TRACKING THE TRENDS

UPDATED NOVEMBER 2020

PREFACE

The trends have been divided into seven major sections:

Demographics – indicators of population growth, immigration, and population diversity.

Education & Employment – indicators of educational achievement and employment status of the population.

Cost of Living & Housing Trends – indicators of the costs of basic necessities, such as food and housing, as well as the housing status of the population.

Wages & Income – indicators of the changing value of wages (earnings), and incomes of individuals and families.

Poverty – indicators of the prevalence of low-income, as well as the incidence of acute forms of poverty, such as homelessness.

Government Income Supports – indicators of the investments made by governments towards improving financial security and the impact of those investments on low-income families.

Social Health Indicators – indicators of population health, personal/family stability, financial security, community safety, participation, and environment.

TRACKING THE TRENDS provides a comprehensive overview of Edmonton's social well-being.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) is pleased to present this 15th edition of Tracking the Trends. Thirty one years after the release of the first edition in 1989, we remain committed to regularly updating this valuable compendium of social and economic data critical to sound decision-making. We hope decision-makers, social policy planners, researchers, and the general public will find this publication useful in broadening their understanding of social trends in the Edmonton region.

The publication of this edition was postponed by several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused disruptions to work as ESPC adapted to working from home, as well as delays in data releases. Unfortunately, data on COVID-19 could not be captured in this report, but the effects of the pandemic on Edmontonians will be seen in future Tracking the Trends.

This 15th edition of Tracking the Trends presents a number of new social and economic data variables in addition to updates on the trends featured in the 14th edition, released in 2018.

Presented together, these trends give us a clearer picture of the social changes taking place in Edmonton. They also offer a comprehensive understanding of those persons in the population that are disadvantaged or marginalized.

Research on the social determinants of health tells us that low-income and socio-economic inequality impacts health and well-being. The negative consequences are far-reaching, with implications for disadvantaged individuals as well as their communities (and their city). The costs to all levels of government are also significant.

Decisions that affect Edmontonians must be informed by an understanding of social trends in order to be effective in the long term.

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INTRODUCTION

Why track the trends?

Timely, accurate information is indispensable for evidence-based public policy and community service decisions. Changes in social well-being are not linear and are dependent on broader social, economic, and political trends. As such, strategies for positive social change must be rooted in an understanding of the broader historical context of our social environment.

Presenting data in a single source, such as Tracking the Trends, permits us to see trends in the context of other social changes occurring simultaneously. For example, the Consumer Price Index and average rents have risen at a more rapid rate than the Income Support (formally and more colloquially known as Alberta Works) benefit. This means an erosion of living standards for vulnerable Albertans relying on this benefit.

Most Canadian publications present data at the national or provincial level. Tracking the Trends includes primarily Edmonton-level data. This makes it a useful tool for people working on social issues in Edmonton and the surrounding region.

A Tool for the Public

Edmontonians' awareness of social issues is critical to improving the inclusivity of our communities. Understanding the difficulties that our neighbours face can challenge us to recognize barriers in our communities. It can affect the way we think of, and treat, each other. Regardless of our backgrounds, we all share this city and region, and have an interest in its healthy future.

A Tool for Decision-Makers

For planners and policy-makers, this collection of data provides a clearer understanding of the current and historical social conditions in Edmonton. This information can provide the background necessary to make informed decisions, and the insight needed to anticipate future changes.

We encourage readers to use Tracking the Trends to assess how well all orders of government and community organizations are fulfilling their role in ensuring citizens have the support they need to maintain a decent standard of living.

A Tool for Social Organizations and Researchers

The work of organizations that are involved in social development activities must be informed by the current and historical context. The information presented in Tracking the Trends is necessary for program planning, organizational strategy-building, as well as other community development activities.

Students and researchers will also benefit from this rich and unified source of data to inform their research projects. Such in-depth research is important for expanding our knowledge of specific issues and informing social policy development.

Major Social and Economic Trends

In any community, public policy, social health, and economic well-being are intricately linked. Still, there is disagreement on how these factors influence each other and how to use public policy and social programs to bring about positive change.

Labour force participation and minimum wage tell us something about the percentage of the population that is working, and how much employers are paying for labour. Alberta Works benefit rates reflect the standard of living for those on the economic margins. Some data shows us what it costs to live, such as the Consumer Price Index and average rents. Other data indicate people's capacity to earn an income and maintain a decent standard of living. Low-income data gives an indication of the proportion of the population that live on incomes that are insufficient to cover the costs of living.

The data presented in *Tracking the Trends* helps to answer the following questions:

- How is Edmonton's population changing?

- Have opportunities to make a living increased?

- How has the cost of living changed?

- Has the cost of living become more affordable?

- What is the living wage?

- Has social equality improved?

- What groups within the population experience inequities, and how deep are the inequities they experience?

- Are disadvantaged people receiving the support they need to improve their situation?

Despite the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, understanding long- and medium-term trends helps us to contextualize our current situation. Challenges such as poverty, housing and homelessness, and maintaining strong public health and education will persist long after the virus has been eradicated.

After strong growth in the early years of the new millennium, Edmonton faced a sharp, but brief, economic downturn that began in late 2008 and continued into 2010. In the four years that followed the downturn, the economy recovered well—as reflected in such indicators as population, housing prices, employment, and earnings growth. Edmonton's economic fortunes changed again in the fall of 2014 with a rapid and sustained decline in oil prices. Oil prices have since risen slightly, with a few fluctuations, although they have not reached the level they were pre-2014.

Despite these challenges, Edmonton has continued to welcome record numbers of immigrants and refugees in recent years. Moreover, while the number of those unemployed has gone up in recent years, employment reached a new record averaging 791,800 in 2019.

Trend directions and values in this publication are assigned based on longer time-frames of 10 or more years, rather than on shorter-term fluctuations. In some cases, the downturn changed longer-term trends. In other cases, longer-term trends did not change.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHICS

Why are demographic trends important?

Demographics are, simply put, the characteristics of a population. At a practical level, this type of information is important in planning a community's future. Knowing how many people live in a given area, and their basic attributes, is critical to make funding decisions and deliver services effectively. The age profile and cultural composition of a city, for example, dictate the types of programs, services, and policies needed to support a population.

In Edmonton, like other major Canadian cities, the median age of the population steadily increased until 2006. Since then, the median age in Edmonton has dropped slightly, while the proportion of seniors in other cities continues to increase. This drop in the median age means Edmonton must plan not only for more seniors care but also for more schools as many Edmontonians have young families.

There has also been significantly increased immigration to Edmonton which is another contributor to the cities' relative youthfulness. There are, however, many steps involved in successfully welcoming newcomers to a city, particularly in terms of integration into communities and the economy. Newcomers are often at an economic and social disadvantage. They need additional support to become fully-active citizens, and to feel welcome and valued.

How is Edmonton Changing?

A lot of the demographic data ESPC tracks—such as the age makeup of the city, the Indigenous population, language and ethnic diversity, citizenship, and family types—comes from the Federal Census. The last Census was completed in 2016, and reported in the 2018 edition of Tracking the Trends. Since we have no new data for this edition of Tracking the Trends, please refer back to the 2018 edition for this information.

While these demographics are not included in this edition, it is important to note the general changes. In contrast to other cities, Edmonton is becoming younger. Edmonton is also becoming more diverse: the Indigenous population is growing at twice the rate of the overall population, the number of immigrants is steadily growing, and the proportion of people who identify as a visible minority is growing. Language diversity is growing alongside population diversity.

Since 2016, Edmonton City and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) populations have been growing steadily. Edmonton city refers to the city of Edmonton, whereas Edmonton CMA includes the surrounding counties such as Sturgeon, Parkland, Leduc, and Strathcona. The City of Edmonton has grown 9.92% and the Edmonton CMA has grown 9.51%. Entry of permanent residents has steadily increased as well, while entry of temporary residents is on the decline.

Population

Population, Edmonton City and Edmonton CMA
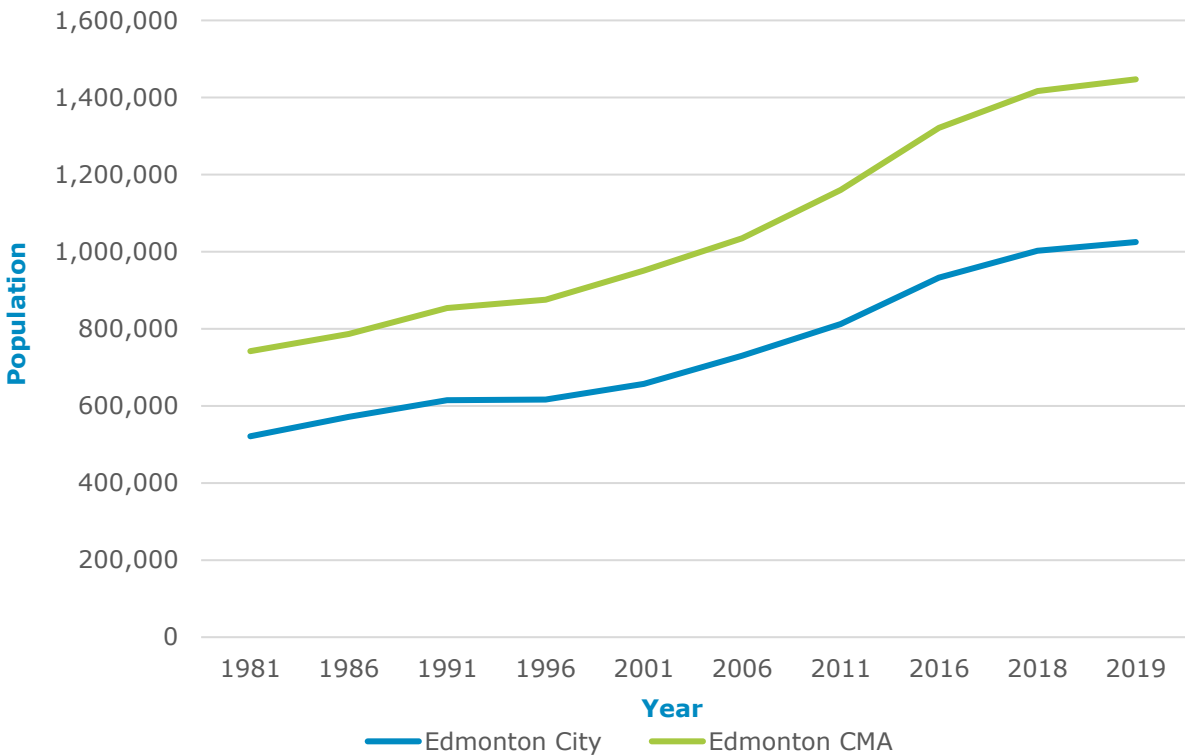
- The last Federal Census was completed in 2016, calculating the Edmonton City population at 932,546 people and the Edmonton CMA population at 1,321,426.

- Statistics Canada has estimated that the City of Edmonton population in 2019 was 1,025,096, a growth of 96.7% since 1981 and 9.92% since the 2016 census.

- Statistics Canada has estimated the Edmonton CMA population as 1,447,143 in 2019, a 95% growth since 1981 and 9.51% since the 2016 census.

Immigration
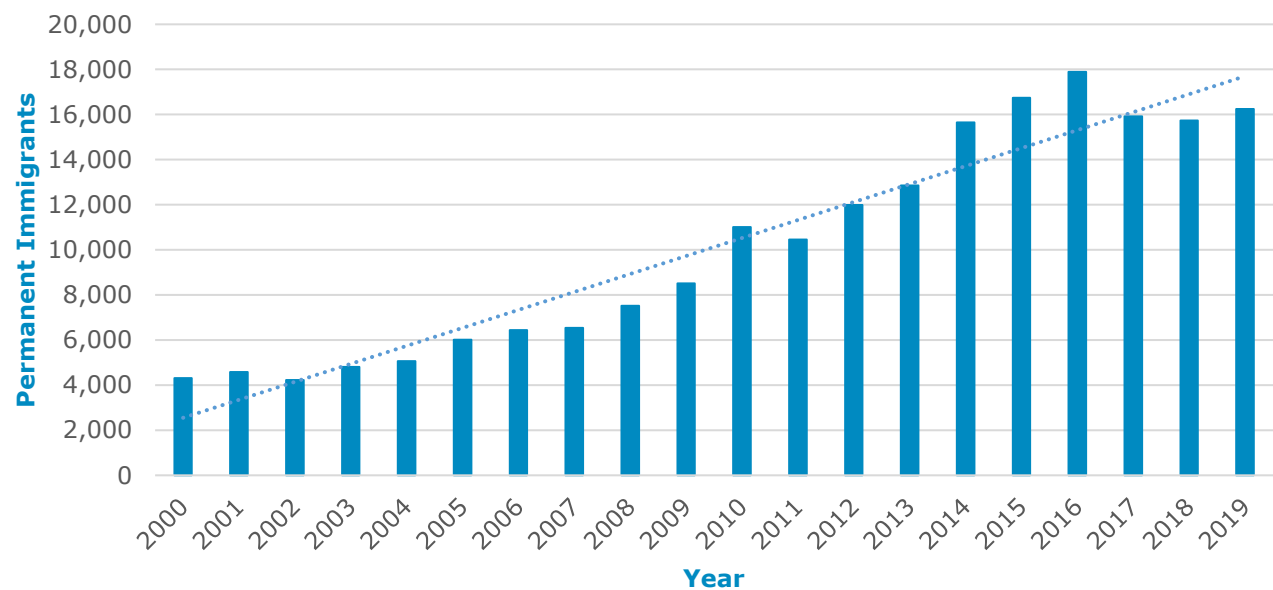
- The number of immigrants and refugees who permanently settled in Edmonton between 2000 and 2019 increased by 277%, from 4,304 permanent residents arriving in the year 2000 to 16,240 arriving in 2019.

- From 2017–2018 the number of newcomers declined slightly from a record high of 17,885 in 2016. This then increased slightly in 2019.

- The number of temporary residents coming to Alberta to work increased rapidly between 2005 and 2013. Since the economic downturn began in late 2014, their numbers have declined significantly, despite a small increase in 2019.

- The decline has been particularly noticeable in the Temporary Foreign Worker category where people are recruited to come to Alberta to fill mainly low skill positions. On December 31, 2013 there were 40,461 temporary foreign workers in Alberta. Six years later, on December 31, 2019 the number had dropped to 10,185.

- There continues to be steady growth in the number of international students attending educational institutions in Alberta. The number of international students has increased from 12,204 on December 31, 2005, to 32,990 on December 31, 2019, a 170.3% increase.

Section A: Data Tables

Table A1. Population, Edmonton City and Edmonton CMA

	Edmonton City	Edmonton CMA	Data Source
1981	521,205	742,018	Federal Census
1986	571,506	786,596	Federal Census
1991	614,665	853,900	Federal Census
1996	616,306	875,590	Federal Census
2001	657,350	951,114	Federal Census
2006	730,372	1,034,985	Federal Census
2011	812,201	1,159,869	Federal Census
2016	932,546	1,321,426	Federal Census
2018	1,002,700	1,417,062	SC Estimate
2019	1,025,096	1,447,143	SC Estimate
2019	972,223	n/a	Municipal Census

Table A2. Annual Entry of Permanent Immigrants

Year	Permanent Residents
2000	4,304
2001	4,583
2002	4,225
2003	4,810
2004	5,057
2005	6,016
2006	6,444
2007	6,543
2008	7,520
2009	8,510
2010	11,011
2011	10,461
2012	11,987
2013	12,859
2014	15,645
2015	16,740
2016	17,885
2017	15,920
2018	15,740
2019	16,240

Table A3. Temporary Residents with Valid Permits on December 31, by Program, Alberta

Year	Temporary Foreign Workers	International Mobility Program	International Students	Total
2005	5,966	9,517	12,204	27,687
2006	9,701	12,461	12,349	34,511
2007	20,435	15,111	13,094	48,640
2008	35,635	19,086	13,776	68,497
2009	38,313	17,582	15,098	70,993
2010	30,039	19,574	15,367	64,980
2011	28,092	22,734	15,746	66,572
2012	29,537	26,411	15,776	71,724
2013	40,461	36,865	16,937	94,263
2014	35,486	39,865	17,838	93,189
2015	18,030	34,005	19,710	71,745
2016	10,755	30,925	23,410	65,090
2017	8,770	28,360	26,110	63,240
2018	8,425	25,980	29,690	64,095
2019	10,185	25,355	32,990	68,530

SECTION B: EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Why are Education and Employment Trends Important?

Education is a significant determinant of health, as educational attainment influences future career options and lifetime earning potential. Earnings for university graduates are significantly higher than high school graduates, both on a per annum and lifetime basis. Higher education also provides some protection against economic fluctuations; more highly educated individuals are less likely to become unemployed in the event of an economic downturn. They are also more likely to achieve financial security after retiring (Statistics Canada, 2017). The importance of education has grown as the economy becomes increasingly knowledge-based.

Employment-related measures indicate the strength of an economy and, accordingly, the population's ability to sustain itself. The higher the unemployment rate, the more people will need income support to maintain a minimal standard of living. Times of high unemployment rates additionally challenge government and business to find opportunities to stimulate job growth. Times of low unemployment rates also have their challenges. For instance, working families may struggle to balance their work and family roles, and may face difficulties securing adequate child care or obtaining affordable shelter. As Section C illustrates, the cost of living continues to increase, regardless of overall economic trends.

How is Edmonton Changing?

The population of the City of Edmonton is consistently becoming more educated over time. High school completion rates are rising, as are transition rates into university, college, and technical institutes.

Over the past 20 years the number of employed persons in the Edmonton CMA grew with the addition of over 300,000 new jobs. During the same time period, the labour market participation rate of those 15 years and older has increased slightly. This reflects the city's relatively young population. Meanwhile, the proportion of jobs that are part-time has declined slightly.

Despite the overall strong job market, there have been two periods in the past 20 years that dealt with more challenging labour market conditions. These came about when the unemployment rate went up and the job market stalled or reversed. The first such period lasted from the fall of 2008 to the spring of 2010, during what is known as the global financial crisis. The second period began in the fall of 2014 with a steep drop in world oil prices and persisted into the late summer of 2017. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused mass job losses as businesses closed to slow the spread of the virus. Although not captured in the following charts, future *Tracking the Trends* will show the impact of the pandemic on employment and wealth.

The unemployment rates experienced by Indigenous peoples living in Edmonton, and youth, are significantly higher at all times but especially during economic downturns. While unemployment rates for women have tended to be lower than those for men, especially in recent years, women's earnings from employment continue to be significantly lower than those of men.

Note: in previous editions, ESPC reported statistics on the proportion of population by high school completion status and post-secondary education completion level. This data came from the last Census, which was completed in 2016, and thus, has not been updated since our last report published in 2018. If you are interested in these statistics, please refer to *Tracking the Trends* 2018.

Grade K to 12 Education

Percentage of Students Completing High School Within Three Years, ECSD and EPSB
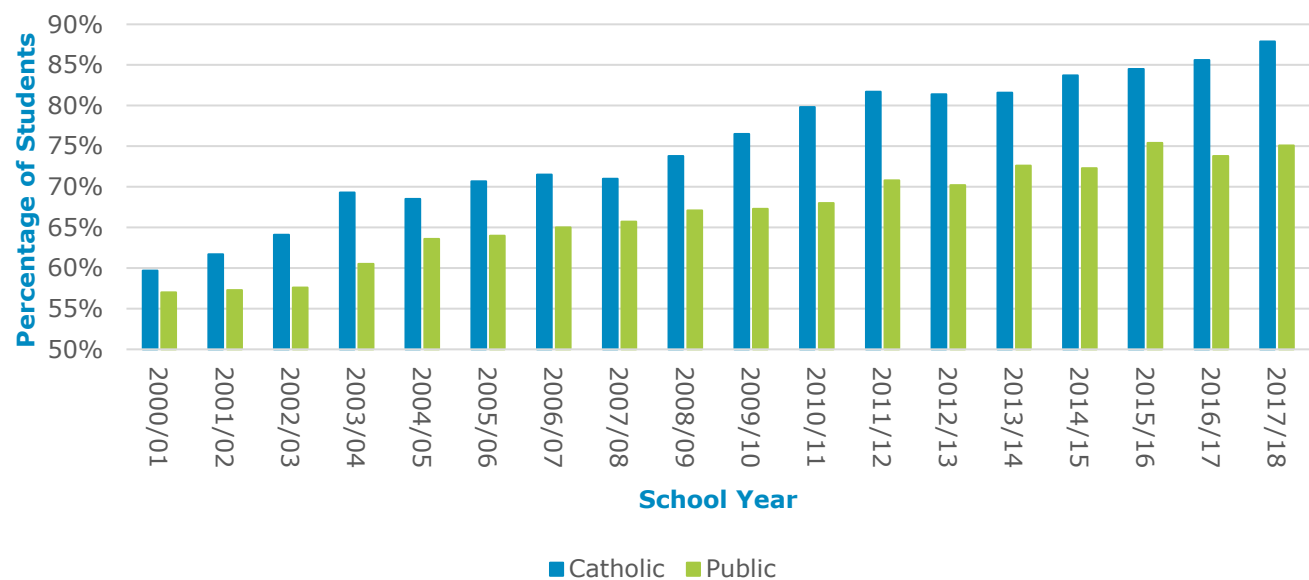
- The high school completion rate for both Edmonton Catholic and Edmonton Public Schools has been improving over time. The percentage of students who completed high school within the allotted three years of entering Grade 10 has been steadily increasing.

- The three-year high school completion rate for the Edmonton Public School District improved by 18.1 percentage points from 57.0% in the 2000/01 school year to 75.1% in the 2017/18 school year.

- In the Edmonton Catholic School District, the three-year completion rate improved by 28.2 percentage points from 59.7% in the 2000/01 school year to 87.9% in the 2017/18 school year.
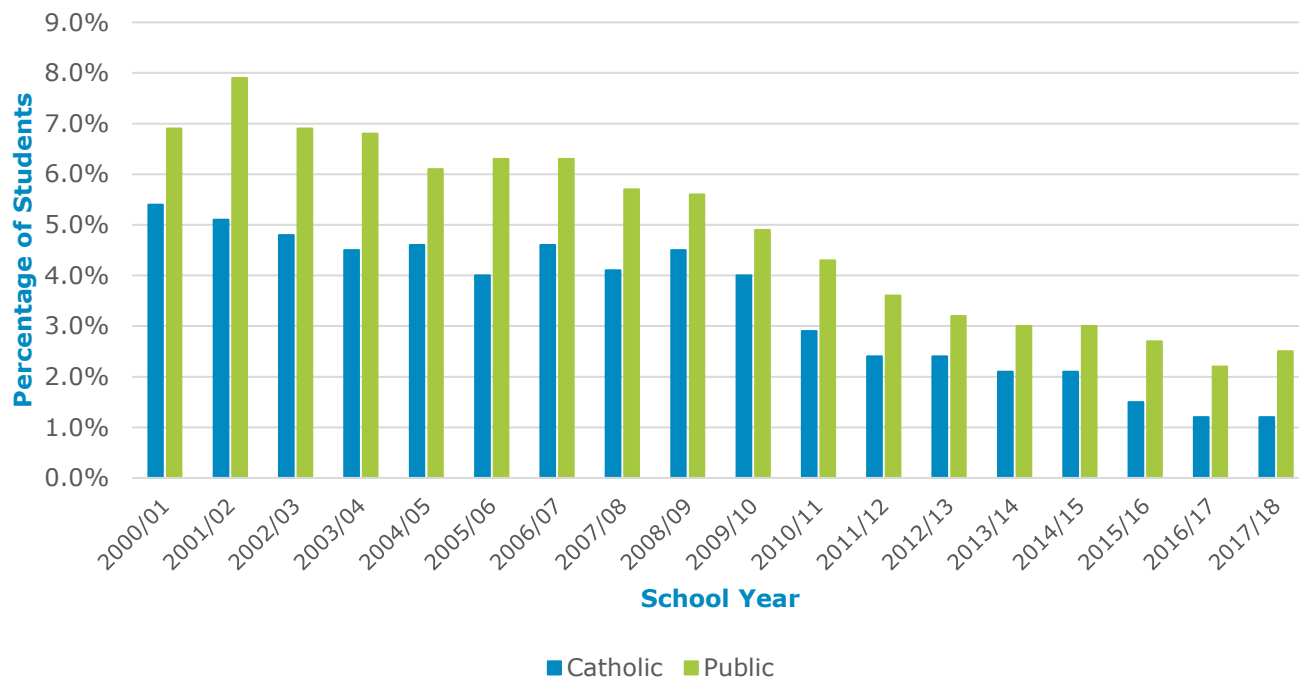
- The annual dropout rate for students aged 14 to 18 years is a useful indicator because it measures the success or failure that a school district is having in keeping students engaged and continuously involved in their learning without interruption.

- The annual dropout rates for students aged 14 to 18 have decreased for both school districts. This demonstrates the success that educational stakeholders in school districts, supported by the Ministry of Education, are having in keeping students in school through to high school completion.

- In the Edmonton Public School District, the annual dropout rate decreased by 4.4 percentage points from 6.9% in the 2000/01 school year to 2.5% in the 2017/18 school year.

