemployment rate dropped significantly from 17.4% in 1996 to 6.1%, lower than the city-wide unemployment rate (8.6%).

Gender and Occupation

Management and business, finance and administration employ over one third of residents. One quarter of the men and women who live Downtown work in sales and services. Art, culture, recreation and sport occupations are also common (11.6%). More women than men work in social science, education, government and religion (16.1%).



Gender and Occupation 2001



Legend

- A Management occupations
- B Business, finance & administrative occupations
- C Natural and applied sciences and related occupations
- D Health occupations
- E Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion
- F Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport
- G Sales and service occupations
- H Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations
- I Occupations unique to primary industry
- J Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities

Gender and Class of Worker

The majority (87.1%) of workers are paid workers. While there are more self-employed persons than five years earlier, they fell to 10.2% of the population. More men than women tend to be self-employed workers.

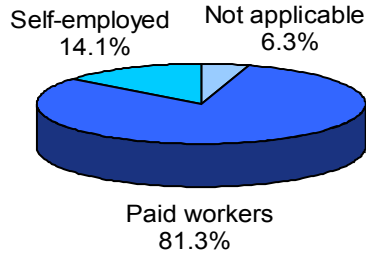
Gender and Place of Work Status

The number of Downtown residents employed within city boundaries has more than doubled, rising to 60% of the population since 1996. Just under one quarter of the labour force report travelling to a different municipality to work, down slightly from 1996.

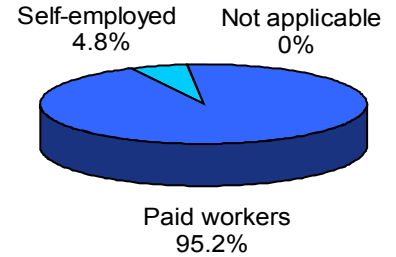
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Gender and Class of Worker 1996

Males

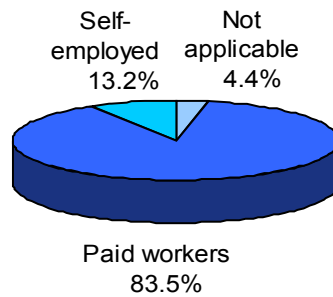


Females

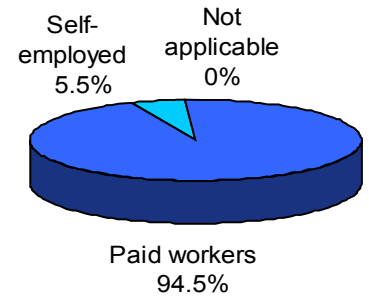


Gender and Class of Worker 2001

Males



Females



Employment Sectors 01

Employment Sectors 01	2001
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	10
Mining, oil and gas extraction	0
Utilities	0
Construction	15
Manufacturing	0
Wholesale trade	20
Retail trade	115
Transportation and storage industries	10
Information and cultural industries	60
Finance and insurance industries	10
Real estate and rental and leasing	10
Professional, scientific and technical services	50
Management of companies and enterprises	0
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	25
Educational services	60
Healthcare and social assistance	70
Arts, entertainment and recreation	35
Accommodation and food services	80
Other services (except public administration)	20
Public administration	115
All industries	715
Total labour force	735

Local Economy

Employment Sectors

Public administration and retail form key employment sectors for residents. Accommodation and food services as well as healthcare and social assistance are also important. Employment categories have changed between Census periods making comparisons between years difficult. The 1996 Census used the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (SIS) and the 2001 Census used the 1997 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Transportation

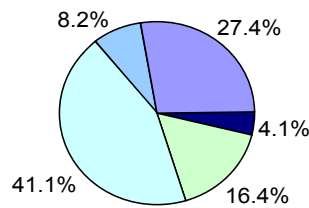
Mode of Transportation

Many adults walk or take public transportation to get to work.

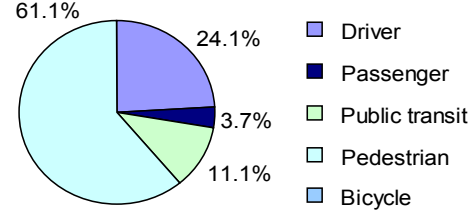


Mode of Transportation 2001

Males



Females



School Attendance 96/01 (15 - 24 years)	1996	2001	% Change
Not attending school	75	60	-20.0
Attending school full-time	25	80	220.0
Attending school part-time	0	15	0.0
Total sample	95	150	57.9