- In the Edmonton Catholic School District, the annual dropout rate for 14 to 18 year olds decreased by 4.2 percentage points from 5.4% in the 2000/01 school year to 1.2% in the 2017/18 school year.
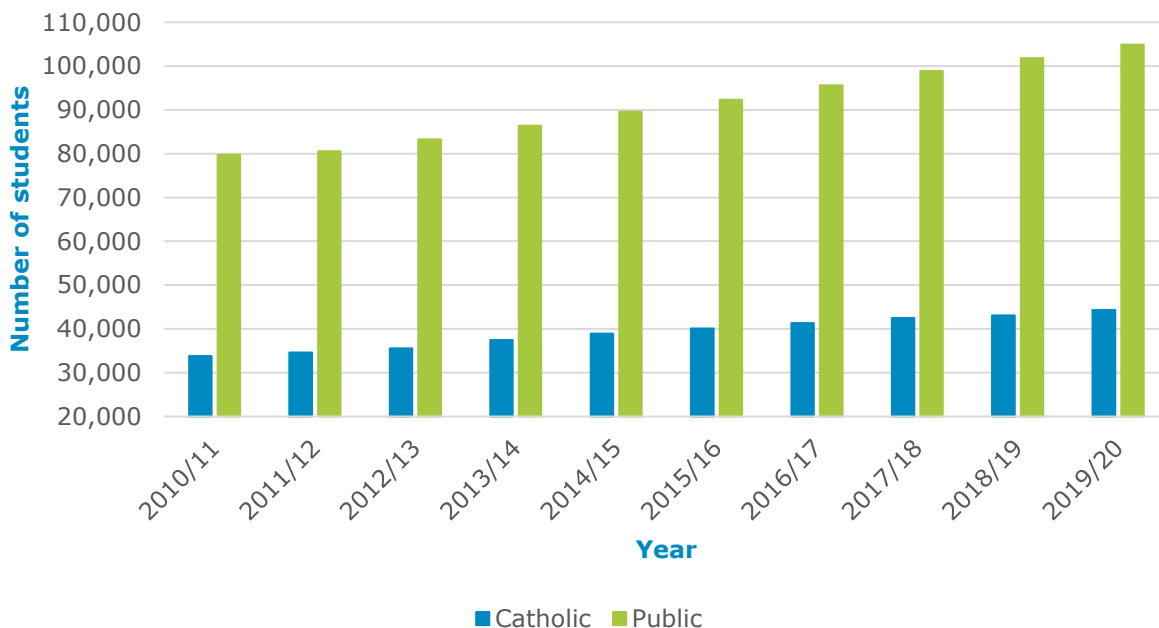
- Edmonton has a higher proportion of working-age families. This younger population is contributing to an enrolment boom for Edmonton's Public and Catholic school boards (see *Tracking the Trends* 2018). The enrolment boom began at the elementary school level and is now working its way into the higher grades.

- School enrolment in Edmonton Public Schools has increased from 79,780 in the 2010/11 school year to 104,930 in the 2019/20 school year. This is an increase of 25,150 students, or 31.5%.

- School enrolment in Edmonton Catholic Schools has increased from 33,776 in the 2010/11 school year to 44,330 in the 2019/20 school year. This is an increase of 10,554 students, or 31.2%
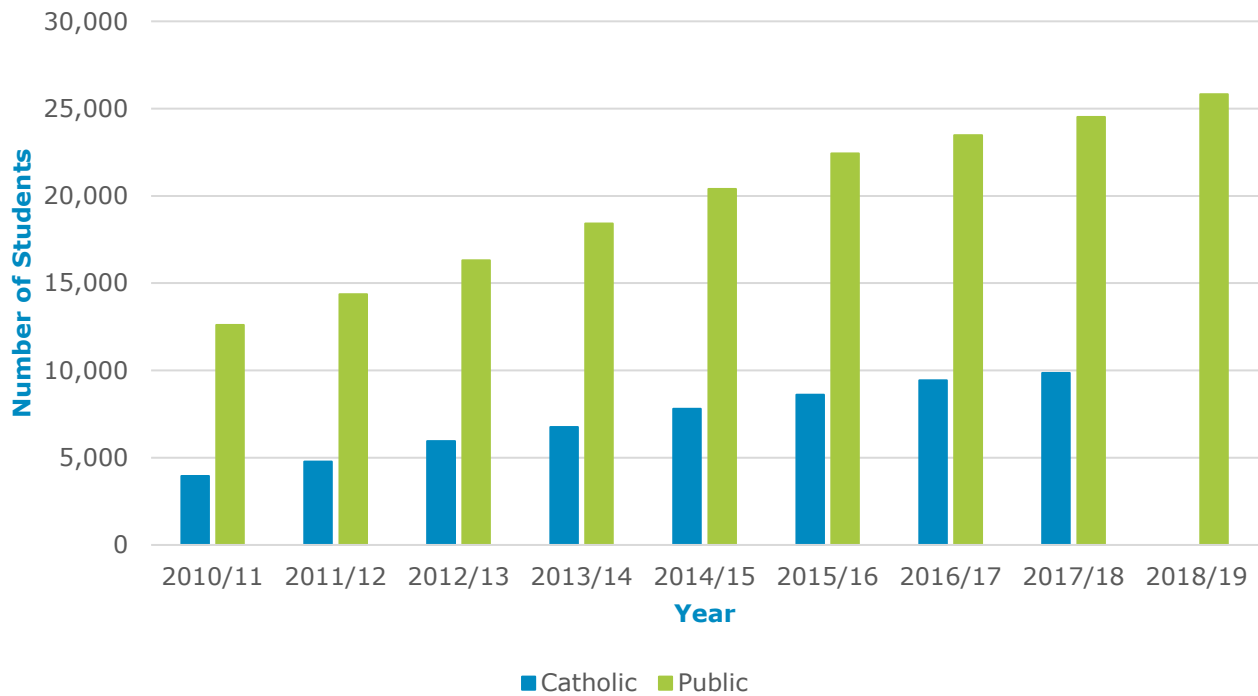
- Edmonton's student population is more linguistically diverse that it has ever been. So it is to be expected that students born in non-English speaking countries, especially those settling in Canada while already in their school years, will require additional instruction in learning the English language. Moreover, some Canadian born students also require extra help in English language instruction.

- The number of English Language Learners in Edmonton Catholic Schools increased from 3,949 students in the 2010/11 school year to 9,862 students in the 2017/18 school year, an increase of 5,913 students, or 149.7%.

- The number of English Language Learners in Edmonton Public School have increased from 12,613 students in the 2010/11 school year to 25,831 in the 2018/19, an increase of 13,218 students, or 104.8%.
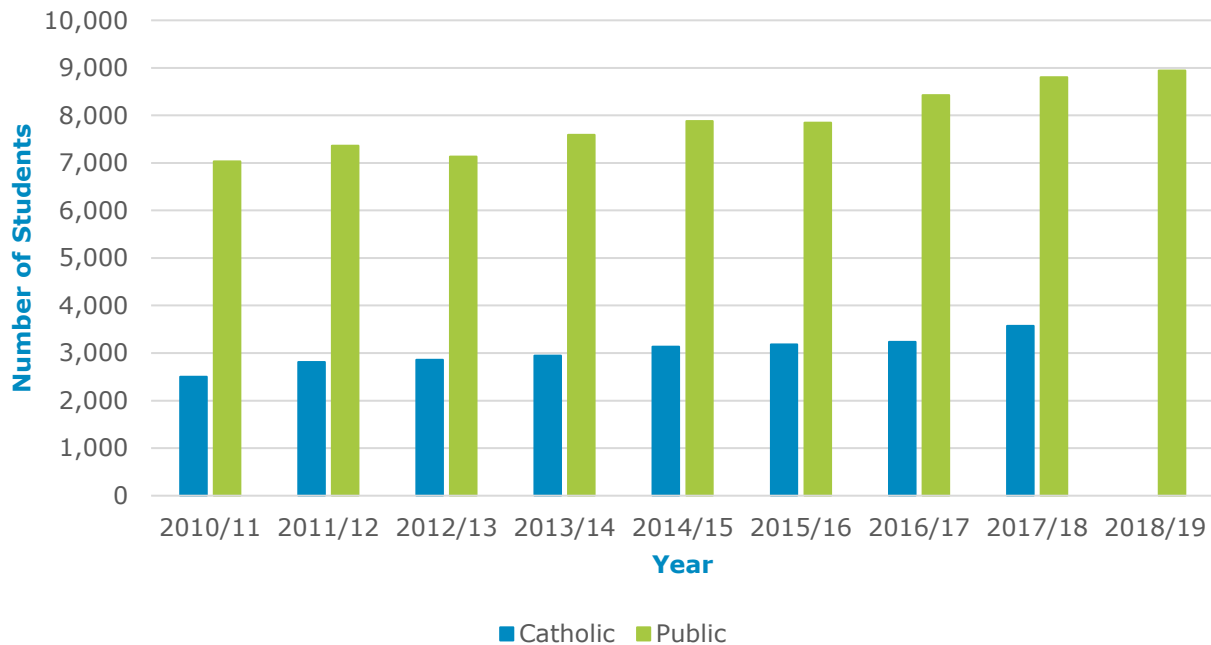
- The number of students who identify as First Nations, Métis and Inuit (Indigenous) attending Edmonton Public Schools increased from 7,034 students in the 2010/11 school year to 8,947 students in the 2018/19 school year, an increase of 1,913 students, or 27.2%.

- The number of students who identify as First Nations, Métis and Inuit (Indigenous) attending Edmonton Catholic Schools increased from 2,499 students in the 2010/11 school year to 3,571 students in the 2017/18 school year, an increase of 1,072 students, or 42.9%.
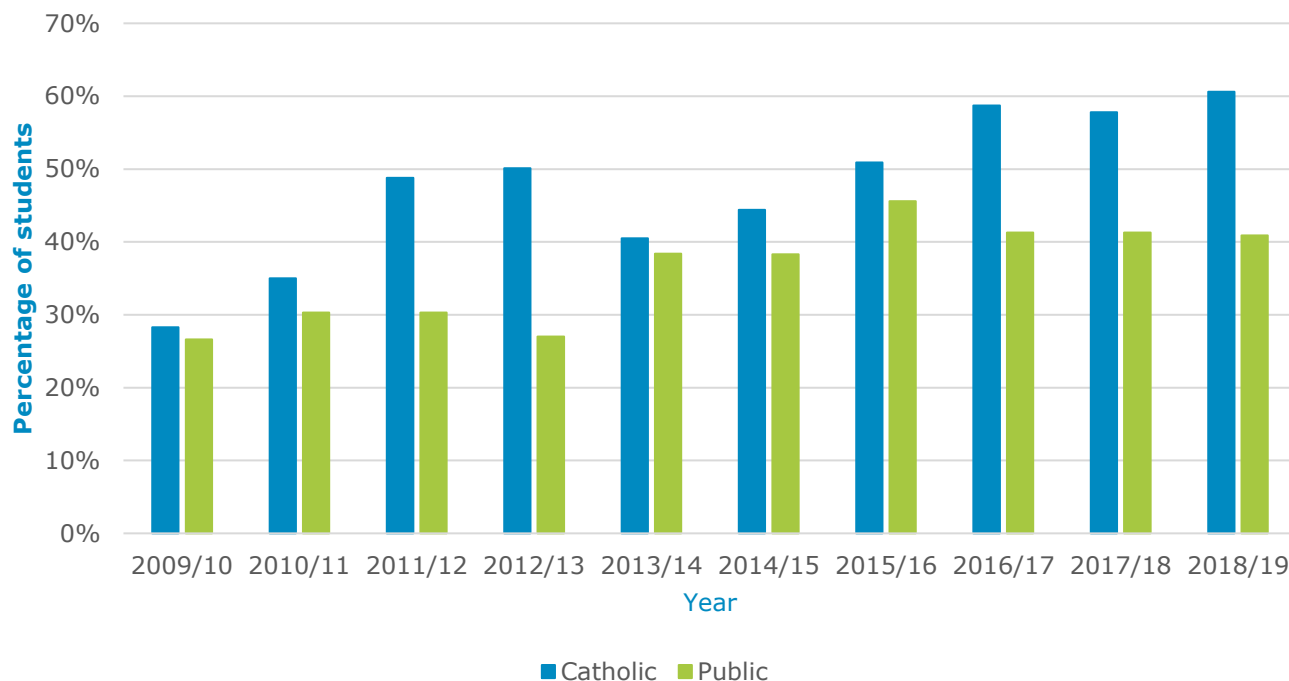
- Both Edmonton school boards have developed specialized programming to improve learning outcomes for Indigenous students. This includes Indigenous-led schools such as amiskwaciy Academy in Edmonton Public and Ben Calf Robe School in Edmonton Catholic, but also many other initiatives in other mainstream schools—especially those with a significant number of Indigenous students. Due to these efforts, high school completion rates for Indigenous students have been improving in both school jurisdictions. But graduation rates for Indigenous students still significantly trail those of non-Indigenous students.

- In the 2009/10 school year, the three-year high school completion rate for Indigenous students attending Edmonton Public Schools was 26.6%. This improved to a 40.9% completion rate for the 2018/19 school year, a 14.3 percentage point increase. This is slightly down from a high of 45.6% in 2015/16.

- In the 2009/10 school year, the three-year high school completion rate for Indigenous students attending Edmonton Catholic Schools was 28.3%. This improved to a 60.6% completion rate for the 2018/19 school year, a 32.3 percentage point increase.

Six-Year High School-to-Postsecondary Transition Rates, Edmonton Catholic and Public School Districts
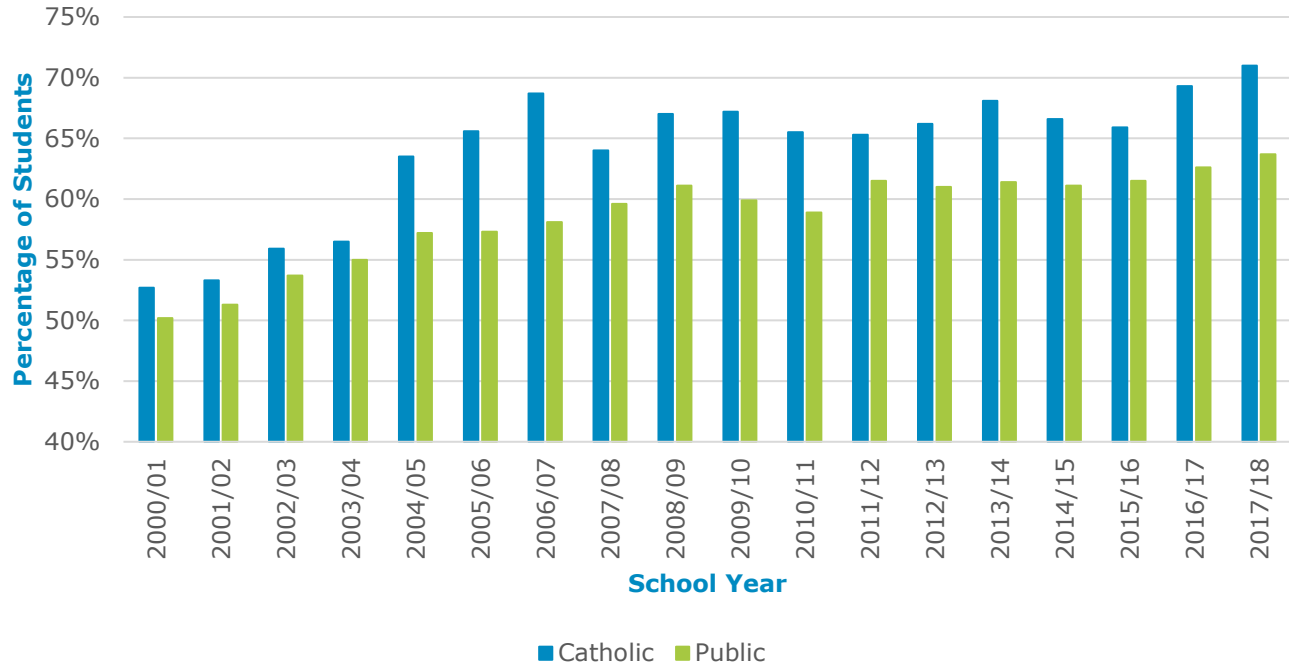
- For all Alberta school districts, the province tracks the rate at which students who enter high school go on to post-secondary education at an accredited university, college, or technical institute (including apprenticeships). The six-year transition rate between entering Grade 10 and enrolling in post-secondary education is the most widely used measure. It is understood that some students may delay entering post-secondary education for financial reasons, or because they want to work or travel before embarking on the next phase of their lives. The transition rate from high school to post-secondary has been steadily improving.

- The six-year transition rate from entering high school in Edmonton Public Schools to entering post-secondary education went from 50.2% in 2000/01 to 63.7% in 2017/18, a 13.5 percentage point improvement.

- The six-year transition rate from entering high school in Edmonton Catholic Schools to entering post-secondary education went from 52.7% in 2000/01 to 71.0% in 2017/18, an 18.3 percentage point improvement.

Employment

Number of Employed Persons, Annual Average, Edmonton CMA
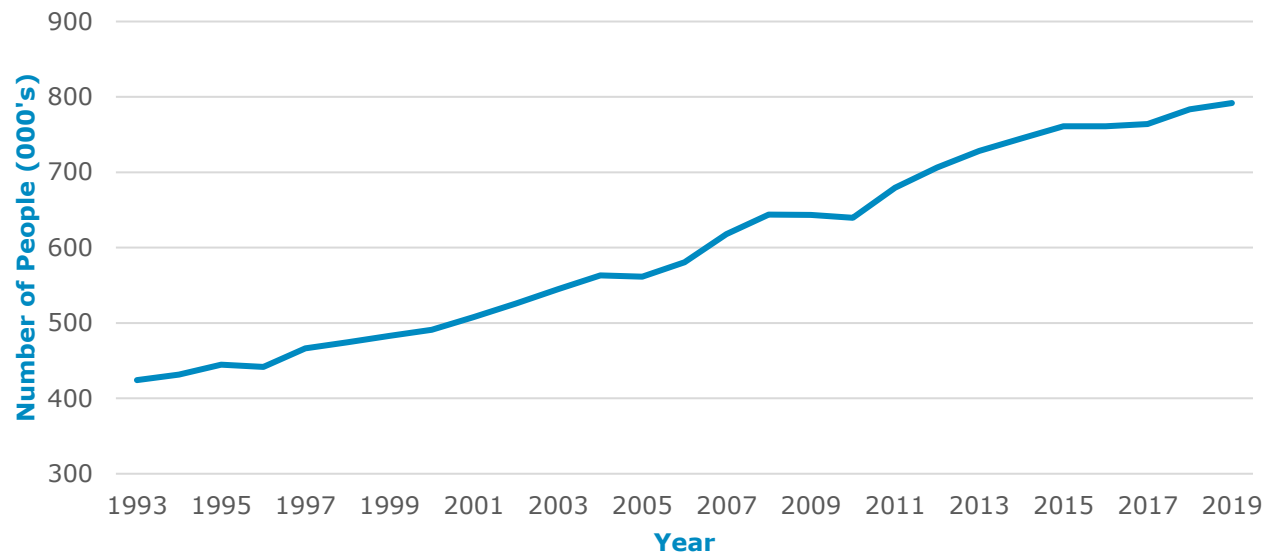
- In 2019, an average of 791,800 people in metro Edmonton were employed, a 61.2% increase since 2000.

- The number of employed people decreased from 2008 to 2010, then rebounded strongly from 2011 to 2014. Since the economic downturn—caused by low oil prices—took hold in late 2014, employment has grown, slowly increasing by only 3,100 people between 2015 and 2017. We are now seeing another sharp increase, with employment growing by 27,700 people between 2017 and 2019.
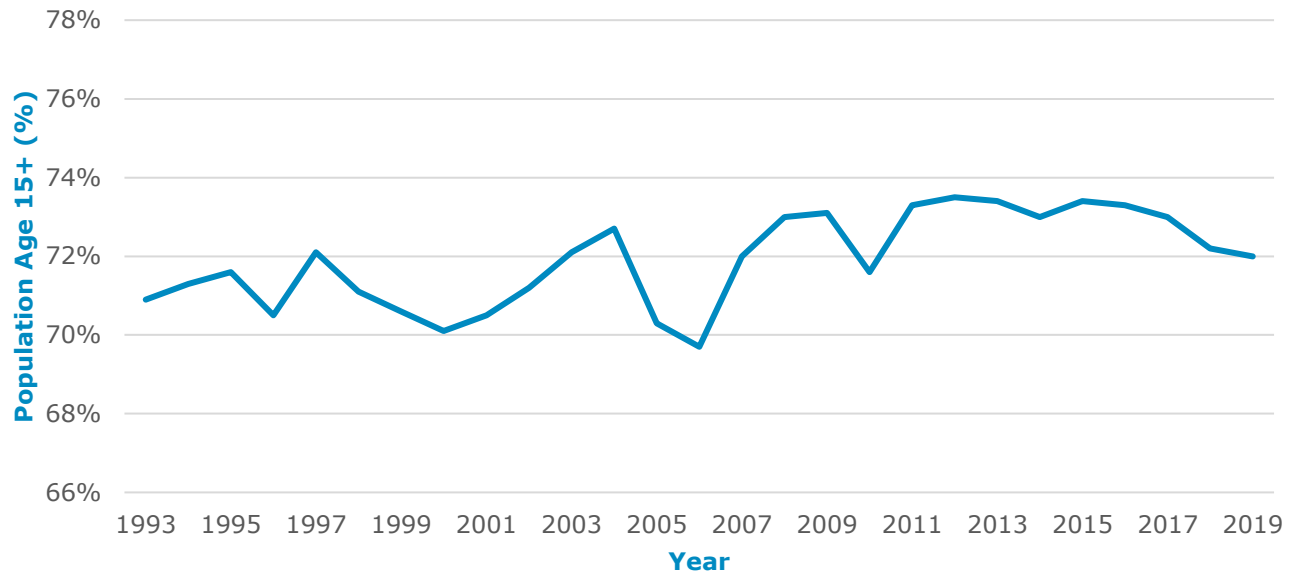
- The labour force participation rate is the percentage of the population (employed and unemployed) 15 years and older that participates or is actively seeking to participate in paid employment or self-employment.

- Many jurisdictions in Canada are facing declining participation rates due to a growing number of seniors who have retired. Because of its relatively young population, Edmonton CMA's labour force participation rate has actually increased from 70.1% in the year 2000 to 72.0% in the year 2019, a 1.9 percentage point increase.
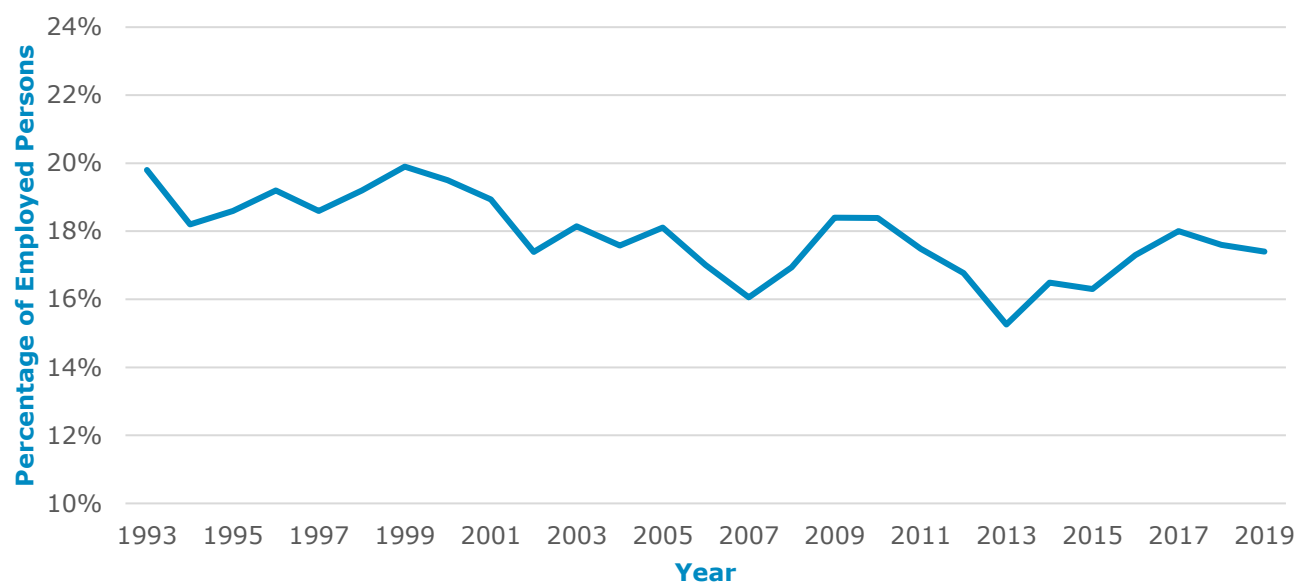
- Some people choose to work part-time, others involuntarily work part-time because of barriers that make it difficult to access full-time opportunities

- The proportion of metro Edmonton residents working part-time decreased by 2.1 percentage points from an average of 19.5% in the year 2000 to an average of 17.4% in 2019.

- Coinciding with the recent economic downturn, there was an uptick in part-time employment in recent years with the proportion of part-time employment increasing from 15.3% in 2013 to 18.0% in 2017. This has decreased slightly to 17.4% in 2019.
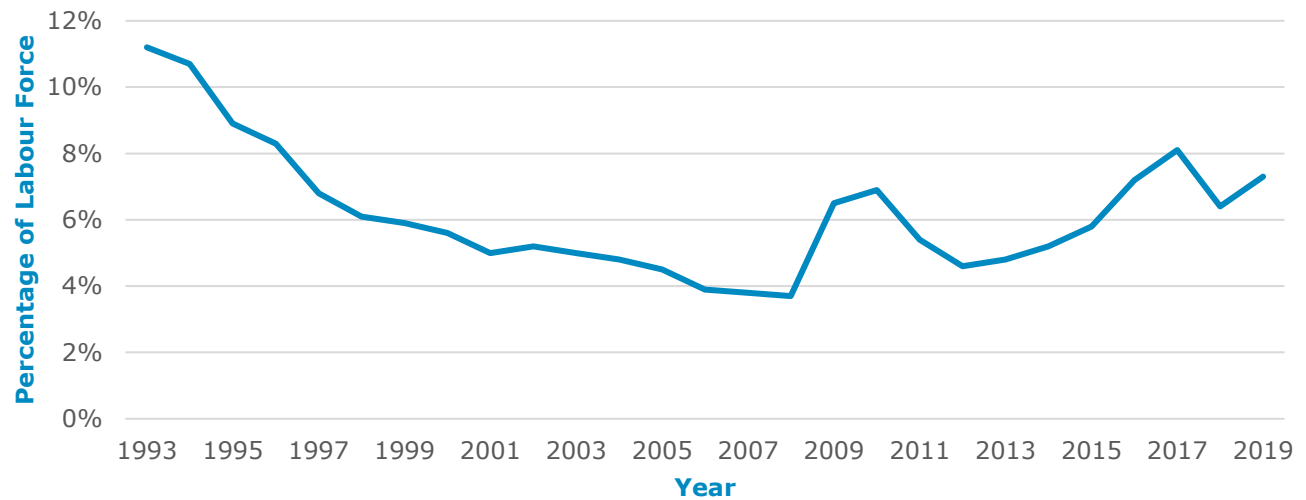
- The unemployment rate in Alberta is very sensitive to underlying economic conditions, such as rising and falling oil prices. The unemployment rate tends to be a lagging indicator and can keep increasing for a time even after an economic recovery is underway. That's because people who had previously given up looking for work re-enter the labour force and start job searching again.

- In 2019, Edmonton's unemployment rate averaged 7.3%.

- At the end of the global financial crisis, Edmonton's unemployment rate peaked at 6.9% in 2010, declined rapidly to an average 4.6% in 2012, and then rose to another peak of 8.1% in 2017.

Unemployment Rate by Gender, Edmonton CMA
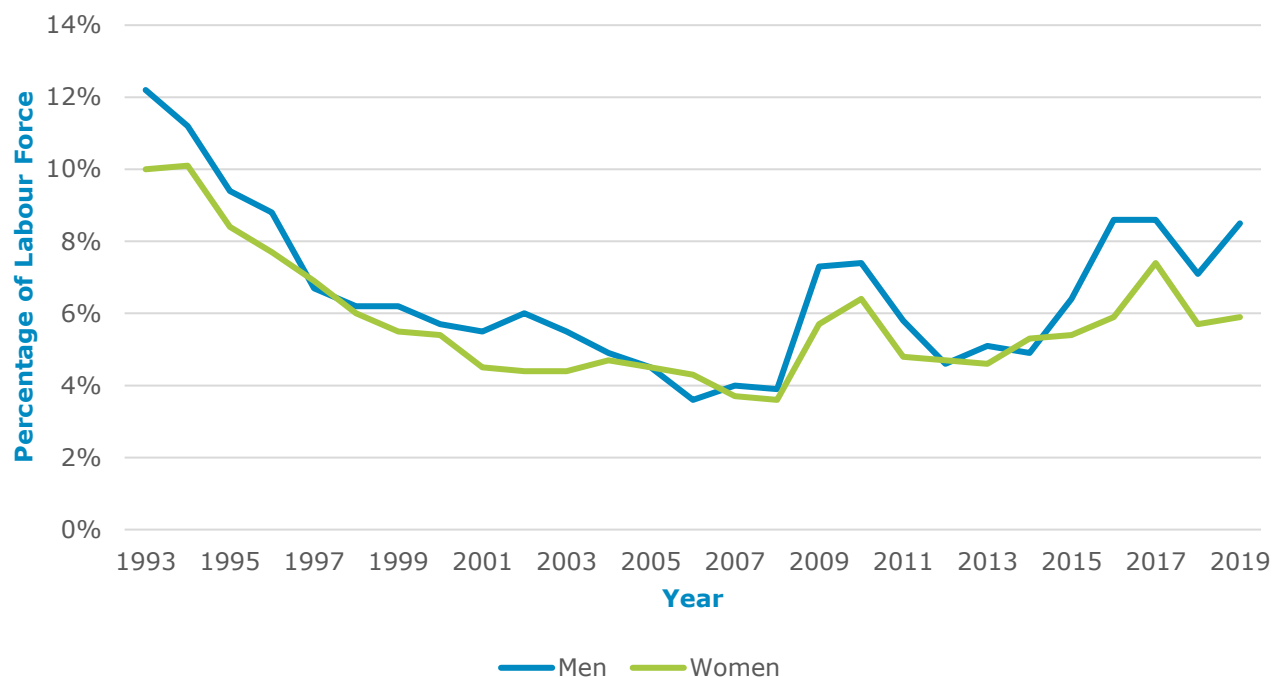
- The unemployment rate tends to differ for men and women. Since men are disproportionately employed in resource and construction sectors, the unemployment rate for men tends to be more closely tied to economic ups and downs compared to the unemployment rate for women.

- The gender gap in unemployment rates fluctuates, from a 1 percentage point differential in 2015 to a 2.7 percentage point differential in 2016. This narrows again to a 1.2 percentage point differential in 2017, and then increases to a 2.6 percentage point difference in 2019, with a higher unemployment rate for men in all years.

- In 2019, the unemployment rate for men was 8.5% and for women 5.9%.
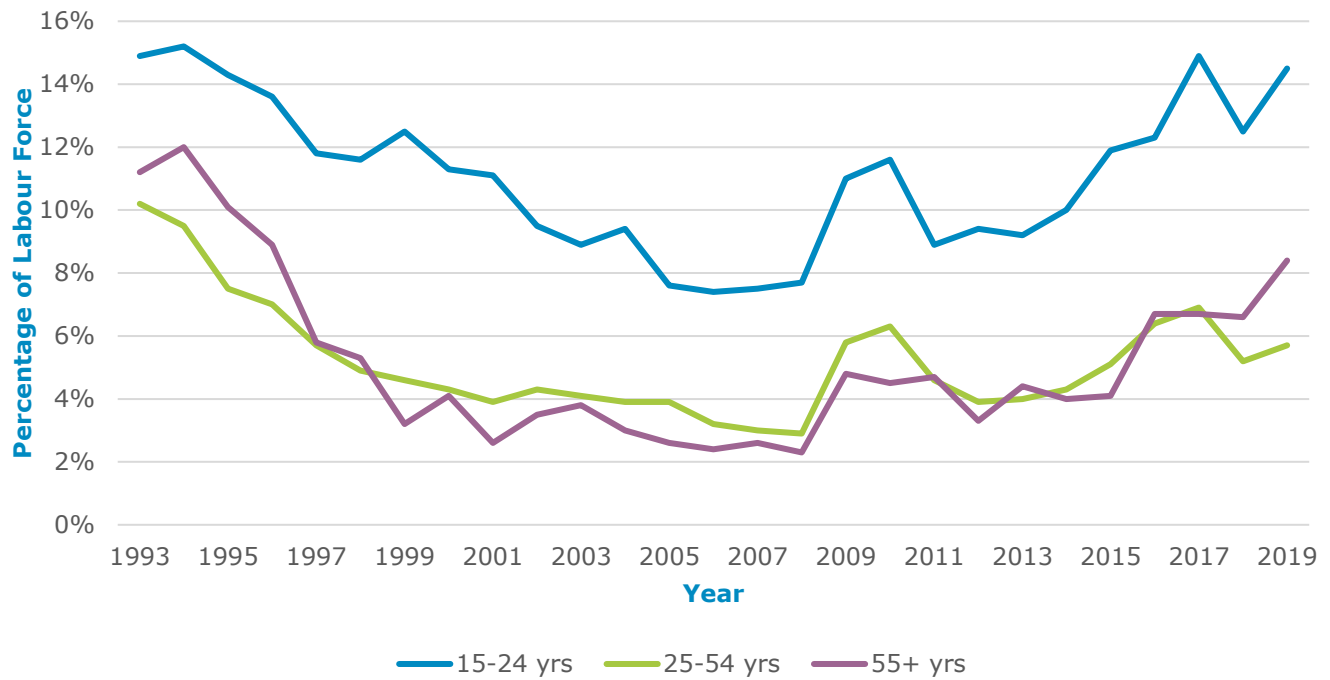
- For all age groups a person is only considered unemployed if they are actively seeking a job, so full-time students and retired people are not included in the unemployment rate.

- The youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24) remains significantly higher than those of older age groups, averaging 14.5% in 2019. The unemployment rates for older workers were much lower in 2019, averaging 5.7% for workers ages 25 to 54 years, and 8.4% for ages 55 years and older.

- Since 2009, the youth unemployment rate has stayed consistently high even after the economic recovery between 2010 and 2014. The lowest rate during those years was 8.9% in 2011.

Average Duration of Unemployment, in Weeks, Alberta
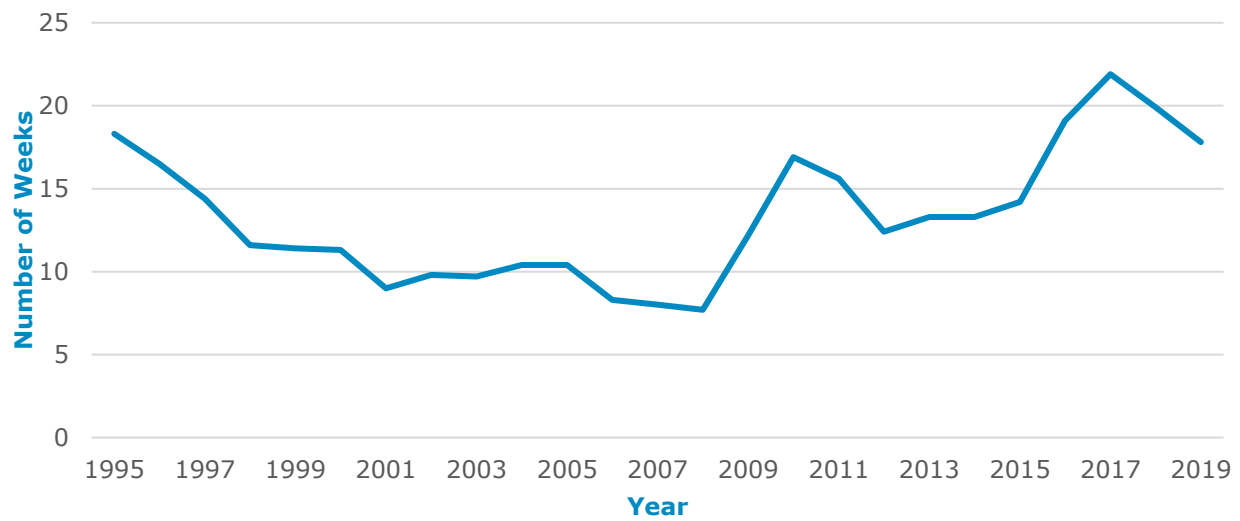
- When unemployment rates are high and labour market conditions are weak, the average duration of unemployment in Alberta goes up.

- In 2010, in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, the average duration of unemployment jumped to 16.9 weeks.

- During 2017, the average duration of unemployment in Alberta was 21.9 weeks, a 25-year high.

- In 2019, the average duration of unemployment was 17.8 weeks.

Unemployment Rate for Off Reserve Indigenous People and Overall Population, Edmonton CMA
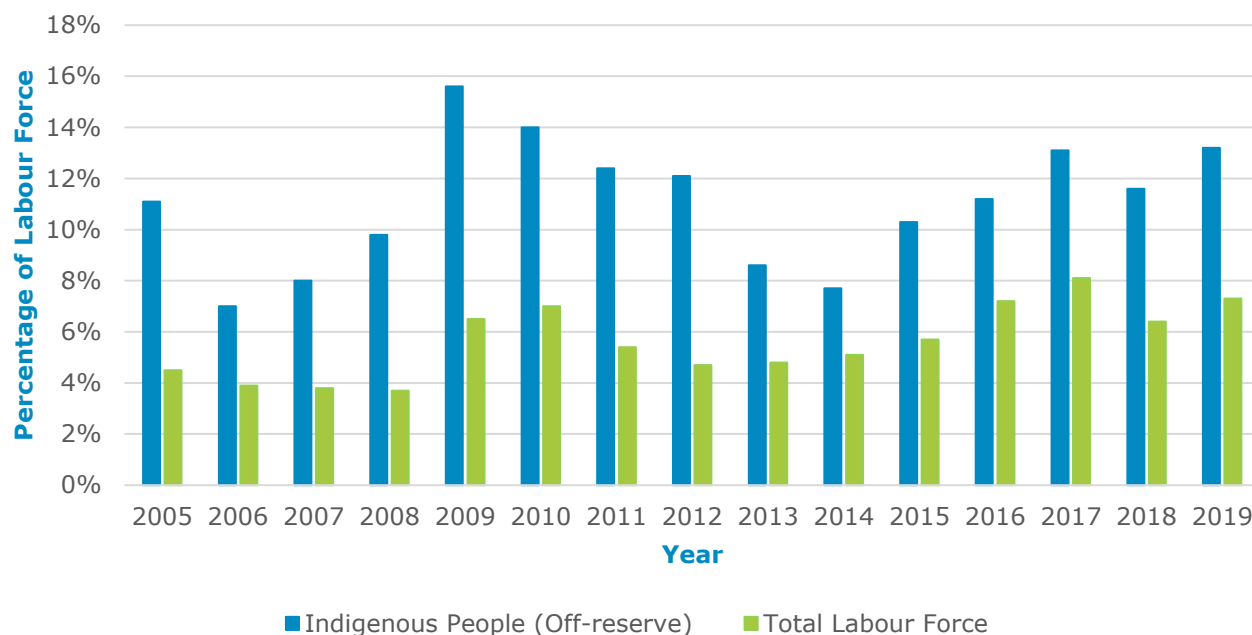
- Statistics Canada excludes Indigenous peoples who live on three First Nations reserves near metro Edmonton (Enoch, Alexander, and Wabamun) from its Labour Force Survey, but includes Indigenous peoples living in the City of Edmonton and surrounding municipalities.

- Since labour force data from Indigenous peoples has been collected, these unemployment rates have been consistently higher than those of the non-Indigenous population. This differential tends to increase during economic downturns.

- Since 2005, the highest Indigenous unemployment rate was 15.6% during the global financial crisis in 2009, 9.0 percentage points higher than the total labour force. By 2014, the Indigenous unemployment rate dropped to 7.7%, which was 2.6 percentage points higher than the total labour force.

- In 2019, the unemployment rate for Indigenous people was 13.2%, 5.9 percentage points higher than the total labour force.

SENIORS AND EMPLOYMENT

Percentage of Seniors Aged 65 Years and Older with Employment Income, Edmonton CMA
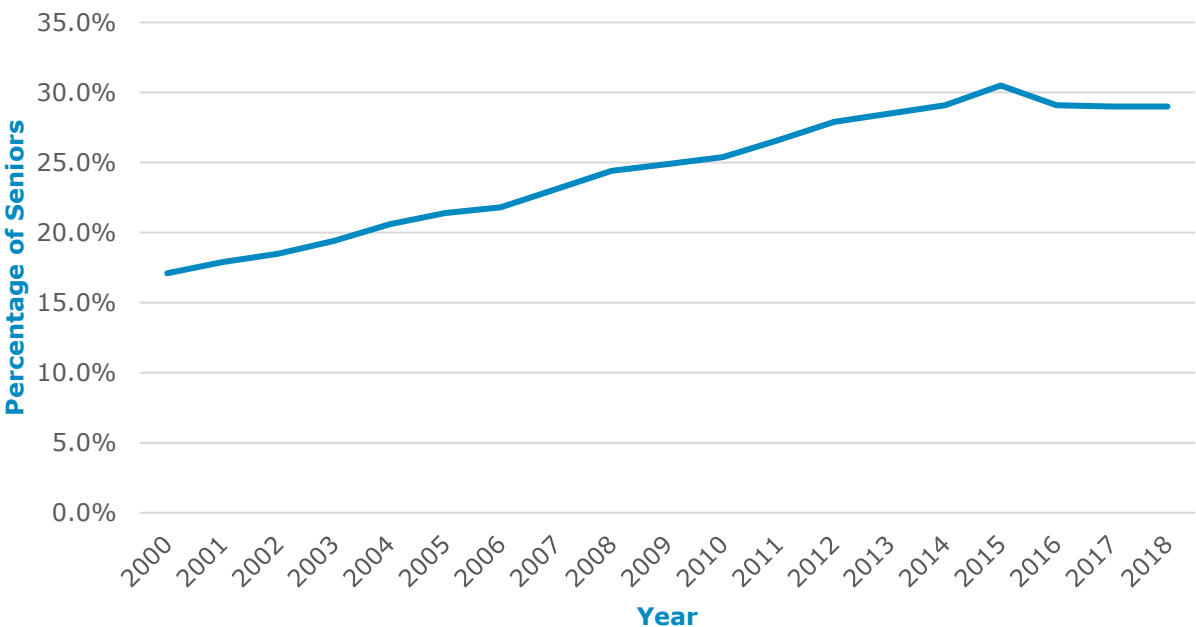
- More residents of metro Edmonton are working beyond the age of 65. Between 2000 and 2015, there was a consistent increase in the proportion of seniors aged 65 years and older reporting employment income on their tax returns, to a high of 30.5%. After 2015, employment rates have declined slightly.

- In the year 2000, 17.1% of those 65 years and older reported employment income. This percentage increased to 29.0% in 2018. This represents an 11.9 percentage point increase over an 18 year period.
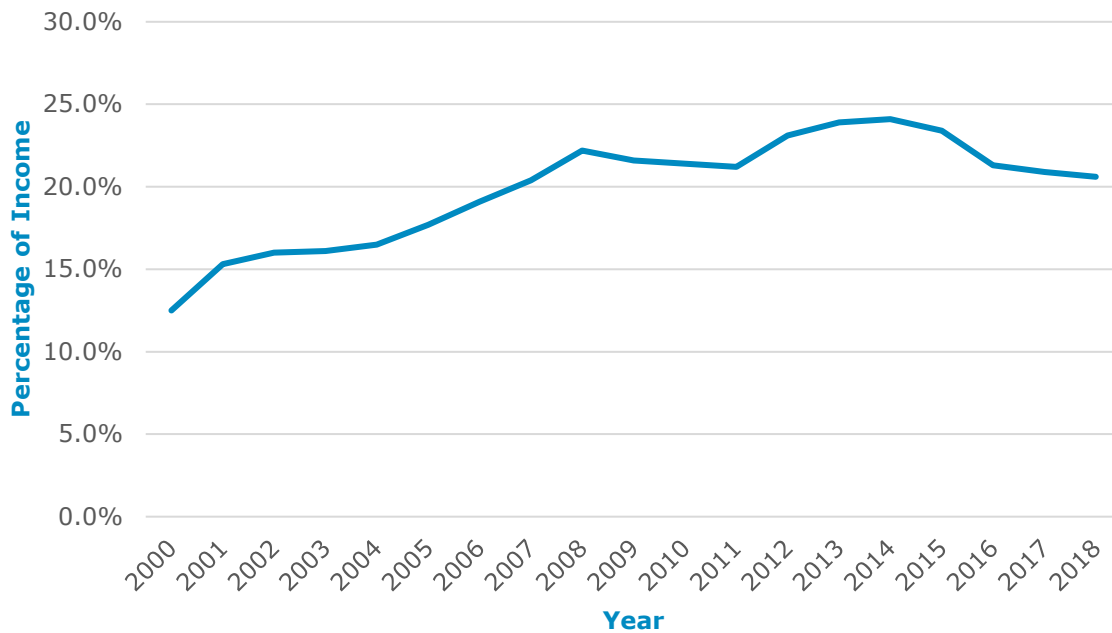
- Since more Edmonton seniors are working beyond the age of 65, the proportion of employment income compared to total income is also going up.

- In the year 2000, employment income for those 65 years and older comprised 12.5% of total income. By 2015, the employment income percentage of total income almost doubled to 23.4%.

- In 2018, employment income as a percentage of total income decreased slightly to 20.6%.

- Despite the steady increase, the trend toward a greater reliance on employment income reversed during economic downturns in 2009-2011 and again in 2015.

OCCUPATION

Pie chart: Proportion of Employed Persons by Occupation (2019), Edmonton CMA

- Sales & Service 22%
- Business, Finance, Admininistration 17%
- Trades, Transport, Equipment Operation 17%
- Law and Social, Education, Community 11%
- Health 9%
- Natural & Applied Sciences 8%
- Management 8%
- Manufacturing and Utilities 4%
- Arts, Culture, Recreation, Sport 2%
- Natural Resources, Agriculture 2%
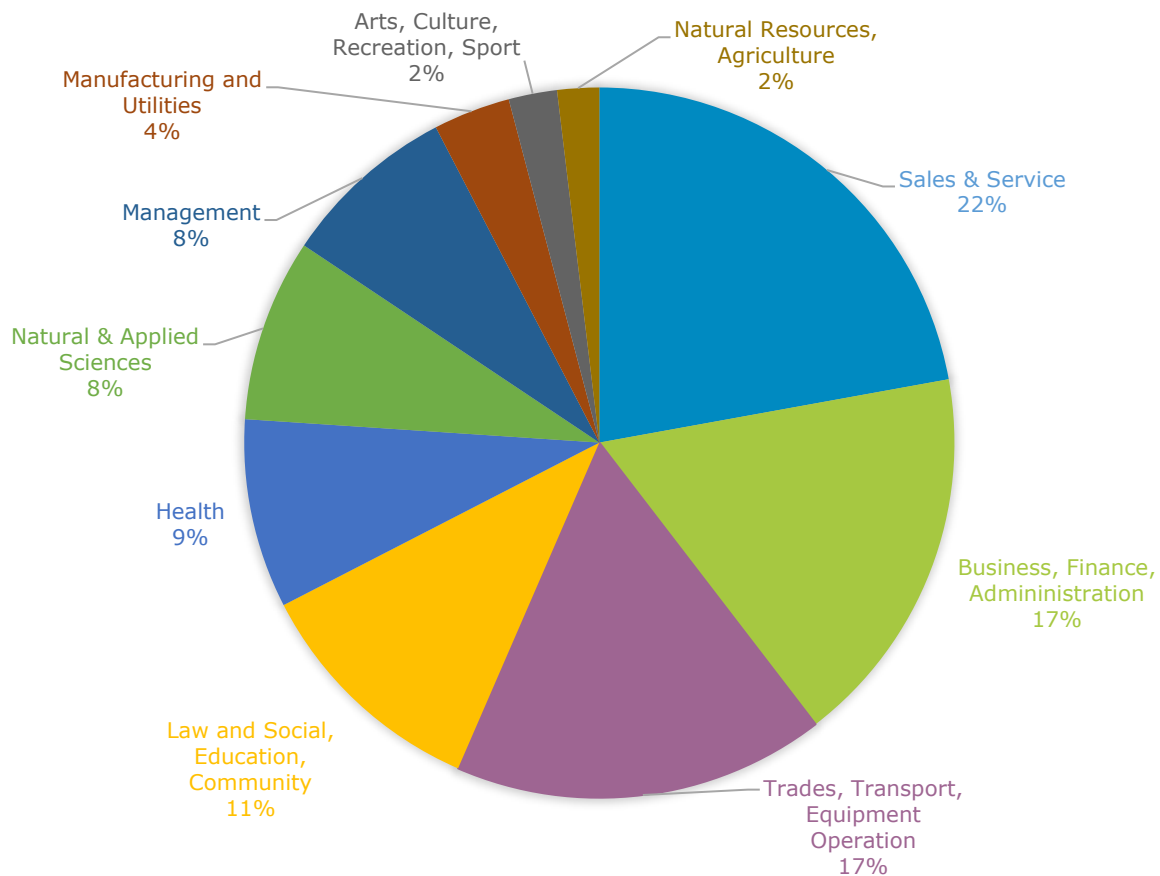
- Some occupations are capital intensive and increasingly automated like manufacturing, thereby employing fewer people relative to their share of the economy. Other occupations, especially in the professions and services sector, are more people intensive and employ larger numbers of people.