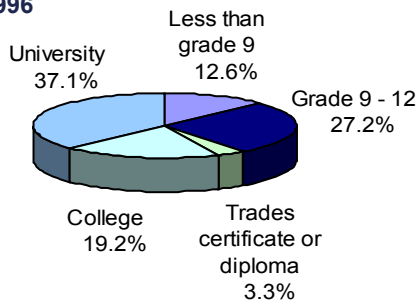
Education

Highest Level of Schooling

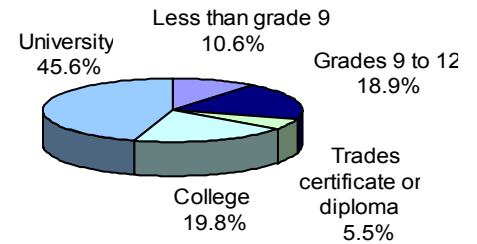
Almost 46% of residents report having some university education – a significant increase from 1996. One quarter attained a trades certificate, diploma or college training. Roughly one fifth do not have a high school diploma.

Highest Level of Schooling 1996/2001

1996



2001



Glossary of Terms

Aboriginal Identity:

In the 2001 Census, the term Aboriginal Identity refers to a person who reports that he or she identifies with, or is a member of, an organic political or cultural entity that stems historically from the original persons of North America. The term includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

Aboriginal Origin:

In the 2001 Census, the term Aboriginal Origin refers to residents in Canada who can trace their origins to the native people or First Nations people who inhabited the area (of what is now Canada). In addition, some persons have gained Aboriginal rights under legislation (e.g., the spouses of Aboriginal persons).

Census Family:

A married or common-law couple (same sex or opposite sex) living together, with or without children; or a single parent living with at least one child living in the same dwelling. Census families in private households exclude families living in institutions or other types of collective dwellings.

Economic Family:

Defined as a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption. By definition, all persons who are members of a census family are also members of an economic family.

Ethnic Origin:

The ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the respondent or the respondent's ancestors belong. In 1996 respondents are asked to specify as many groups as applicable. Persons reporting one origin have been counted in the "single response" category and those with multiple origins, "multiple response" category. Only the total responses for each ethnic origin are shown here, as tabulations of single responses would be misleading. The number of total responses is much larger than the total population as each ethnic origin reported is counted as one response.

Income Source:

Income from government transfer payments refers to Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement, CPP and Quebec Pension Plan benefits, Unemployment Insurance, Federal Child Tax benefits and other income from government sources. Income from investments refers to dividends, interest and other investment income. Other income refers to retirement pensions, superannuation, annuities and other money income.

Housing Types:

Semi-detached housing is considered to be two attached units located side by side (or back to front). A detached duplex is considered to be two units, located one above the other in a building surrounded by open space. Row housing is defined as three or more units, side by side (or side to back) such townhousing or garden homes.

Labour Force Information:

Residents may not be part of the labour force because of their age (e.g. seniors, young children), disability or due to parenting or other responsibilities.

Low Income Cutoff (Poverty Line):

The low income cutoff, often called the poverty line, for a city of Victoria's size is calculated by Statistics Canada to be \$14,473 gross income for a one person household and \$18,091 for a two person household.

Non-family Household:

Includes individuals not living in a census family, living alone, with an unrelated person or a relative such as a grandparent, cousin or brother-in-law.

One-family Household:

A household that contains one census family, that is, a married couple with or without children, or a couple living common-law with or without children, or a single parent living with one or more children (single-parent family).

Paid workers:

This category is made up of employees and the incorporated self-employed.

Self-employed:

Persons whose job consisted mainly of operating a business or professional practice, alone or in a partnership. This category includes the operation of a farm. A business can be either incorporated or unincorporated. An incorporated business has a legal entity under either federal or provincial laws. Self-employed persons without paid help work by and for themselves. Self-employed persons with paid help employ other people.

Endnotes

Source: Statistics Canada, custom tabulations of 1991, 1996 and 2001 Census data.

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Census Data has been collected using either 100% of the population or a 20% sample and weighted to compensate for sampling. The 20% sample excludes the institutional population. Sampling partly explains the variation in totals among charts or tables. Variation may also be the result of Statistics Canada's use of "random rounding" plus/minus 5 or 10. Some pie charts that do not add up to 100% may also be due to random rounding. This technique does not add significant error to the data.

Refer to Statistics Canada's website for a full definition of terms at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/census2001/dict/index.htm>.

It is important to recognize that reported income is not adjusted for inflation, so if incomes have improved there may not be a corresponding increase in purchase power.

Photographs were taken by City of Victoria staff, Karen Ramsay and Kimberley Stratford.

For more information about the Neighbourhood Profiles, contact the City of Victoria, Community Development Division at 361-0366.