- The occupational groupings employing the largest proportion of people in the Edmonton CMA in 2019 were sales and service (22.1%); trades, transportation, and equipment operation (16.9%); business, finance, and administration (17.4%); and law and social, education, and community occupations (10.9%).

- The occupational groupings employing the smallest proportion of people in the Edmonton CMA in 2019 were natural resources and agriculture (1.9%); arts, culture, recreation, and sports (2.2%); and occupations in manufacturing and utilities (3.5%).

Percentage Change in Proportion of Employed Persons by Occupation Type (2002-2019), Edmonton CMA
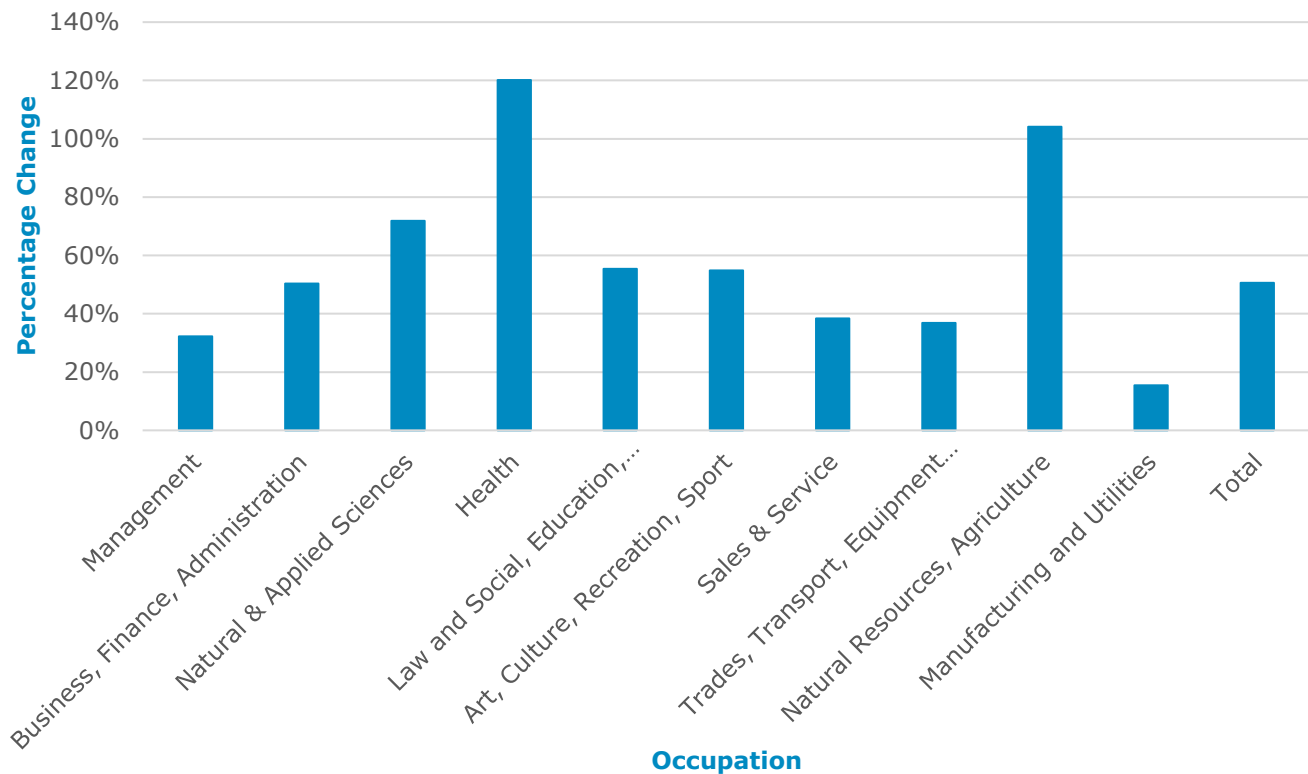
- The size of metro Edmonton's employed labour force increased by 50.6% from 2002 to 2019.

- Occupational groupings that grew significantly faster than the overall labour force from 2002 to 2019 were: health (120.1%); natural resources and agriculture (104.1%); and natural and applied sciences (71.9%).

- Occupational groupings that either employed fewer people or grew significantly slower than the overall employed labour force from 2002 to 2019 were: manufacturing and utilities (15.4%); management (32.2%); and arts, culture, recreation, and sport (54.8%).

Section B: Data Tables

Table B1. Percentage of Students Completing High School within Three Years, ECSD and EPSB

School Year	Catholic	Public
2000/01	59.7%	57.0%
2001/02	61.7%	57.3%
2002/03	64.1%	57.6%
2003/04	69.3%	60.5%
2004/05	68.5%	63.6%
2005/06	70.7%	64.0%
2006/07	71.5%	65.0%
2007/08	71.0%	65.7%
2008/09	73.8%	67.1%
2009/10	76.5%	67.3%
2010/11	79.8%	68.0%
2011/12	81.7%	70.8%
2012/13	81.4%	70.2%
2013/14	81.6%	72.6%
2014/15	83.7%	72.3%
2015/16	84.5%	75.4%
2016/17	85.6%	73.8%
2017/18	87.9%	75.1%

Table B2. Percentage of Students Aged 14-18 Dropped Out of School, Edmonton Catholic and Public School Districts

School Year	Catholic	Public
2000/01	5.4%	6.9%
2001/02	5.1%	7.9%
2002/03	4.8%	6.9%
2003/04	4.5%	6.8%
2004/05	4.6%	6.1%
2005/06	4.0%	6.3%
2006/07	4.6%	6.3%
2007/08	4.1%	5.7%
2008/09	4.5%	5.6%
2009/10	4.0%	4.9%
2010/11	2.9%	4.3%
2011/12	2.4%	3.6%
2012/13	2.4%	3.2%
2013/14	2.1%	3.0%
2014/15	2.1%	3.0%
2015/16	1.5%	2.7%
2016/17	1.2%	2.2%
2017/18	1.2%	2.5%

Table B3. K to Grade 12 Student Enrolment, Edmonton City

School Year	Public	Catholic
2010/11	79,780	33,776
2011/12	80,569	34,616
2012/13	83,272	35,546
2013/14	86,427	37,427
2014/15	89,520	38,941
2015/16	92,358	40,100
2016/17	95,642	41,333
2017/18	98,914	42,510
2018/19	101,865	43,089
2019/20	104,930	44,330

Table B4. English Language Learners, Edmonton City

School Year	Catholic	Public
2010/11	3,949	12,613
2011/12	4,768	14,371
2012/13	5,946	16,303
2013/14	6,749	18,411
2014/15	7,798	20,404
2015/16	8,599	22,437
2016/17	9,428	23,484
2017/18	9,862	24,531
2018/19		25,831

Table B5. First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Student Enrolment, Edmonton City

School Year	Public	Catholic
2010/11	7,034	2,499
2011/12	7,365	2,813
2012/13	7,135	2,856
2013/14	7,591	2,945
2014/15	7,879	3,133
2015/16	7,846	3,181
2016/17	8,425	3,236
2017/18	8,803	3,571
2018/19	8,947	

Table B6. Indigenous Student High School Completion, Edmonton City

School Year	Catholic	Public
2009/2010	28.3	26.6
2010/2011	35.0	30.3
2011/2012	48.8	30.3
2012/2013	50.1	27
2013/2014	40.5	38.4
2014/2015	44.4	38.3
2015/2016	50.9	45.6
2016/17	58.7	41.3
2017/18	57.8	41.3
2018/19	60.6	40.9

Table B7. Six-Year High School-to-Postsecondary Transition Rates, Edmonton Catholic and Public School Districts

	Catholic	Public
2000/01	52.7%	50.2%
2001/02	53.3%	51.3%
2002/03	55.9%	53.7%
2003/04	56.5%	55.0%
2004/05	63.5%	57.2%
2005/06	65.6%	57.3%
2006/07	68.7%	58.1%
2007/08	64.0%	59.6%
2008/09	67.0%	61.1%
2009/10	67.2%	59.9%
2010/11	65.5%	58.9%
2011/12	65.3%	61.5%
2012/13	66.2%	61.0%
2013/14	68.1%	61.4%
2014/15	66.6%	61.1%
2015/16	65.9%	61.5%
2016/17	69.3%	62.6%
2017/18	71.0%	63.7%

Table B8. Number of Employed Persons (000's), Edmonton CMA

Year	Annual Average
1993	424.2
1994	431.4
1995	444.7
1996	441.7
1997	466.3
1998	474.5
1999	483.1
2000	491.1
2001	508.0
2002	525.6
2003	545.0
2004	563.0
2005	561.5
2006	580.4
2007	617.9
2008	644.0
2009	643.5
2010	639.5
2011	679.4
2012	706.4
2013	728.1
2014	744.8
2015	761.0
2016	761.1
2017	764.1
2018	783.3
2019	791.8

Table B9. Labour Force Participation Rate, Edmonton CMA

Year	Annual Average
1993	70.9%
1994	71.3%
1995	71.6%
1996	70.5%
1997	72.1%
1998	71.1%
1999	70.6%
2000	70.1%
2001	70.5%
2002	71.2%
2003	72.1%
2004	72.7%
2005	70.3%
2006	69.7%
2007	72.0%
2008	73.0%
2009	73.1%
2010	71.6%
2011	73.3%
2012	73.5%
2013	73.4%
2014	73.0%
2015	73.4%
2016	73.3%
2017	73.0%
2018	72.2%
2019	72.0%

Table B10. Proportion of Employed Persons Working Part-Time, Edmonton CMA

Year	Annual Average
1993	19.8%
1994	18.2%
1995	18.6%
1996	19.2%
1997	18.6%
1998	19.2%
1999	19.9%
2000	19.5%
2001	18.9%
2002	17.4%
2003	18.1%
2004	17.6%
2005	18.1%
2006	17.0%
2007	16.1%
2008	16.9%
2009	18.4%
2010	18.4%
2011	17.5%
2012	16.8%
2013	15.3%
2014	16.5%
2015	16.3%
2016	17.3%
2017	18.0%
2018	17.6%
2019	17.4%

Table B11. Unemployment Rate, Edmonton CMA

Year	Unemployment Rate
1993	11.2%
1994	10.7%
1995	8.9%
1996	8.3%
1997	6.8%
1998	6.1%
1999	5.9%
2000	5.6%
2001	5.0%
2002	5.2%
2003	5.0%
2004	4.8%
2005	4.5%
2006	3.9%
2007	3.8%
2008	3.7%
2009	6.5%
2010	6.9%
2011	5.4%
2012	4.6%
2013	4.8%
2014	5.2%
2015	5.8%
2016	7.2%
2017	8.1%
2018	6.4%
2019	7.3%

Table B12. Unemployment Rate, by Gender, Edmonton CMA

	Men	Women
1993	12.2%	10.0%
1994	11.2%	10.1%
1995	9.4%	8.4%
1996	8.8%	7.7%
1997	6.7%	6.9%
1998	6.2%	6.0%
1999	6.2%	5.5%
2000	5.7%	5.4%
2001	5.5%	4.5%
2002	6.0%	4.4%
2003	5.5%	4.4%
2004	4.9%	4.7%
2005	4.5%	4.5%
2006	3.6%	4.3%
2007	4.0%	3.7%
2008	3.9%	3.6%
2009	7.3%	5.7%
2010	7.4%	6.4%
2011	5.8%	4.8%
2012	4.6%	4.7%
2013	5.1%	4.6%
2014	4.9%	5.3%
2015	6.4%	5.4%
2016	8.6%	5.9%
2017	8.6%	7.4%
2018	7.1%	5.7%
2019	8.5%	5.9%

Table B13. Unemployment Rate, by Age, Edmonton CMA

Year	15-24 yrs	25-54 yrs	55+ yrs
1993	14.9%	10.2%	11.2%
1994	15.2%	9.5%	12.0%
1995	14.3%	7.5%	10.1%
1996	13.6%	7.0%	8.9%
1997	11.8%	5.7%	5.8%
1998	11.6%	4.9%	5.3%
1999	12.5%	4.6%	3.2%
2000	11.3%	4.3%	4.1%
2001	11.1%	3.9%	2.6%
2002	9.5%	4.3%	3.5%
2003	8.9%	4.1%	3.8%
2004	9.4%	3.9%	3.0%
2005	7.6%	3.9%	2.6%
2006	7.4%	3.2%	2.4%
2007	7.5%	3.0%	2.6%
2008	7.7%	2.9%	2.3%
2009	11.0%	5.8%	4.8%
2010	11.6%	6.3%	4.5%
2011	8.9%	4.6%	4.7%
2012	9.4%	3.9%	3.3%
2013	9.2%	4.0%	4.4%
2014	10.0%	4.3%	4.0%
2015	11.9%	5.1%	4.1%
2016	12.3%	6.4%	6.7%
2017	14.9%	6.9%	6.7%
2018	12.5%	5.2%	6.6%
2019	14.5%	5.7%	8.4%

Table B14. Unemployment Rate for Off Reserve Indigenous People and Total persons in labor force, Edmonton CMA

	Indigenous (Off-reserve)	Total
2005	11.1%	4.5%
2006	7.0%	3.9%
2007	8.0%	3.8%
2008	9.8%	3.7%
2009	15.6%	6.5%
2010	14.0%	7.0%
2011	12.4%	5.4%
2012	12.1%	4.7%
2013	8.6%	4.8%
2014	7.7%	5.1%
2015	10.3%	5.7%
2016	11.2%	7.2%
2017	13.1%	8.1%
2018	11.6%	6.4%
2019	13.2%	7.3%

Table B15. Average Duration of Unemployment, in Weeks, Alberta

Year	Weeks
1995	18.3
1996	16.5
1997	14.4
1998	11.6
1999	11.4
2000	11.3
2001	9.0
2002	9.8
2003	9.7
2004	10.4
2005	10.4
2006	8.3
2007	8.0
2008	7.7
2009	12.2
2010	16.9
2011	15.6
2012	12.4
2013	13.3
2014	13.3
2015	14.2
2016	19.1
2017	21.9
2018	19.9
2019	17.8

Table B16. Percentage of Seniors 65 Years and Older with Employment Income, Edmonton CMA

Year	Percent
2000	17.1%
2001	17.9%
2002	18.5%
2003	19.4%
2004	20.6%
2005	21.4%
2006	21.8%
2007	23.1%
2008	24.4%
2009	24.9%
2010	25.4%
2011	26.6%
2012	27.9%
2013	28.5%
2014	29.1%
2015	30.5%
2016	29.1%
2017	29.0%
2018	29.00%

Table B17. Percentage of Employment Income to Total Income, Seniors 65 Years and Older, Edmonton CMA

Year	Percent Income
2000	12.5%
2001	15.3%
2002	16.0%
2003	16.1%
2004	16.5%
2005	17.7%
2006	19.1%
2007	20.4%
2008	22.2%
2009	21.6%
2010	21.4%
2011	21.2%
2012	23.1%
2013	23.9%
2014	24.1%
2015	23.4%
2016	21.3%
2017	20.9%
2018	20.60%

Table B18 Proportion of Employed Persons by Occupation (2019), Edmonton CMA

Occupational Groupings, 2019	Percentage
Sales & Service	22.1%
Business, Finance, Administration	17.4%
Trades, Transport, Equipment Operation	16.9%
Law and Social, Education, Community	10.9%
Health	8.6%
Natural & Applied Sciences	8.3%
Management	8.0%
Manufacturing and Utilities	3.5%
Arts, Culture, Recreation, Sport	2.2%
Natural Resources, Agriculture	1.9%

Table B.19 Percentage Change in Proportion of Employed Persons by Occupation Type (2002-2019), Edmonton CMA

Occupation	% Change
Management	32.2%
Business, Finance, Administration	50.4%
Natural & Applied Sciences	71.9%
Health	120.1%
Law and Social, Education, Community	55.4%
Art, Culture, Recreation, Sport	54.8%
Sales & Service	38.4%
Trades, Transport, Equipment Operation	36.8%
Natural Resources, Agriculture	104.1%
Manufacturing and Utilities	15.4%
Total	50.6%

SECTION C: COST OF LIVING AND HOUSING

Why are Cost of Living Trends Important?

The cost of goods and services needed to maintain a household plays a significant role in determining a family's quality of life. These include food, housing, clothing, education, health care, and child care. Increases in these costs can impact a family's ability to support a modest standard of living. If costs rise faster than a family's income, the physical and mental health, social well-being, and financial security of the family may deteriorate.

The greater the number of families who are unable to maintain a modest standard of living, the greater the costs to the government in terms of providing services and income supports.

Why are Housing Trends Important?

For almost everyone, housing represents the largest living cost. The availability, affordability, and adequacy of housing is therefore crucial to quality of life for both renters and homeowners.

Renters tend to have lower and more variable incomes and are therefore less able to afford substantial rent increases or the cost of purchasing a home. Vulnerable groups that face barriers, such as recent immigrants, refugees, and Indigenous peoples, often live in crowded or substandard housing.

Home ownership rates are an indicator of the overall level of financial independence in a community. Buying a home requires savings that many low- and moderate-income families do not have. Rising housing costs can make it more difficult to enter the housing market.

Incomes are closely linked to housing affordability. If incomes do not keep up with the rising cost of housing, people's ability to cover other living costs and to save for their future (education, retirement, etc.) declines.

Policy-makers and program planners need to be aware of these trends to anticipate and appropriately respond to housing needs. Rising rents and decreasing vacancy rates, for example, signal a need for increased rent subsidies and affordable rental housing.

How is Edmonton Changing?

The cost of living in Edmonton has increased steadily over time but the increase has slowed in recent years. In the past 20 years, the all-items inflation rate has increased by 17.8%. While food costs rose at about twice the rate of inflation in the 2008 to 2015 period, they have risen more slowly since then.

Vacancy rates for rental properties in Edmonton fluctuate considerably year to year. Since the last Tracking the Trends was published in 2018, the vacancy rate has decreased. Rent, on the other hand, has been steadily increasing over the past 20 years, except for the past five years in which it has remained relatively stable.

In this edition of Tracking the Trends, ESPC has switched from reporting data from the Point-in-Time (PiT) counts to the By Name List (BNL) in order to show a more nuanced understanding of homelessness in Edmonton. PiT counts are conducted every two years, and involve volunteers going into the community to survey the number of homeless persons in a city and collect basic demographic data. These counts give a snapshot of homelessness in a given community at a specific moment. In contrast to the PiT count, BNL data shows how homelessness in Edmonton fluctuates throughout the year. A BNL is a list of all individuals identified by service providers to be homeless. The BNL list is updated daily monthly as individuals move in and out of homelessness within internal databases, while the public dashboard is updated monthly. The BNL is a community collaboration that, involves more than 60 service providers around the city. Coverage is more

comprehensive than ever before, giving a more accurate understanding of the status quo). The BNL documents things such as the number of people who are actively homeless, what services they might be accessing, and the type of housing they are currently accessing (if any). This gives a real-time indication of trends in community and helps planning around meeting people's housing needs. This allows the homeless system to quickly respond to those entering the homeless system, better meet their needs, and understand more about who is becoming homeless is and why (CAEH, 2018).

 Edmonton's homeless population has an overrepresentation of Indigenous persons; Indigenous peoples make up 6% of Edmonton's population, but two-thirds of those experiencing homelessness. Contrary to popular belief, the majority of homeless people in Edmonton have a roof over their heads, but their accommodations are unsafe, overcrowded, and/or temporary.

Note: Data on the percentage of dwellings owned or rented, and core housing need were left out of this edition because this information comes from the Federal Census and therefore has not been updated since the last Tracking the Trends. Refer to Tracking the Trends 2018 for this data.

Cost of Living

Consumer Price Index, Edmonton CMA
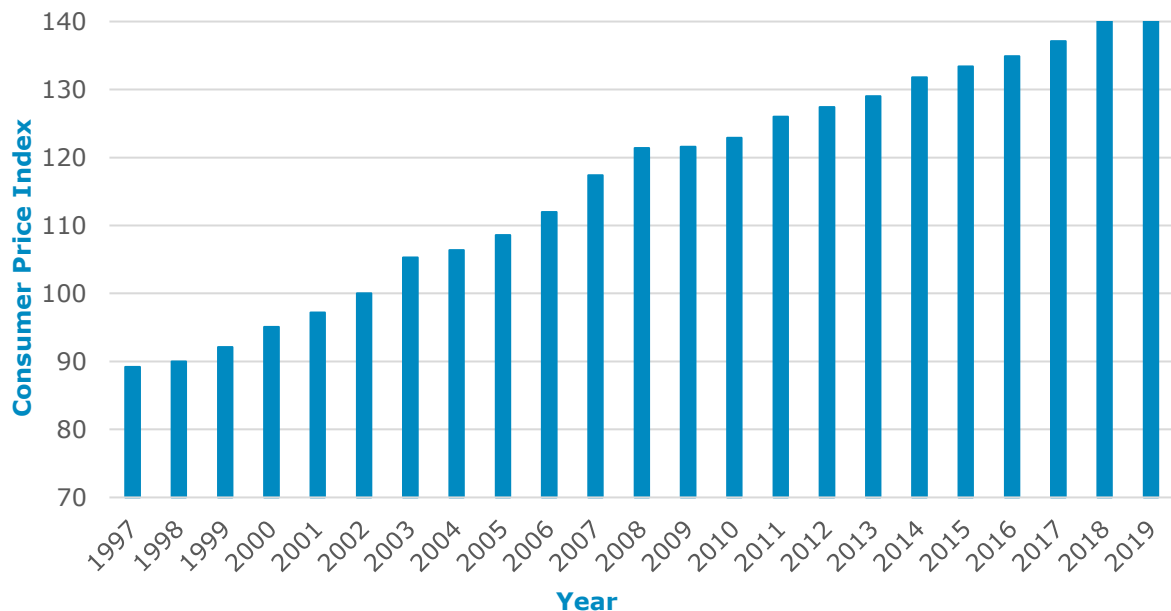
- The cost of living has increased considerably in the past 20 years.

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in 2019 was 143.2. This means that living costs in Edmonton in 2019 were 34.6% higher that they were 15 years ago in 2004, when the CPI was 106.4.

- From 1999 to 2009, the CPI went up by 24.6%. From 2009 to 2019, it rose by another 17.8%. This implies that inflation in the most recent 10-year period has slowed down relative to what it was in the previous 10-year period.

Average Weekly Cost of a Nutritious Food Basket, Family of Four, Edmonton CMA
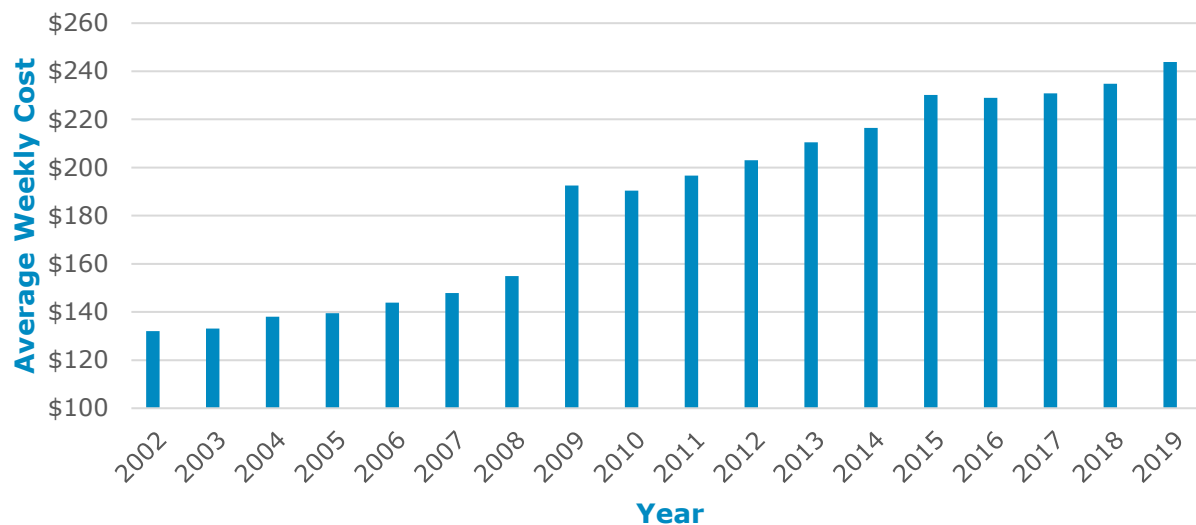
- Food is a major cost for everyone, but those with low and modest incomes must spend a larger portion of their income on nutritious food.

- In 2019, the average cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four in Edmonton was $242.83

- Since 2002, the average weekly cost of a nutritious food basket for a family for four increased by $110.73, an increase of 83.8%

Rental Housing

Average Monthly Rent, Two-Bedroom Apartment, October Average, Edmonton CMA
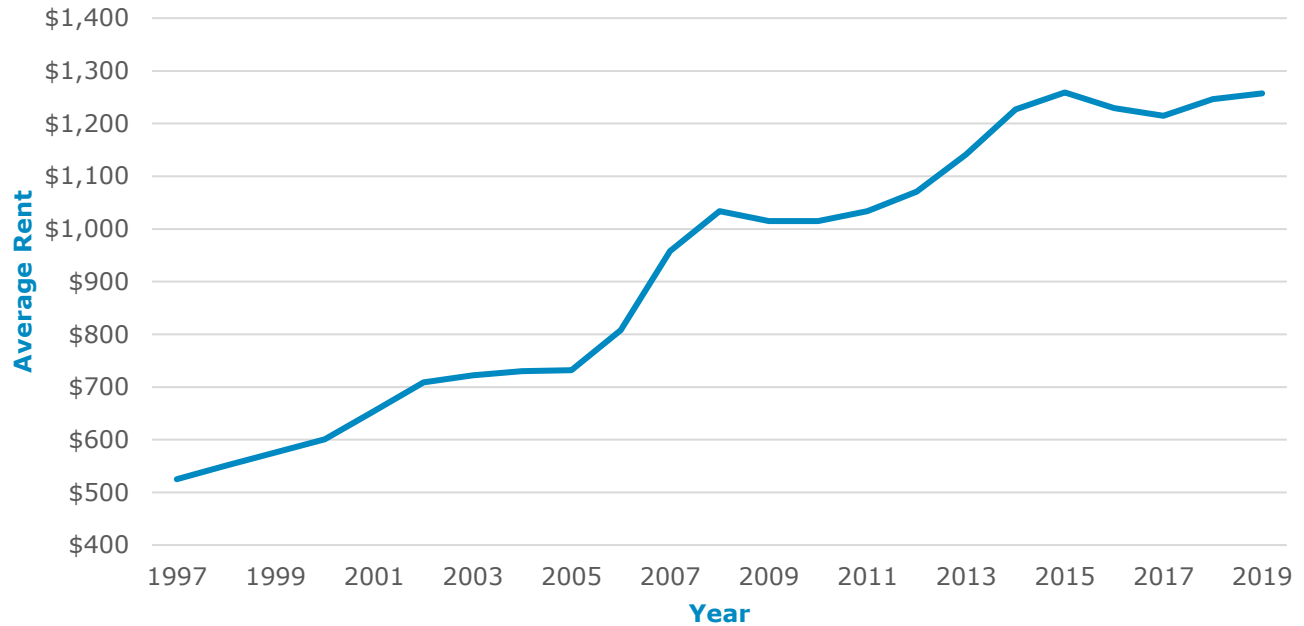
- Rental costs in Edmonton have been increasing.

- The average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Edmonton CMA in October 2019 was $1,257. That is an increase of 109.2% since 2000.

- Rent tends to decrease slightly during economic downturns, such as the global financial crisis from 2008 to 2010, but increase sharply during economic booms.

Total Apartment Vacancy Rate, October Average, Edmonton CMA
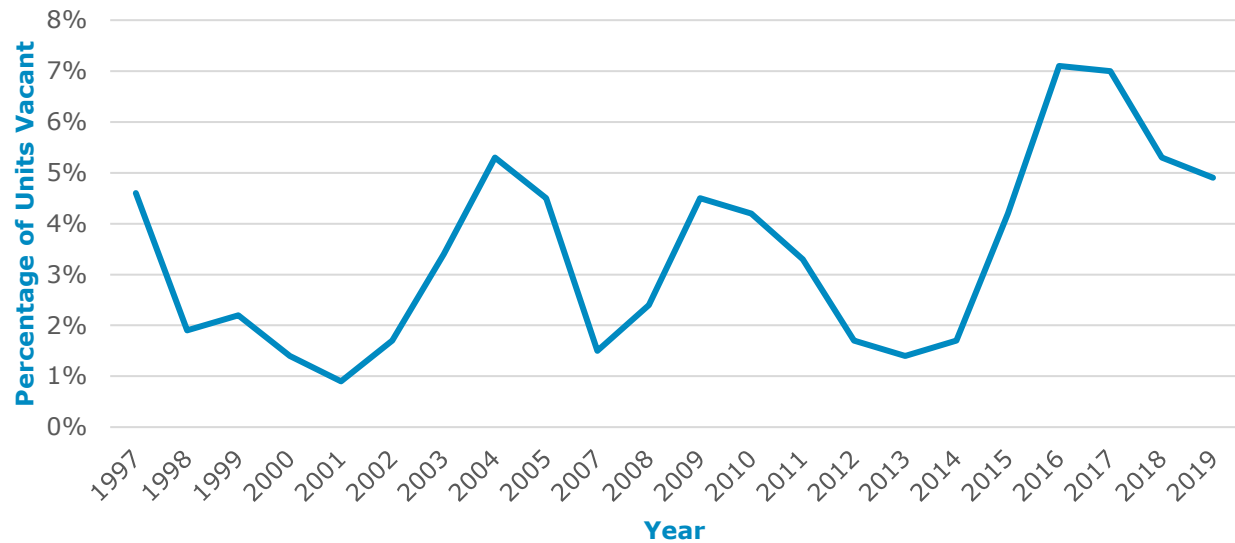
- The apartment rental vacancy rate has fluctuated significantly in the Edmonton CMA due to two main factors. The first is underlying economy conditions. The second is the availability of rental units.

- In the boom of 2007, the vacancy rate was 1.5%, increasing to 4.5% during the global financial crisis in 2009, back down to 1.4% in 2013, and then rose significantly to 7% in 2017.

- The vacancy rate in October 2019 was 4.9%
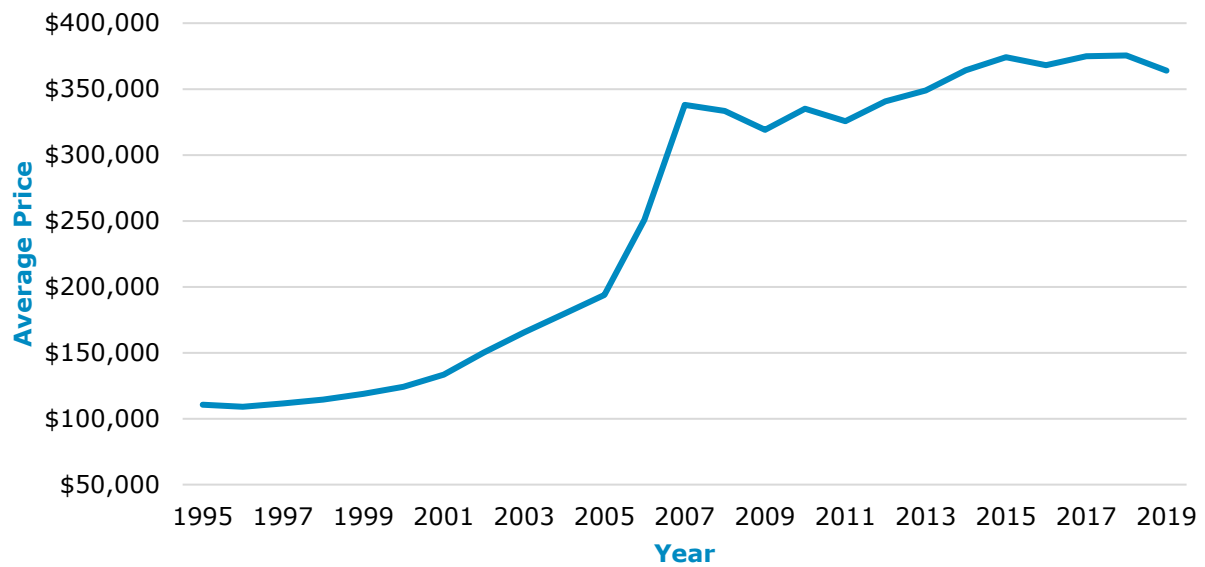
- The average residential selling price is a blended average of different housing types including single family homes, duplexes, townhomes, and condominium dwellings.

- In 1999, the average residential selling price was $118,871, rising by 168.34% to an average of $318,980 in 2009. In the past decade, housing prices have risen much more slowly, to an average of $363,905 in 2019.

Homelessness

Number of Homeless Persons, Edmonton City
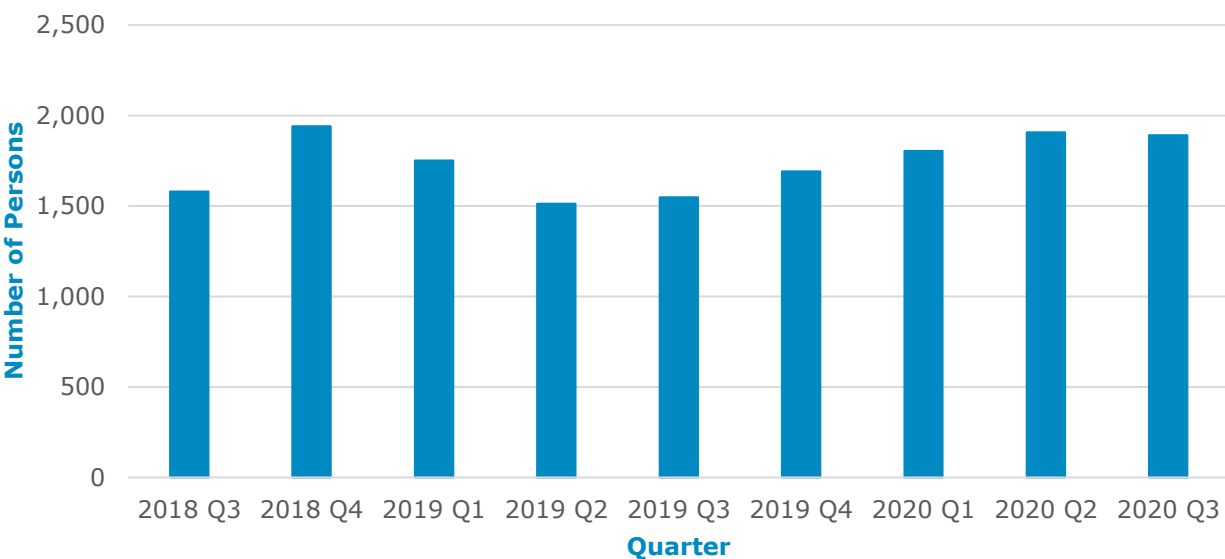
- In the past, ESPC reported homeless trends through data from PiT counts. According to PiT count data, the number of persons experiencing homelessness peaked at 3,079 persons in 2008. In 2009, the 10 year plan to end homelessness was implemented, and numbers dropped to 1,752 by 2016.

- In this edition, data from the Edmonton By-Names List (BNL) is used. Since the BNL reports homelessness statistics monthly, it is possible to discern seasonal trends of homelessness. Reporting in Tracking the Trends is quarterly; Quarter 1 (Q1) refers to January through March, Quarter 2 (Q2) refers to April through June, Quarter 3 (Q3) refers to July through September, and Quarter 4 (Q4) refers to October through December. These three months are averaged for the quarter.

- BNL data shows how homelessness in Edmonton fluctuates throughout the year. Homelessness was decreasing in early 2019, but began to increase at the end of 2019 and into 2020, due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the most recent quarter, 1,892 people experienced homelessness. The centralization of services within large, temporary shelters has led to a large number of people interacting with the homeless system who would otherwise may not have needed services.

The BNL list only began in May of 2018, so there is a lack of long term data. Please refer to the 2018 edition of *Tracking the Trends* for long-term data using PiT counts.
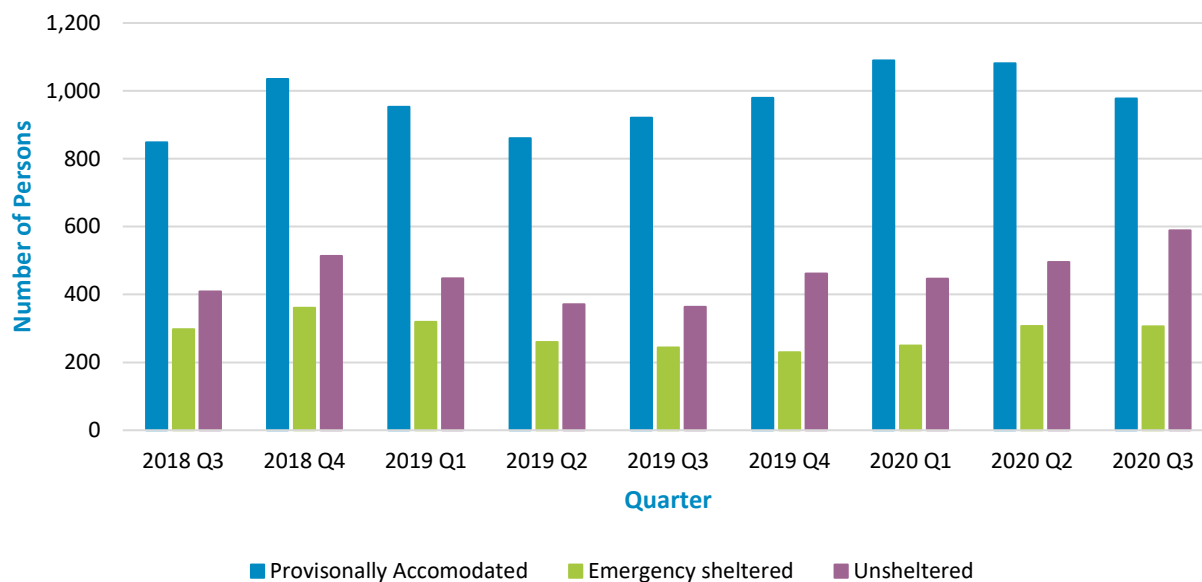
- Traditionally, homelessness has been thought of people living without a roof over their head. However, homelessness can also refer to situations in which a person has a place to stay, but that place is temporary, unsafe, or unsuitable for habitation.

- The BNL categorizes homelessness into three different types. Unsheltered refers to people who are sleeping "rough," or outside. Emergency sheltered refers to people who are sleeping in shelters. Provisionally accommodated includes people living temporarily with others, in interim, transitional, short-term housing or institutional care

- The majority of homeless persons are provisionally accommodated. In the most recent quarter (2020 Q3), 51.7% of those experiencing homelessness were provisionally accommodated, 16.2% were emergency sheltered, and 31.1% were unsheltered.

Number of Homeless Persons, by Indigenous Identity, Edmonton City
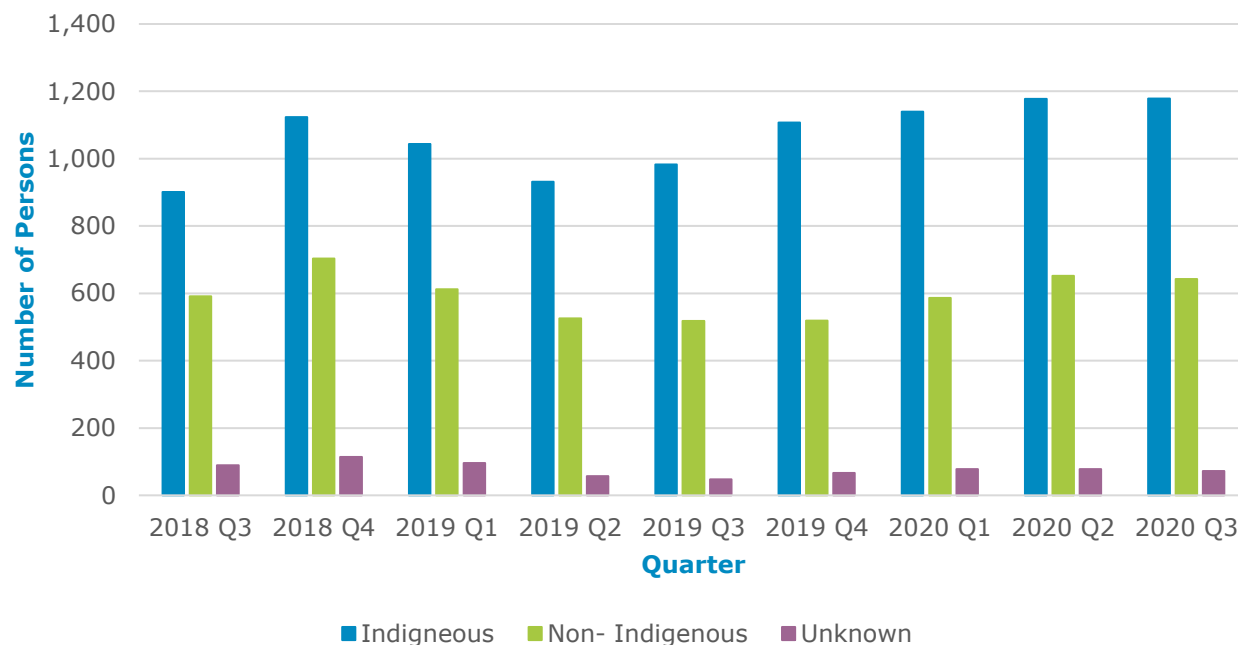
- Edmonton's homelessness population has an overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples make up approximately 6% of Edmonton's population, but two thirds of those experiencing homelessness.

- The highest documented proportion was in the fourth quarter of 2019 (2019 Q4), in which Indigenous persons made up 65.5% of total homeless persons. The lowest documented proportion was in the fourth quarter of 2018 (2018 Q4), in which Indigenous persons made up 57.9% of total homeless persons.

Food Bank Use

Number of People Served by Edmonton's Food Bank in March, Edmonton City
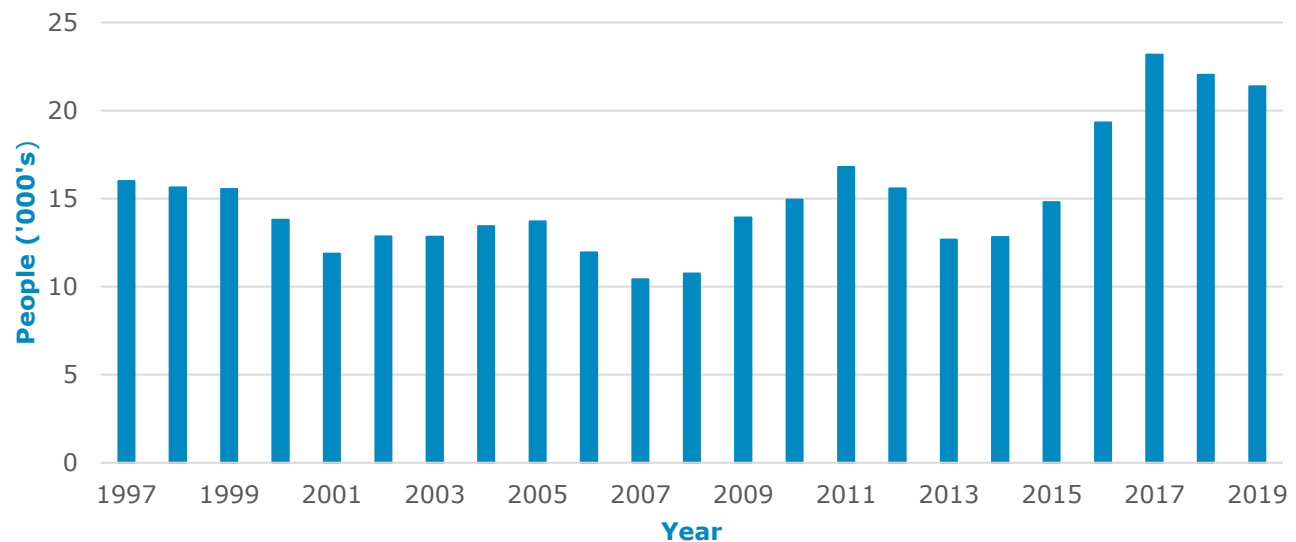
- Food bank use follows overall economic trends, decreasing during better economic times and increasing during tougher economic times.

- Households in need of food can only receive a hamper from the food bank once per month. The data above counts the number of distinct individuals (including dependent children) who received food hampers each month. Data for the years 2011 to 2019 is calculated based on the month of March. For earlier years, the data reflects a monthly use average over the entire year.

- In March 2019, the Edmonton Food Bank served 21,385 different people through its hamper program.

- The last 20 years of food bank use reflects the ups and downs of Edmonton's economy. In 2007, the Edmonton Food Bank served a 20-year low of 10,422 people, rising up to 16,803 toward the end of the global financial crisis in March 2011, back down to 12,677 during the economic recovery, and back up to a record high 23,181 people served in March 2017. From 2017 to 2019, food bank usage declined but it is very likely that this trend will reverse as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Living Wage

Edmonton Hourly Living Wage
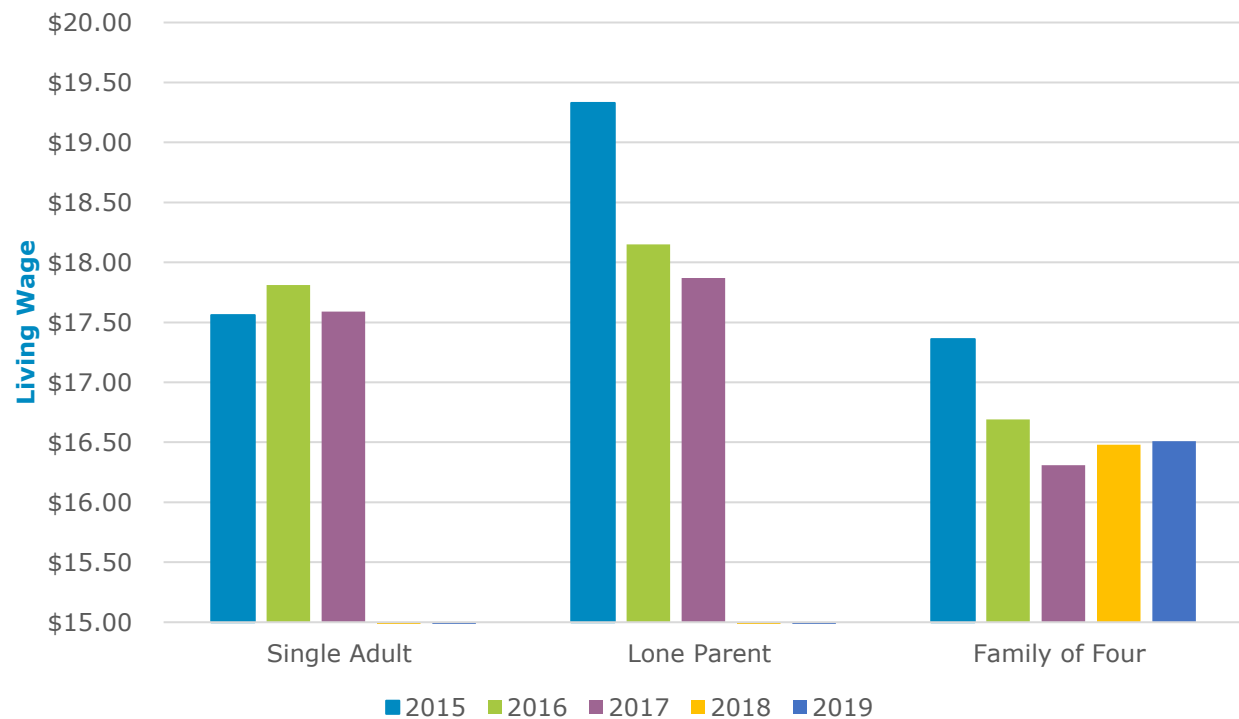
- The living wage is calculated as the hourly wage that a primary income earner must make to provide for themselves and their family. This wage allows a family to afford basic necessities, to avoid financial stress, to encourage healthy child development, and fully participate in their communities.

- The methodology for calculating a living wage is based on the following scenario: a healthy family of four with two children; one child in full-time daycare and one in before-and-afterschool care; full-time hours of work for both parents; one parent taking two courses per semester at a local college; inclusion of the costs of living such as transportation, rental housing, clothing, and food; and deduction of federal and provincial taxes but with the inclusion of tax credits and government benefits.

- In the past, this number has been calculated for a variety of family types. In the past two years, the living wage has only been calculated for a family of four.

- Edmonton's living wage for a dual-income family of four in 2019 is $16.51. This is up $0.02 from 2017, but down $0.85 from the first calculation in 2015.

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, data required to calculate the living wage was not released for 2020. Therefore, the living wage for this year is not available.

Section C: Data Tables

Table C1. Consumer Price Index, Edmonton CMA

Year	CPI All-Items
1997	89.2
1998	90
1999	92.1
2000	95.1
2001	97.2
2002	100
2003	105.3
2004	106.4
2005	108.6
2006	112
2007	117.4
2008	121.4
2009	121.6
2010	122.9
2011	126
2012	127.4
2013	129
2014	131.8
2015	133.4
2016	134.9
2017	137.1
2018	140.8
2019	143.2

Table C2. Average Weekly Cost of a Nutritious Food Basket, Family of Four, Edmonton CMA

Year	Weekly Average
2002	$132.10
2003	$133.11
2004	$137.96
2005	$139.51
2006	$143.92
2007	$147.84
2008	$154.85
2009	$192.51
2010	$190.48
2011	$196.66
2012	$202.99
2013	$210.44
2014	$216.41
2015	$230.21
2016	$228.94
2017	$230.87
2018	$234.80
2019	$243.83

Table C3. Average Monthly Rent, Two-Bedroom Apartment, Edmonton CMA

Year	October Average
1997	$525
1998	$551
1999	$576
2000	$601
2001	$654
2002	$709
2003	$722
2004	$730
2005	$732
2006	$808
2007	$958
2008	$1,034
2009	$1,015
2010	$1,015
2011	$1,034
2012	$1,071
2013	$1,141
2014	$1,227
2015	$1,259
2016	$1,229
2017	$1,215
2018	$1,246
2019	$1,257

Table C4. Total Apartment Vacancy Rate, Edmonton CMA

Year	October Average
1997	4.6%
1998	1.9%
1999	2.2%
2000	1.4%
2001	0.9%
2002	1.7%
2003	3.4%
2004	5.3%
2005	4.5%
2006	1.2%
2007	1.5%
2008	2.4%
2009	4.5%
2010	4.2%
2011	3.3%
2012	1.7%
2013	1.4%
2014	1.7%
2015	4.2%
2016	7.1%
2017	7.0%
2018	5.3%
2019	4.9%

Table C5. Average Residential Selling Price, Edmonton City

Year	Annual Average Price
1995	$110,577
1996	$109,042
1997	$111,545
1998	$114,536
1999	$118,871
2000	$124,203
2001	$133,441
2002	$150,258
2003	$165,541
2004	$179,610
2005	$193,934
2006	$250,915
2007	$338,009
2008	$333,440
2009	$318,980
2010	$335,077
2011	$325,543
2012	$340,680
2013	$349,006
2014	$364,346
2015	$374,237
2016	$368,159
2017	$375,030
2018	$375,507
2019	$363,905

Table C6. Number of Homeless Persons, Edmonton City

	Total
2018 Q3	1,581
2018 Q4	1,941
2019 Q1	1,752
2019 Q2	1,513
2019 Q3	1,548
2019 Q4	1,692
2020 Q1	1,804
2020 Q2	1,907
2020 Q3	1,892

Table C7. Number of homeless persons, by shelter types, Edmonton city

Quarter	Provisionally Accommodated	Emergency sheltered	Unsheltered
2018 Q3	849	298	409
2018 Q4	1,035	361	514
2019 Q1	953	319	447
2019 Q2	861	260	371
2019 Q3	921	244	363
2019 Q4	979	230	461
2020 Q1	1,090	250	447
2020 Q2	1,082	307	496
2020 Q3	978	306	589

Table C8. Number of Homeless Persons, by Indigenous identity, Edmonton City

Year	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown
2018 Q3	901	591	89
2018 Q4	1,123	703	114
2019 Q1	1,044	612	96
2019 Q2	931	525	57
2019 Q3	982	518	47
2019 Q4	1,107	519	66
2020 Q1	1,140	586	78
2020 Q2	1,178	652	78
2020 Q3	1,178	642	72

Table C9. Number of People Served by Edmonton's Food Bank in March, Edmonton City

Year	People served
1997	16,006
1998	15,626
1999	15,540
2000	13,798
2001	11,878
2002	12,856
2003	12,832
2004	13,437
2005	13,710
2006	11,953
2007	10,422
2008	10,749
2009	13,933
2010	14,943
2011	16,803
2012	15,582
2013	12,677
2014	12,825
2015	14,794
2016	19,316
2017	23,181
2018	22,033
2019	21,385

Table C10. Edmonton Hourly Living Wage

Family Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Single Adult	$17.56	$17.81	$17.59	n/a	n/a
Lone-parent	$19.33	$18.15	$17.87	n/a	n/a
Family of Four	$17.36	$16.69	$16.31	$16.48	$16.51

SECTION D:
WAGES & INCOME

Why are Wage and Income Trends Important?

Income is perhaps the key determinant of a family's ability to maintain an adequate quality of life. Therefore, it is important to understand how incomes are changing in relation to cost of living.

People with low-incomes or wages are the least able to withstand rising costs or unexpected emergencies. When costs of living rise at a faster rate than incomes, more low- and modest-income families are at risk of poverty.

Family income also affects educational attainment, which in turn impacts lifetime earning potential. For example, low-income youth are less likely to attend university (Frenette, 2007).

Why are Wealth Trends Important?

Wealth, or a family's net worth, is also an important variable to track. In general, families with a low or negative net worth are at a much greater risk of poverty and homelessness.

There is, however, no available data on wealth distribution at either the provincial or Edmonton level, and the most recent national data is from the year 2016.

Because wealth accumulates over many years, wealth disparities are even greater than income disparities.

How is Edmonton Changing?

The number of tax-filers continues to increase in line with the growth of the adult population in metro Edmonton. A slightly higher proportion of women than men file tax returns. However, a gender gap persists and women continue to have significantly lower incomes than men.

All family types including lone-parents rely mainly on employment as their major source of income. There is also a trend towards a greater reliance on own source income (investments, savings, pensions), reflecting that the tax-filing population is ageing.

Alberta's minimum wage increased to $15.00 per hour on October 1, 2018 under the NDP government. The real value of the minimum wage, after factoring out inflation, is now at a 40-year high. However, under the UCP government, the minimum wage for youth (persons under the age of 18) was reduced to $13 per hour on June 26, 2019.

Income inequality in Alberta was at an all-time high in 2015, with most of the real income gains going to the top 1% of tax-filers. There have been a number of measures taken by the federal and provincial governments to reduce this inequality, such as increases to the minimum wage, refundable child benefits, and top marginal tax rates. Income inequality decreased in 2018, although the top 1% continued to have much larger real income gains compared to the rest of the population

Income

Number of Tax-filers, Edmonton CMA
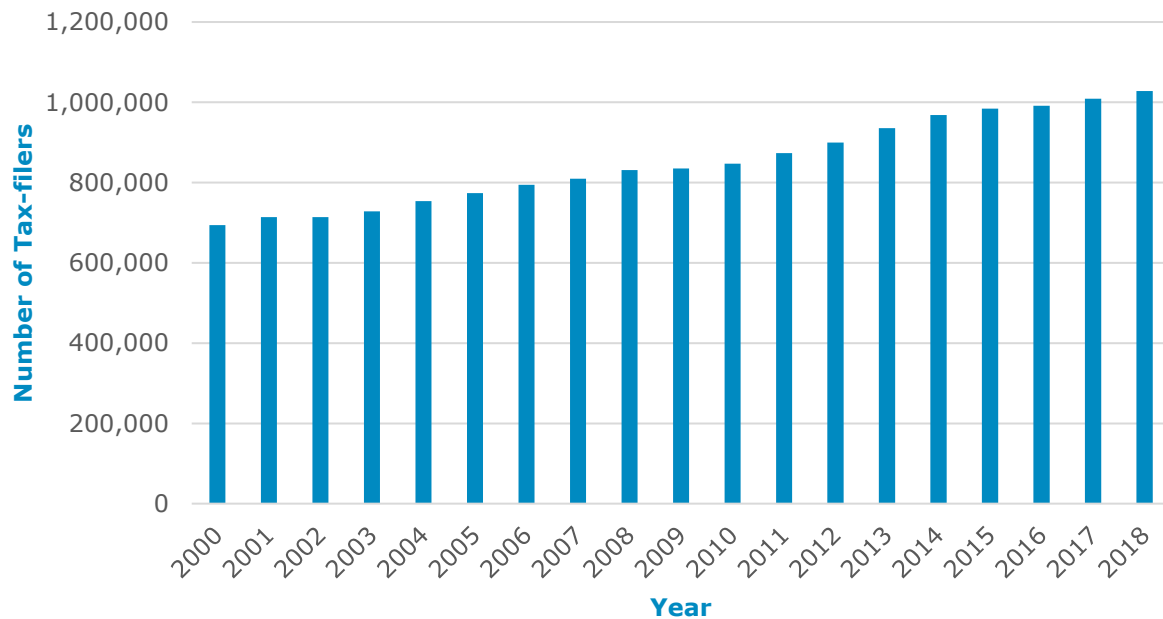
- In line with growth of the adult population, the number of metro Edmonton tax-filers increased from 694,120 in the year 2000 to 1,027,720 in 2018, an increase of 48.1%.

- In 2018, at 40%, the largest proportion of Edmonton tax-filers were aged 25 to 44 years, followed by those aged 45 to 64 years (31%), those 65 years and over (17%), and those aged 0 to 24 years (11%).

- The average age of Edmonton tax-filers has gone from 35 years in 2000 to 37 years in 2018.

- At 51% in 2018, slightly more women file tax returns than men.

Percent female income compared to male, Edmonton CMA
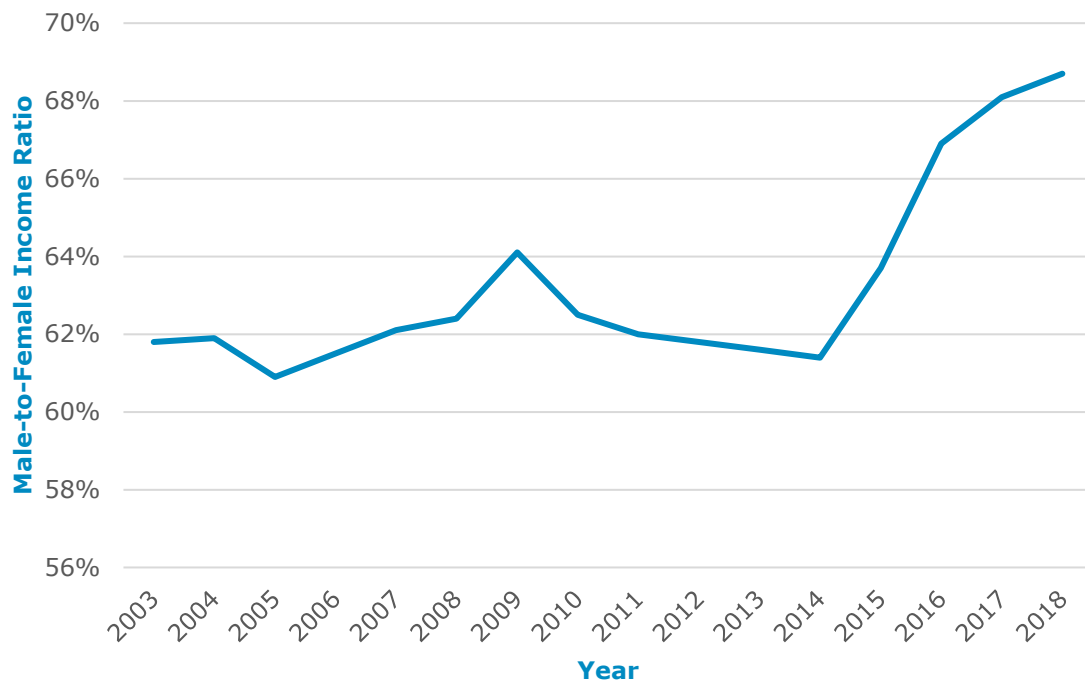
- In 2018, female tax-filers reported 68.7% of the after-tax income reported by male tax-filers, a 6.3 percentage point increase since the year 2008.

- All of the income transfers from federal and provincial governments are included in after-tax income, showing that a significant income gender gap persists.

- The only discernable trend in this 15-year period is that the difference between female and male incomes shrinks when the economy slows (such as in the years 2009 and 2015) and expands when the economy is stronger. This could be due to the fact that men tend to work in industries that are more affected by economic ups and downs.
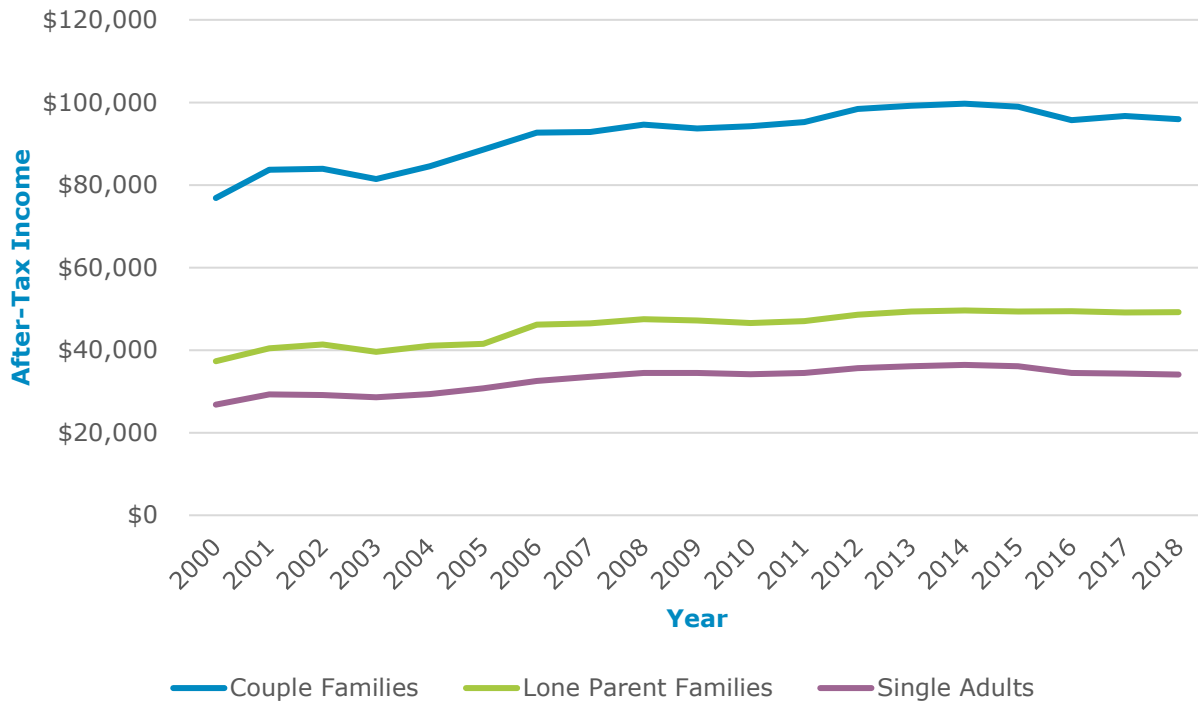
- Couple families have consistently higher median after-tax incomes than lone-parent families and single adults. In 2018, incomes for couple families were 94.9% higher than lone-parent families, and 181.5% higher than single adults.

- From the years 2000 to 2018, the median after-tax income after inflation increased by 24.9% for couple families, 31.9% for lone-parent families, and 27.1% for single adults.

- Despite overall economic growth, after-tax incomes can stall or even fall during economic downturns such as those experienced during the global financial crisis in 2009 and the recent downturn that caused 2015 family incomes to decline slightly.

Median After-Tax Income, 2018, Couple Families, by Family Size, Edmonton CMA
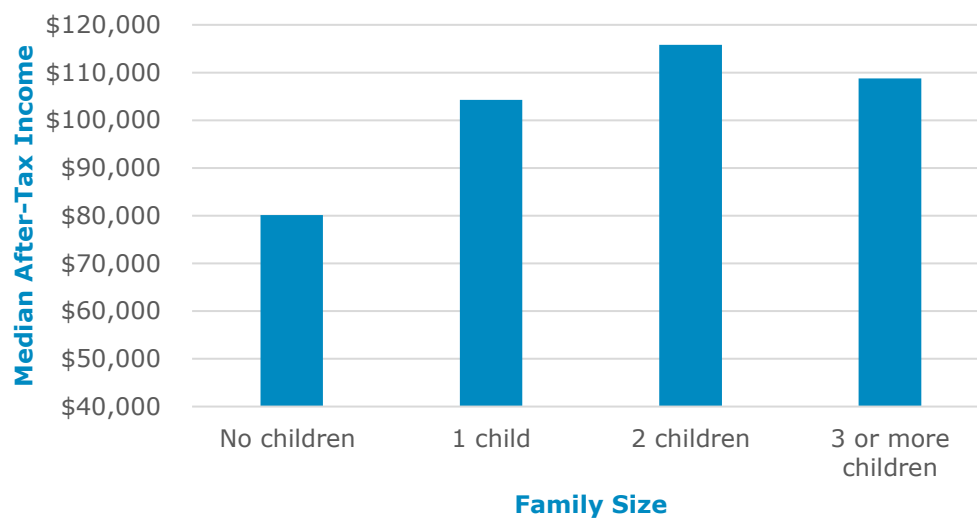
- In 2018, couple families with two children had the highest median after-tax incomes ($115,800) followed by couple families with three or more children ($108,800), couple families with one child ($104,300), and couple families with no children ($80,100).
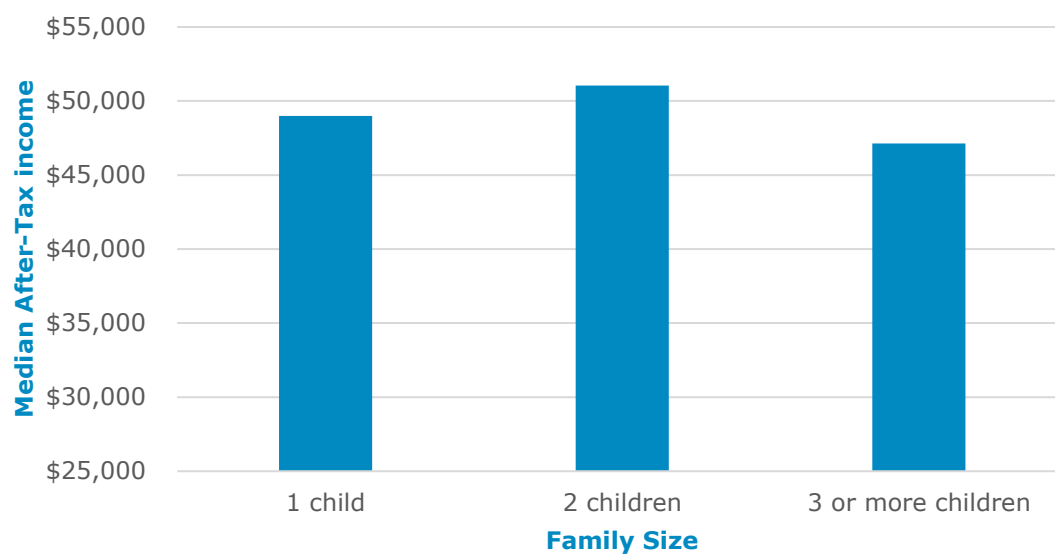
- In 2018, lone-parent families with two children had the highest median after-tax incomes ($51,050), followed by lone-parents with one child ($48,990). Lone-parents with three or more children had the lowest median after-tax incomes ($47,130).

Source of Income, Couple Families, Edmonton CMA
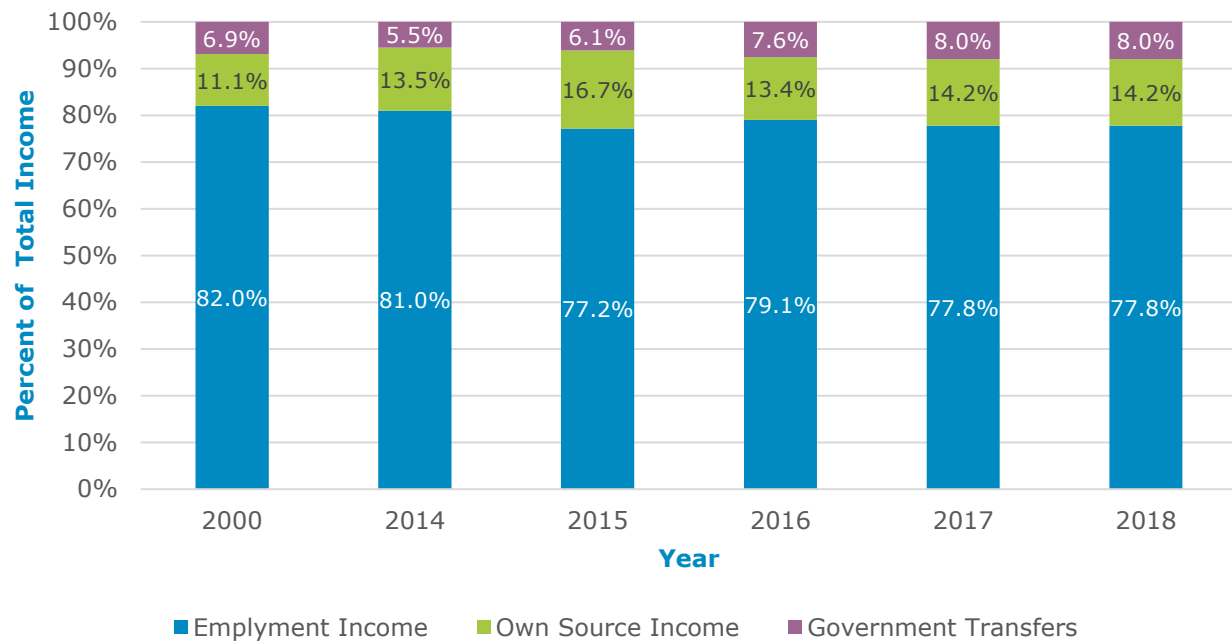
- The main source of income for couple families is employment. In 2018, the percentage of total income from employment income declined to 77.8%, from 82.0% in the year 2000.

- Own source income has increased as a proportion of total income from 11.1% in the year 2000 to 14.2% in 2018.

- Reliance of couple families on government income transfers has increased from 6.9% in in the year 2000 to 8.0% in the year 2018.

Source of Income, Lone-Parents, Edmonton CMA
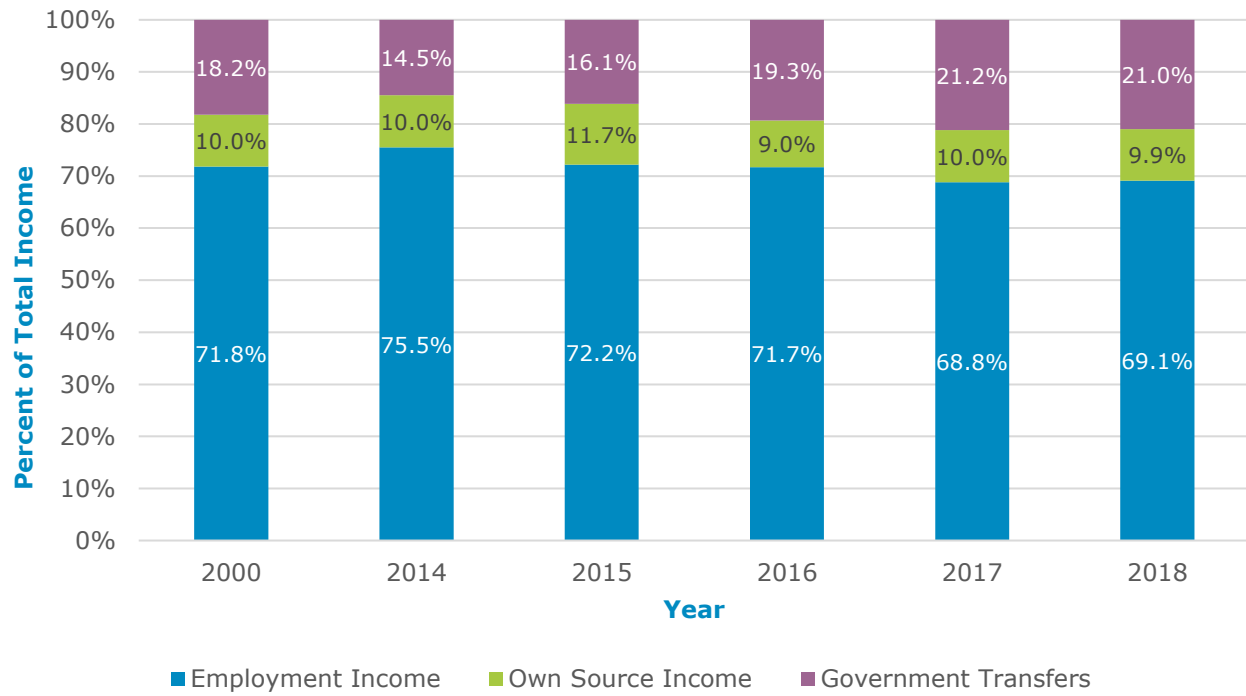
- The main source of income for lone-parent families is employment. The proportion of employment income decreased from 71.8% in 2000 to 69.1% in 2018.

- The proportion of total income from federal and provincial government transfers decreased between the years 2000 and 2014, reaching a low of 14.5% in 2014, but which rose to 21.0% in 2018.

Source of Income, Single Adults, Edmonton CMA
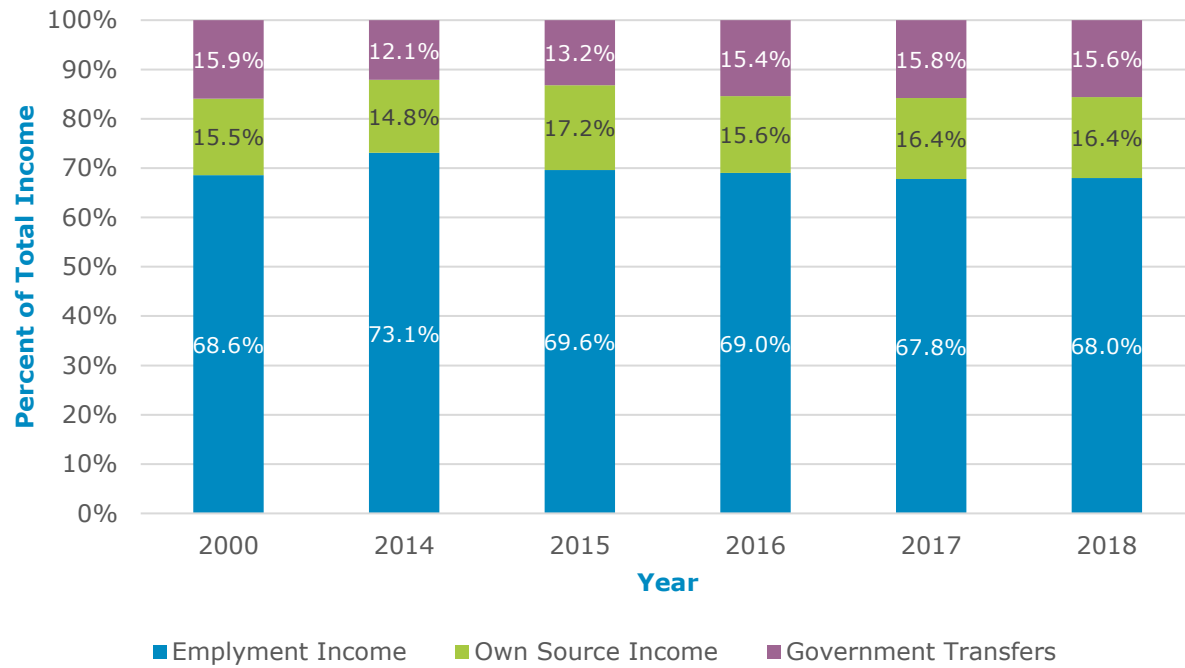
- For persons not in census families (i.e. single adults), employment as a percentage of total income increased slightly from 68.6% in 2000 to 73.1% in 2014, and then decreased back to 68.0% in 2018.

- Income from government transfers declined slightly as a percentage of total income, from 15.9% in 2000 to 12.1% in 2014, then increased to 15.6% in 2018.

- Own source income has grown slightly, from 15.5% of total income in the year 2000 to 16.4% in the year 2018.

Percentage Growth

Income Group	Percentage Growth
Top 0.1%	56.8%
Top 1%	27.6%
Bottom 99%	7.0%
Bottom 90%	4.3%
Bottom 50%	3.2%
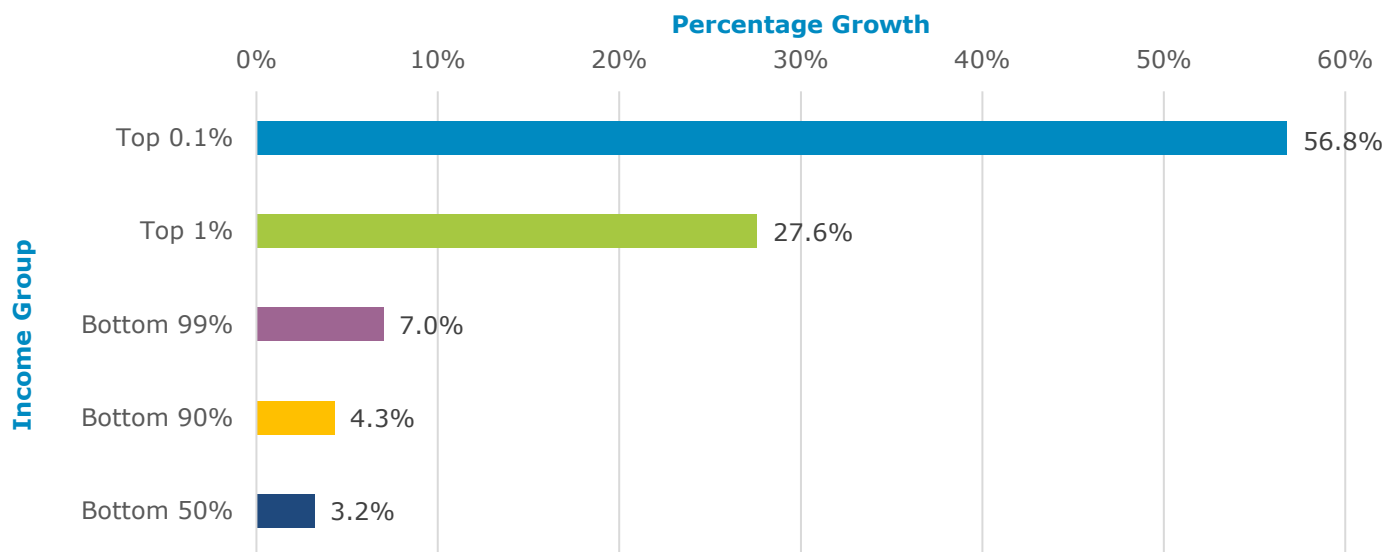
- Over the past 35 years, income inequality in Edmonton has increased.

- After adjusting for inflation, the top 1% of tax-filers saw a 27.6% increase in the real after-tax incomes compared to a 7.0% increase for the bottom 99% of tax-filers from 1982 to 2017.

- The top 0.1% of tax-filers experienced a 56.8% increase in their real incomes from 1982 to 2017, compared to a 4.3% increase for the bottom 90% of tax-filers, and a 3.2% increase for the bottom 50% of tax-filers.

- This difference is less than in was in 2015, when the top 0.1% saw an increase of 287.5% and the top 1% saw an increase of 69.7% in their real after-tax incomes.

Value of Alberta Minimum Wage, $2019 Constant Dollars
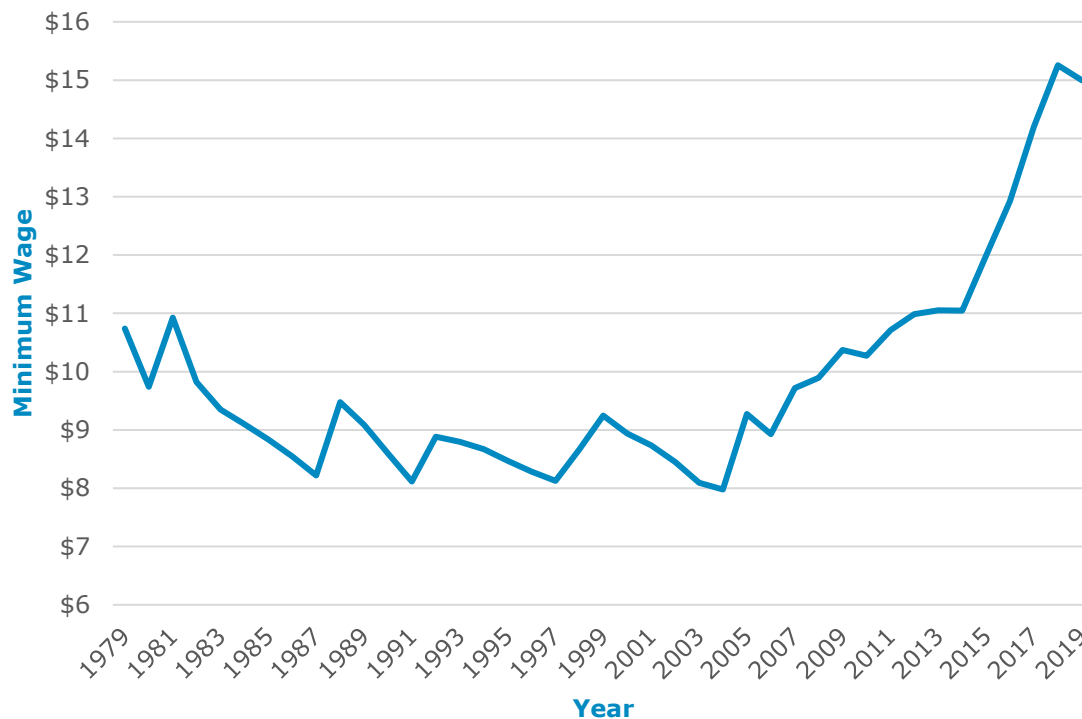
- For many years from the late 1970s to the mid-2000s, Alberta's minimum wage was adjusted only occasionally, causing its real value to decline once inflation was factored in. In the mid-2000s, the PC government, under Ed Stelmach, began regular increases to the minimum wage.

- In October 2018, the NDP government raised the minimum wage to $15 an hour, the highest it has ever been.

- In June 2019, the UCP government implemented a reduced minimum wage to $13 an hour for youth (workers under the age of 18).

- The NDP government increased the minimum wage to $15 an hour in October 2018, but many Edmontonians continue to earn low wages.

- From July 2017 to June 2018, an average of 117,300 employed persons in the Edmonton CMA earned less than the $16.48 2018 living wage.

- A gender gap persists when it comes to earning low wages, as 63.7% of low wage earners are women.

Number of Employed Persons Earning Low Wages, By Age, July 2017- June 2018, Edmonton CMA
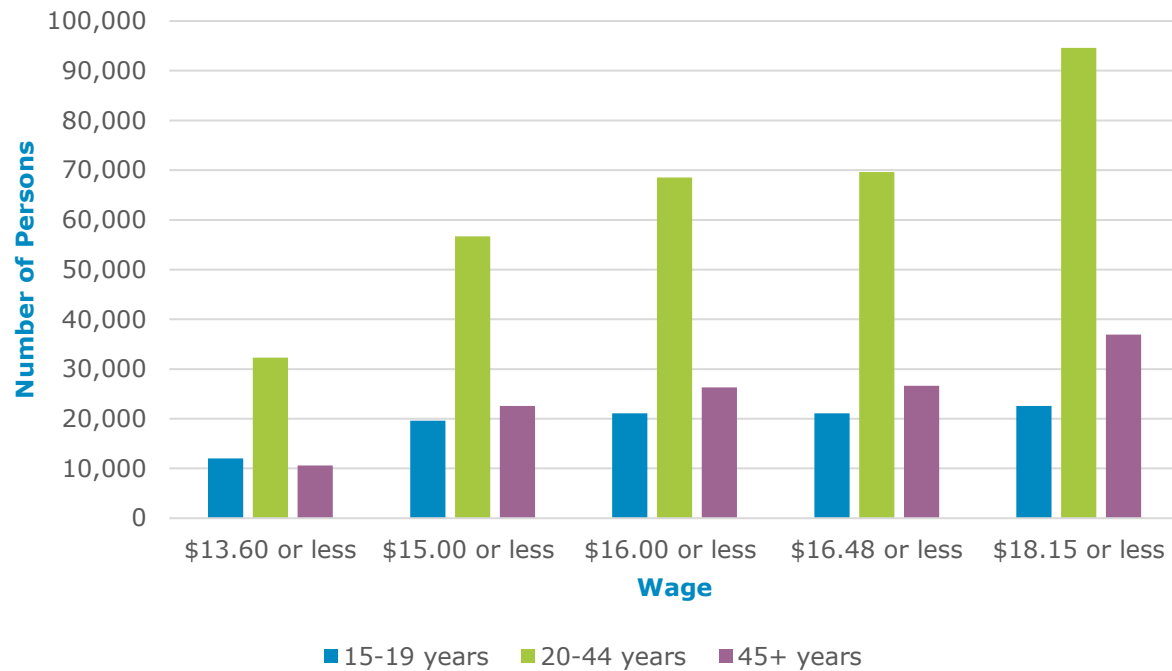
- Most low wage earners are adults, not youth.

- While the majority of youth do make low wages (85.1% of youth earned less than the living wage), youth make a relatively small proportion of the working population, and thus a small proportion of those earning low wages.

- From July 2017 to June 2018, 21,100 youth aged 15 to 19 earned less than the $16.48 living wage compared to 69,600 adults between the ages of 20 and 44.

Section D: Data Tables

Table D1. Number of tax-filers, Edmonton CMA

Year	Tax-filers	Year	Tax-filers
2000	694,120	2010	846,890
2001	713,700	2011	873,580
2002	713,910	2012	899,820
2003	727,910	2013	935,370
2004	753,510	2014	968,120
2005	774,010	2015	984,490
2006	794,260	2016	991,480
2007	809,820	2017	1,009,200
2008	831,260	2018	1,027,720
2009	835,500		

Table D2. Percent female income compared to male, Edmonton CMA

Year	Female-to-Male Ratio
2003	61.8%
2004	61.9%
2005	60.9%
2006	61.5%
2007	62.1%
2008	62.4%
2009	64.1%
2010	62.5%
2011	62.0%
2012	61.8%
2013	61.6%
2014	61.4%
2015	63.7%
2016	66.90%
2017	68.10%
2018	68.70%

Table D3. Median After-Tax Income ($Constant 2018) by Family Type, Edmonton CMA

Year	Couple Families	Lone-parent Families	Single Adults
2000	$76,840	$37,310	$26,798
2001	$83,727	$40,415	$29,261
2002	$83,917	$41,395	$29,146
2003	$81,431	$39,579	$28,615
2004	$84,559	$41,023	$29,377
2005	$88,551	$41,488	$30,727
2006	$92,651	$46,137	$32,560
2007	$92,851	$46,450	$33,521
2008	$94,605	$47,494	$34,493
2009	$93,697	$47,219	$34,482
2010	$94,195	$46,548	$34,186
2011	$95,241	$47,056	$34,485
2012	$98,405	$48,562	$35,642
2013	$99,182	$49,389	$36,095
2014	$99,692	$49,611	$36,418
2015	$98,929	$49,386	$36,076
2016	$95,690	$49,410	$34,475
2017	$96,732	$49,111	$34,332
2018	$95,950	$49,210	$34,070

Table D4. Median After-Tax Income, 2018, Couple Families, by Family Size, Edmonton CMA

Number children	income
No children	$80,100
1 child	$104,300
2 children	$115,800
3 or more children	$108,800

Table D5. Median After-Tax Income, 2018, Lone-Parent Families, by Family Size, Edmonton CMA

Number children	Income
1 child	$48,990
2 children	$51,050
3 or more children	$47,130

Table D6. Source of income, couple families, Edmonton CMA

Year	Employment Income	Own Source Income	Government Transfers
2000	82.0%	11.1%	6.9%
2014	81.0%	13.5%	5.5%
2015	77.2%	16.7%	6.1%
2016	79.1%	13.4%	7.6%
2017	77.8%	14.2%	8.0%
2018	77.8%	14.2%	8.0%

Table D7. Source of income, lone-parents, Edmonton CMA

Year	Employment Income	Own Source Income	Government Transfers
2000	71.8%	10.0%	18.2%
2014	75.5%	10.0%	14.5%
2015	72.2%	11.7%	16.1%
2016	71.7%	9.0%	19.3%
2017	68.8%	10.0%	21.2%
2018	69.1%	9.9%	21.0%

Table D8. Source of income, single adults, Edmonton CMA

Year	Employment Income	Own Source Income	Government Transfers
2000	68.6%	15.5%	15.9%
2014	73.1%	14.8%	12.1%
2015	69.6%	17.2%	13.2%
2016	69.0%	15.6%	15.4%
2017	67.8%	16.4%	15.8%
2018	68.0%	16.4%	15.6%

Table D9. Real Median After-Tax Income Growth (Edmonton CMA) 1982 to 2017

Income Group	Real Median Income Growth
Top 0.1%	56.8%
Top 1%	27.6%
Bottom 99%	7.0%
Bottom 90%	4.3%
Bottom 50%	3.2%

Table D10. Value of Alberta Minimum Wage, $2019 Constant Dollars

Year	Constant $	Year	Constant $
1979	$10.74	1999	$9.24
1980	$9.74	2000	$8.94
1981	$10.93	2001	$8.74
1982	$9.82	2002	$8.45
1983	$9.35	2003	$8.09
1984	$9.10	2004	$7.98
1985	$8.83	2005	$9.27
1986	$8.54	2006	$8.93
1987	$8.22	2007	$9.72
1988	$9.48	2008	$9.89
1989	$9.09	2009	$10.37
1990	$8.59	2010	$10.27
1991	$8.12	2011	$10.71
1992	$8.88	2012	$10.99
1993	$8.80	2013	$11.05
1994	$8.67	2014	$11.05
1995	$8.47	2015	$12.00
1996	$8.29	2016	$12.92
1997	$8.13	2017	$14.21
1998	$8.67	2018	$15.26
		2019	$15.00

Table D11. Employed Persons Earning Low Wages by Gender, July 2017 to June 2018, Edmonton CMA

Wage	Total	Men	Women
$13.60 or less	54.8	18.2	36.6
$15.00 or less	98.8	35.6	63.2
$16.00 or less	115.9	42.4	73.5
$16.48 or less	117.3	42.6	74.7
$18.15 or less	154.1	60.7	93.5

Table D12. Employed Persons Earning Low Wages, By Age, July 2017- June 2018, Edmonton CMA

Wage	15-19 years	20-44 years	45+ years
$13.60 or less	12,000	32,300	10,600
$15.00 or less	19,600	56,700	22,600
$16.00 or less	21,100	68,500	26,300
$16.48 or less	21,100	69,600	26,600
$18.15 or less	22,600	94,600	36,900

SECTION E: POVERTY

Why are Poverty Trends Important?

Poverty is a complex issue and an undesirable feature in any society. It is the result of multiple social systems failing to protect individuals and families from material deprivation. Some of the consequences of poverty include poor nutrition and physical health, social isolation, and limited financial stability. Poverty prevents our society from reaching its full potential.

The Costs of Poverty

In terms of daily reality, poverty represents an inability to maintain a standard of living that will ensure an individual or family's overall health and well-being. The effects of poverty, however, are not limited to those who are poor. As shown repeatedly by research on the social determinants of health, poverty and social inequality decrease the overall health of a society. Poverty is also expensive—poverty costs Albertans $7.1 billion to $9.5 billion per year due to extra costs to health care and crime, and reduced economic opportunities (Poverty Costs, 2012).

Measuring Poverty

Canada recently introduced Opportunity for All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy (Government of Canada, 2018). This strategy designates Canada's official poverty line: the Market Basket Measure (MBM). The MBM uses the cost of goods and services that would allow a family to meet their basic needs and have a modest standard of living. Statistics Canada is undergoing a review of the MBM with a new 2018 base, the results of which will be released at the end of 2020. The MBM uses data from the Canadian Income survey, and is not reliable for municipal level data.

In the past, Tracking the Trends has used the Low-Income Measure After-Tax (LIM-AT) as its measure of poverty. In this edition, ESPC, in congruence with Statistics Canada, switched to the Census Family LIM-AT (CFLIM-AT).

The Census Family LIM-AT (CFLIM-AT) is used because this measure is more comparable to other data from Statistics Canada. It reports a higher overall prevalence of low-income as compared to other measures, mostly due to how it calculates median income in Canada.

Please note that all numbers have been re-calculated for the new measurement. Given that the CFLIM-AT reports a higher prevalence of poverty, all charts reporting poverty will show slightly higher statistics than they had in past Tracking the Trends editions.

How is Edmonton Changing?

Edmonton is relatively prosperous, yet the city and region still have significant levels of poverty.

Poverty rates are linked to economic cycles. As the economy improves, poverty rates decrease; as the economy declines, poverty rates increase. The economic downturn beginning in 2015 saw a modest increase in poverty rates, although by 2018 they had decreased slightly.

Poverty rates also vary considerably by family type. Lone-parent families have the highest poverty rate, couple families have the lowest, and single adults are in the middle. A typical person with a low-income does not live at the poverty line, but rather anywhere from 30% to 50% below it, depending on family type.

Poverty rates vary by age and gender. The younger a person is, the more likely they are to live in poverty. People who are older tend to have lower poverty rates, though the poverty rate among female seniors aged 65 years and older has been increasing

CFLIM-AT Thresholds, By Family Size, 2018
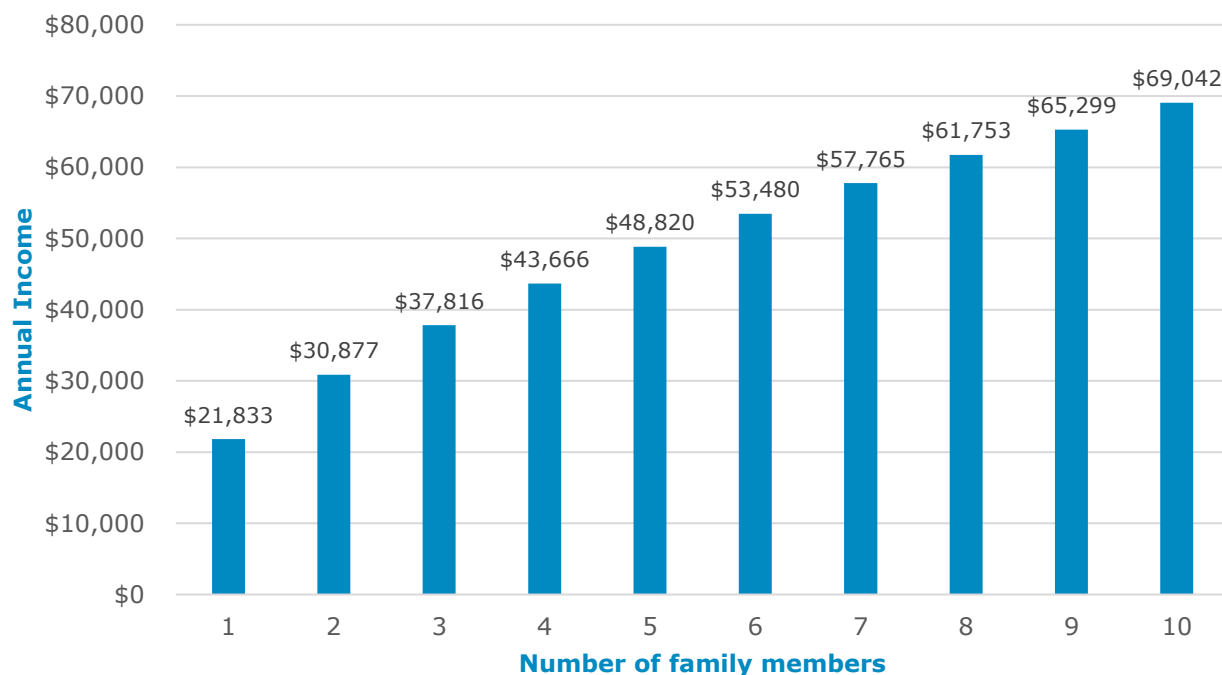
- *Tracking the Trends* uses the Census Family Low-Income Measure After-Tax (CFLIM-AT) to measure poverty. This income data is aggregated and taken from tax returns filed with the Canadian Revenue Agency, known as the T1 Family File.

- The CFLIM-AT uses Census families as a unit of measure, which are members of a couple family, with or without children, and lone-parents and their children. All other family types are considered non-census families.

- The CFLIM-AT thresholds are determined at 50% of the national median income, adjusted for family size. They are re-calculated annually. The poverty (or low-income) rate refers to all persons whose household income falls below the thresholds depicted in Figure E1.

- The after-tax income includes all income transfers from the federal and provincial governments.

Proportion of Persons Living in Poverty, Edmonton CMA
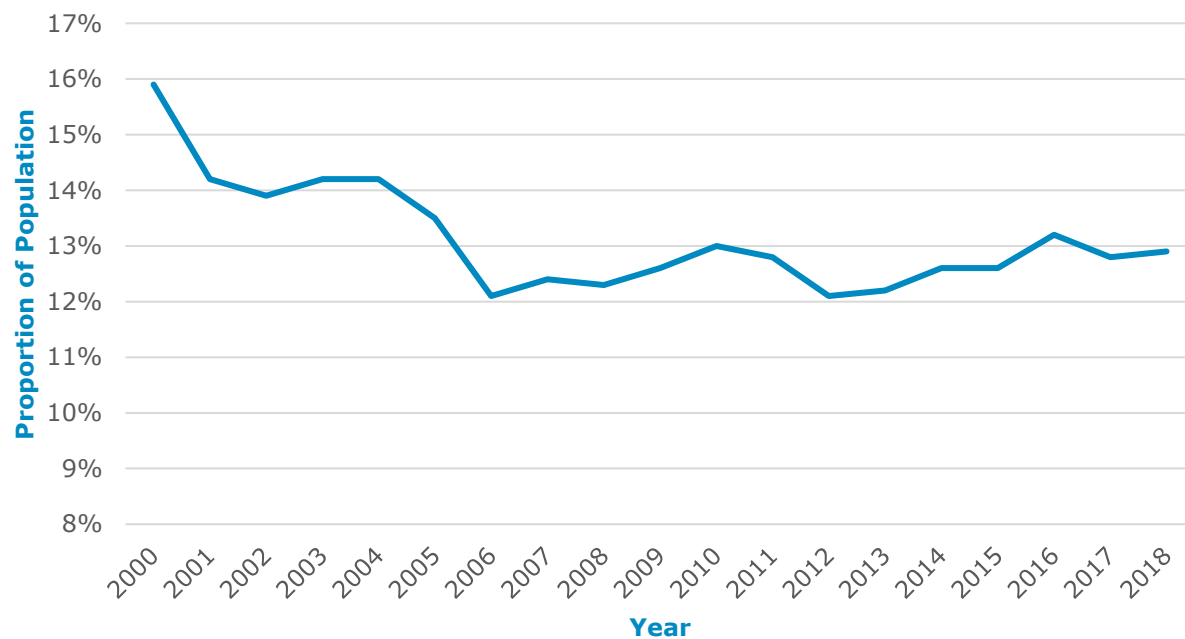
- In the Edmonton CMA, 175,880 residents lived in low-income in 2018, or a poverty rate of 12.9% of the total population. This is an improvement from the year 2000, when 147,540 residents lived in low-income, or a poverty rate of 15.9% of the total population. The higher prevalence of poverty is due to the lower population count in 2000.

- The largest decline in the poverty rate took place between the years 2000 and 2006, in which the poverty rate dropped by 3.8 percentage points. Since then, the poverty rate has fluctuated slightly over the years.

Proportion of Persons Living in Poverty, by Family Type, Edmonton CMA
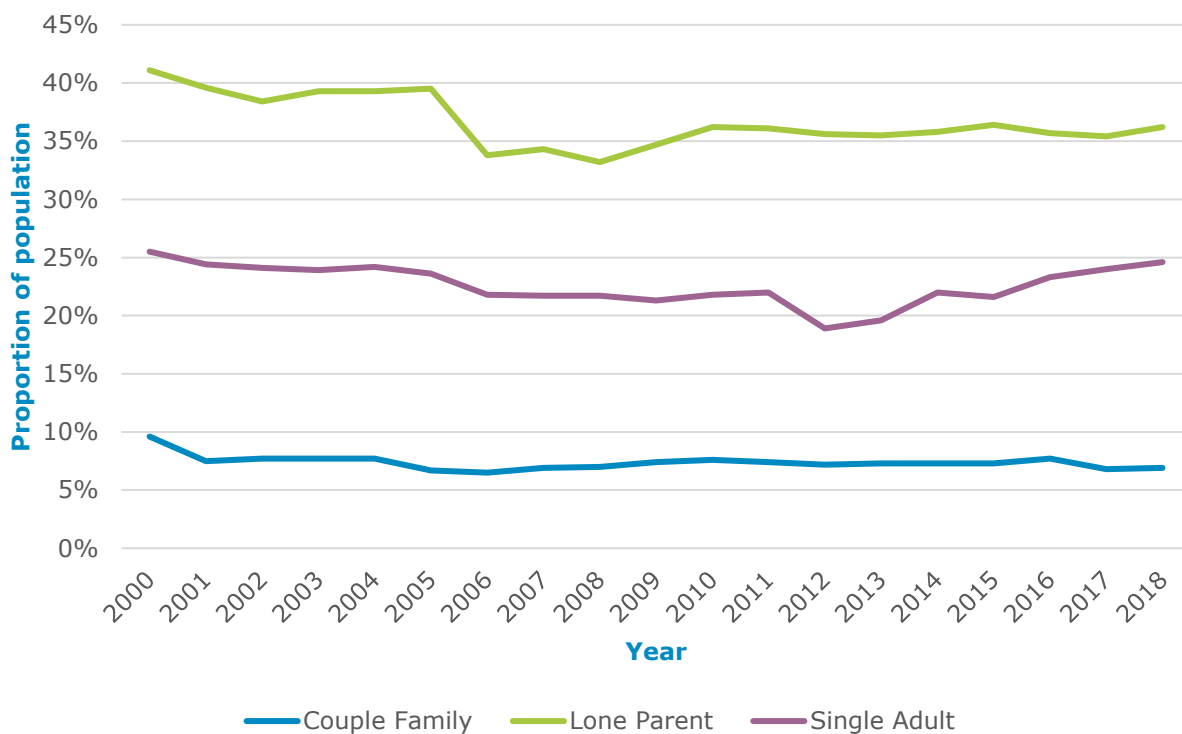
- Lone-parent families consistently experience the highest rate of poverty compared to other family types. In 2018, 36.2% of persons in lone-parent families lived in poverty, a 4.9 percentage point drop from 41.1% in the year 2000.

- Persons living in couple families have the lowest poverty rate by family type. In 2018, 6.9% of persons in couple families lived in poverty, a 2.7 percentage point drop from 9.6% in the year 2000.

- In 2018, 24.6% of single adults lived in poverty, a 0.9 percentage point drop from 25.5% in 2000.

- Most low-income families live well below the poverty line. The low-income (poverty) gap is the difference between the poverty line threshold and the median after-tax income of all low-income families living below that threshold.

- In 2018, low-income couple families with one child had a median after-tax income $10,906 below the threshold for a family of three, and low-income couple families with two children had a median after-tax income $10,866 below the threshold for a family of four.

Poverty Gap for Low-income Lone-Parent Families, by Family Size, Edmonton CMA, 2018
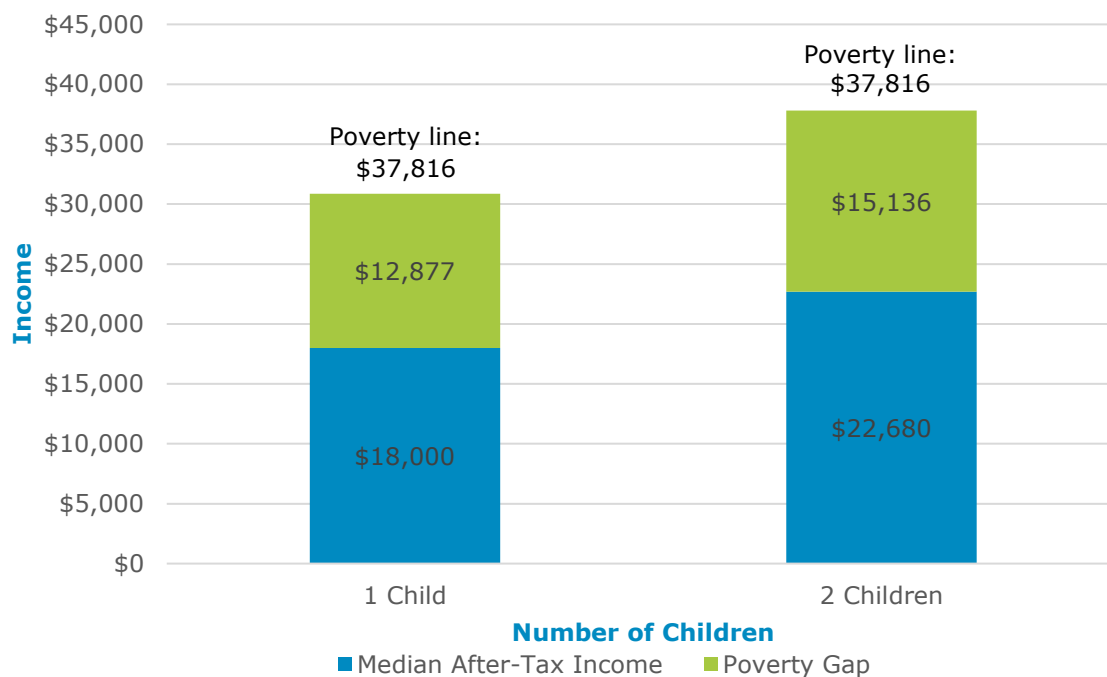
- Lone-parent families experience a large gap between the low-income thresholds and their actual after-tax incomes. In 2018, lone-parent families with one child had an after-tax income $12,877 below the low-income threshold for a family of two, and lone-parent families with two children had a median after-tax income $15,136 below the threshold for a family of three.
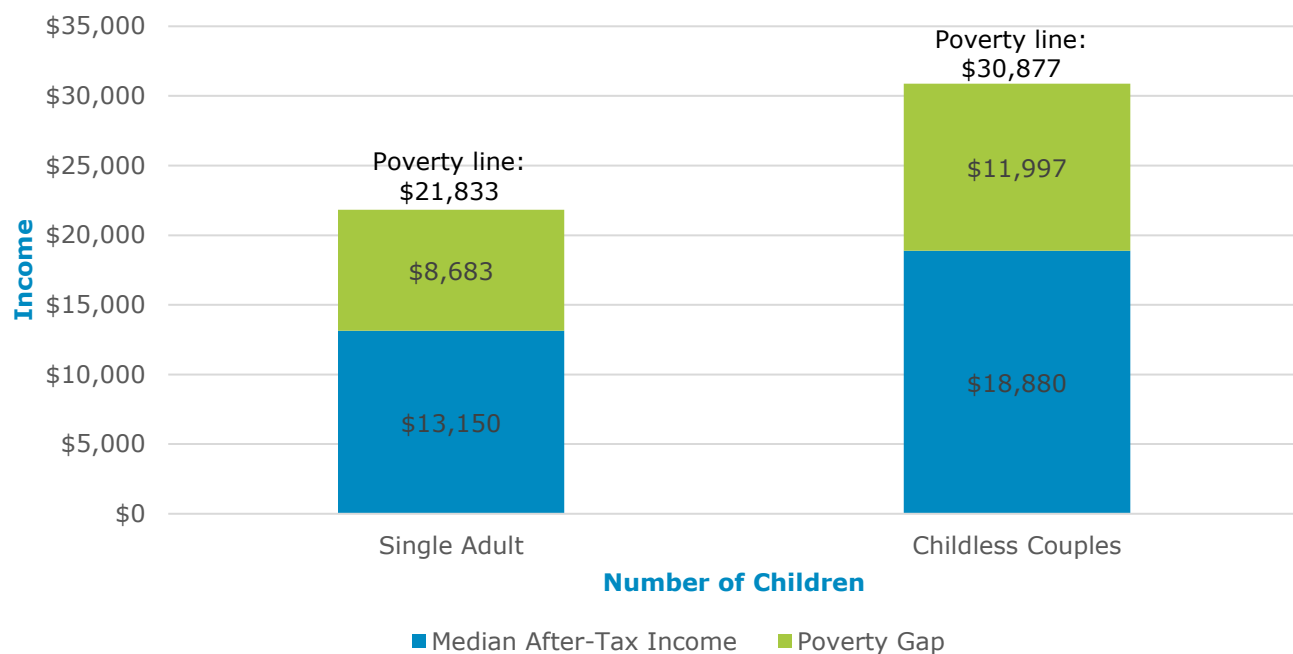
- Low-income families without children also have sizeable poverty gaps. In 2018, low-income single adults had a median after-tax income that was $8,683 below the corresponding low-income. Low-income couples without children had a median after-tax income $11,997 below the threshold for a family of two.

Child Poverty Rate, 0 to 17 Years, Edmonton CMA
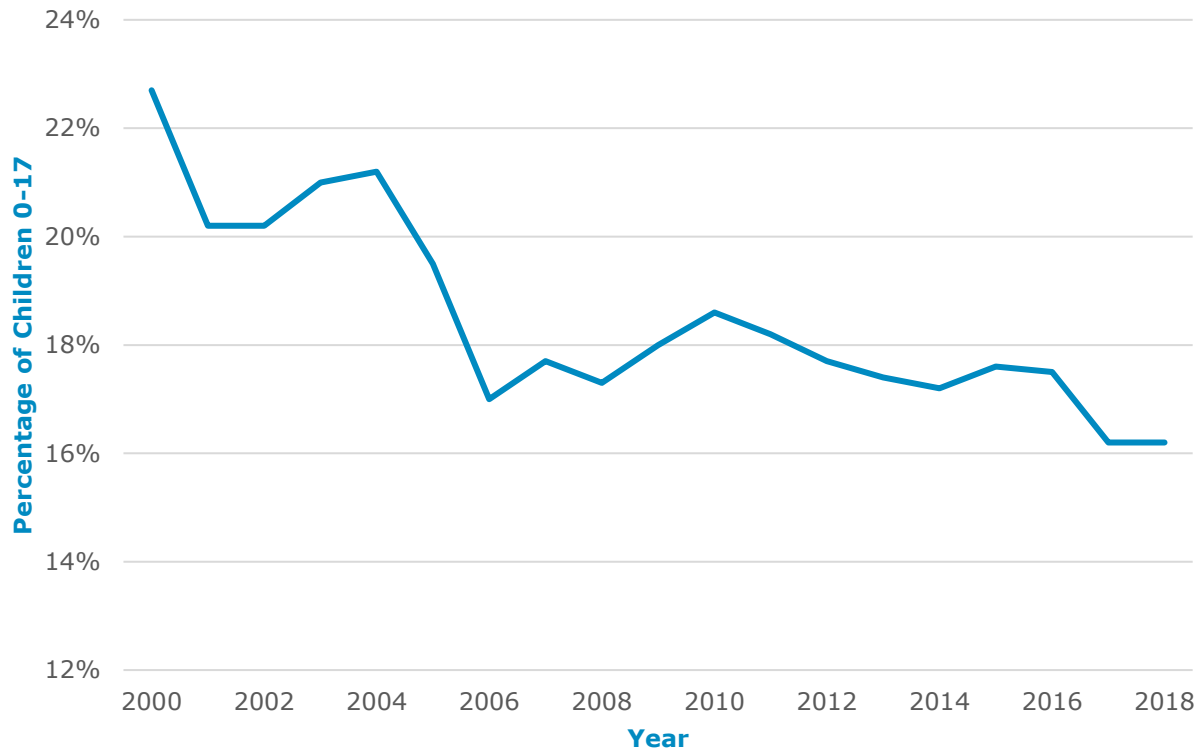
- In 2018, 51,540 children and youth aged 0 to 17 years lived in poverty in the Edmonton CMA, out of a total population of 318,470. This resulted in a child poverty rate of 16.2%.

- The child poverty rate is down 6.5 percentage points from 22.7% in 2000.

Children 0 to 17 Years as a Proportion of Total Persons in Poverty, Edmonton CMA

- The poverty rate for children and youth is significantly higher than for older groups.

- Of the 175,880 persons of all ages living in poverty in 2018, 51,540 were children aged 0 to 17 years. As a proportion of those living in poverty in the Edmonton CMA, 29.3% were children. This proportion has fallen from 36.0% in the year 2000.

Section E: Data Tables

Table E1. Low-income After-Tax Low-income Measure, By Family Size, 2018

Number of Family Members	Threshold amount
1	21833
2	30877
3	37816
4	43666
5	48820
6	53480
7	57765
8	61753
9	65299
10	69042

Table E2. Proportion of Persons Living in Poverty, Edmonton CMA

Year	Rate	Year	Rate
2000	15.9%	2010	13.0%
2001	14.2%	2011	12.8%
2002	13.9%	2012	12.1%
2003	14.2%	2013	12.2%
2004	14.2%	2014	12.6%
2005	13.5%	2015	12.6%
2006	12.1%	2016	13.2%
2007	12.4%	2017	12.8%
2008	12.3%	2018	12.9%
2009	12.6%		

Table E3. Proportion of Persons Living in Poverty, by Family Type, Edmonton CMA

Year	Couple Family	Lone-parent	Single Adult
2000	9.6%	41.1%	25.5%
2001	7.5%	39.6%	24.4%
2002	7.7%	38.4%	24.1%
2003	7.7%	39.3%	23.9%
2004	7.7%	39.3%	24.2%
2005	6.7%	39.5%	23.6%
2006	6.5%	33.8%	21.8%
2007	6.9%	34.3%	21.7%
2008	7.0%	33.2%	21.7%
2009	7.4%	34.7%	21.3%
2010	7.6%	36.2%	21.8%
2011	7.4%	36.1%	22.0%
2012	7.2%	35.6%	18.9%
2013	7.3%	35.5%	19.6%
2014	7.3%	35.8%	22.0%
2015	7.3%	36.4%	21.6%
2016	7.7%	35.7%	23.3%
2017	6.8%	35.4%	24.0%
2018	6.9%	36.2%	24.6%

Table E7. Child Poverty Rate, 0 to 17 Years, Edmonton CMA

Year	Child Poverty Rate	Year	Child Poverty Rate
2000	22.7%	2010	18.6%
2001	20.2%	2011	18.2%
2002	20.2%	2012	17.7%
2003	21.0%	2013	17.4%
2004	21.2%	2014	17.2%
2005	19.5%	2015	17.6%
2006	17.0%	2016	17.5%
2007	17.7%	2017	16.2%
2008	17.3%	2018	16.2%
2009	18.0%		

Table E8. Children 0 to 17 Years as a Proportion of Total Persons in Poverty, Edmonton CMA

Year	Child Poverty Rate	Year	Child Poverty Rate
2000	36.0%	2010	32.5%
2001	35.0%	2011	32.1%
2002	35.5%	2012	33.2%
2003	35.5%	2013	32.1%
2004	35.4%	2014	30.8%
2005	34.2%	2015	31.9%
2006	32.9%	2016	30.9%
2007	32.9%	2017	29.6%
2008	31.9%	2018	29.3%
2009	32.3%		

SECTION F: GOVERNMENT INCOME TRANSFERS

Why are Income Supports Important?

Government income supports (also known as income transfers), as well as other social programs and services, play an important role in preventing poverty.

For many people, hard work is not enough to get out of poverty. Some of the barriers to well-paid employment include: limited English language proficiency; lack of access to education; non-recognition of foreign credentials; social isolation; limited access to child care; conflicting work and family responsibilities; and even the structure of government programs. These barriers often disproportionately affect visible minority groups (particularly newcomers), Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and lone-parent women.

Income Security

Income transfers should help all citizens maintain a decent quality of life—in particular, the ability to afford a nutritious diet, safe housing, and some level of financial stability. Income security is necessary for both those who are and are not able to work.

When incomes do not increase at the rate of inflation, low- and modest-income families are at greater risk of poverty. Those already living in poverty fall even further behind.

The affordability and accessibility of services such as child care and education are crucial for enabling people to acquire and maintain adequate employment and, accordingly, financial independence.

How is Edmonton Changing?

The number of people in metro Edmonton receiving Employment Insurance (EI) benefits reached a record high in 2016 due the economic downturn and significant job losses. The number of EI recipients has since decreased as benefits expired for some and others found employment in an improving job market.

During a downturn, the number of households receiving Income Support (Alberta Works) peak later as some EI recipients are still unable to find work prior to the expiry of their benefits. This requires them to access Income Support to pay for essential living expenses. Income Support caseloads in the Edmonton Region (which has similar boundaries to the CMA) reached a staggering high in 2019.

The Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program is not as affected by economic conditions, but rather by the proportion of the adult population living with disabilities. The number of AISH recipients has been growing slightly faster than the population overall.

In 2019, there was a small increase to both AISH and Alberta Works monthly benefits, but these benefits are still well below living costs. The introduction of the Alberta Child Benefit (ACB) and the enhancement of the Canada Child Benefit in July 2016 have made a positive difference in the lives of low- and middle-income families with children. However, in July 2020 the ACB and the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit (AFETC) were consolidated into a single provincial program: the new Alberta Child and Family Benefit (ACFB). This has reduced the overall amount of support some families receive. Future analyses will determine how these changing benefits will affect low-income children and families.
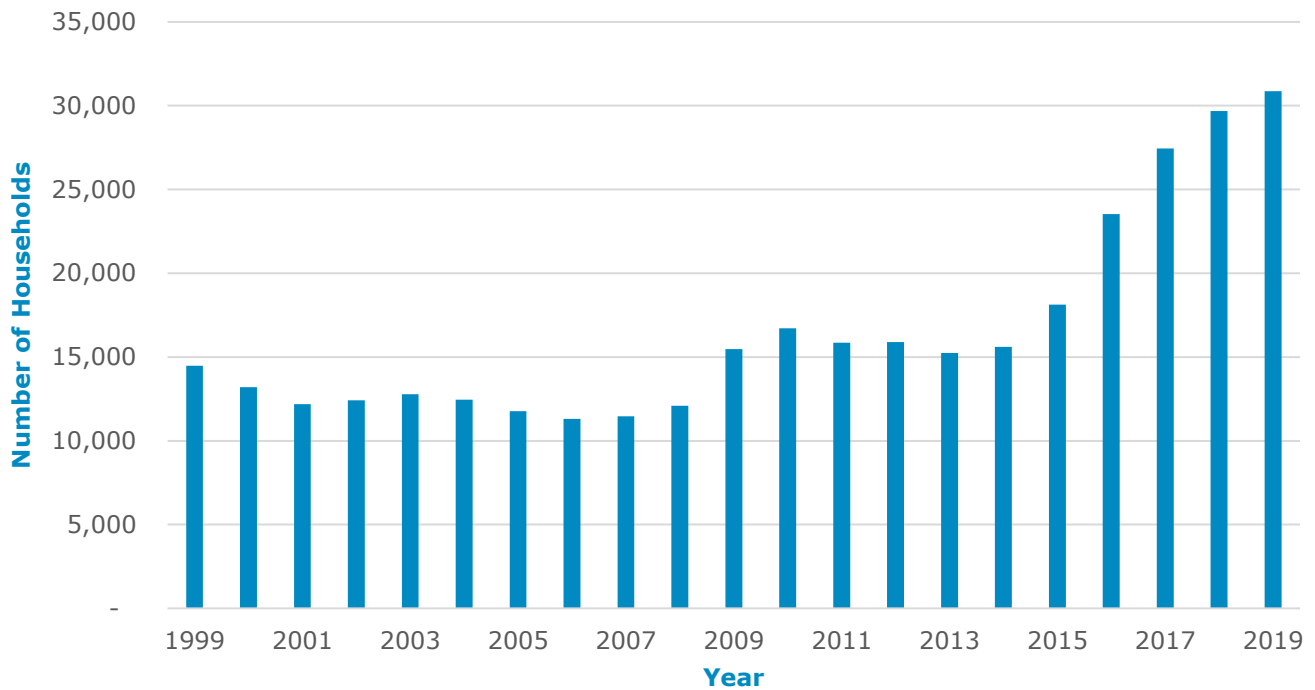
- Alberta Works caseloads reflect underlying economic conditions with a time lag due to households that lack employment income and are accessing EI benefits first. This is particularly the case for the "Expected to Work" component of the caseload. Even after the economy has started to recover, Alberta Works caseloads can remain elevated for some time.

- Of households receiving Alberta Works in 1999 in the Edmonton Region (14,478), the numbers dropped to a twenty year low of 11,309 in 2006. The current downturn that began in late 2014 is more prolonged that the 2008 to 2010 global financial crisis, and has resulted in an average caseload of 30,860 during the year 2019.

Alberta Works Payments (Basic and Shelter Allowances) for the Expected to Work, (Constant, $2017), Alberta
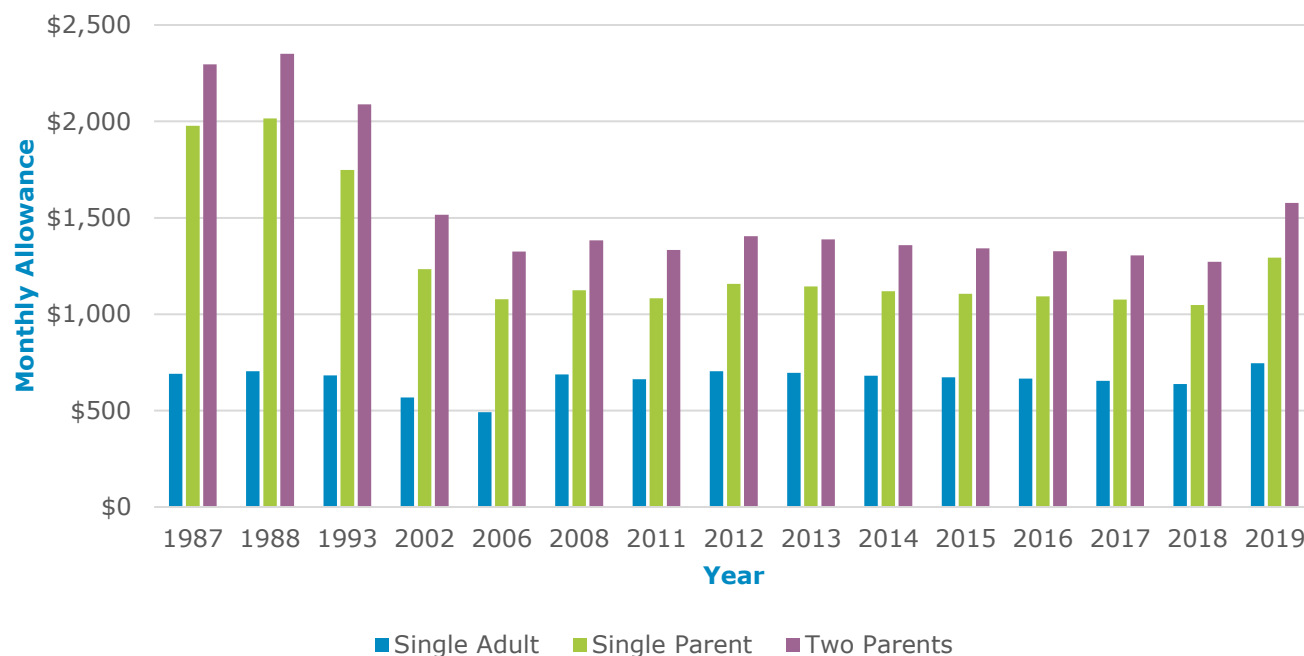
- Over the past 30 years, there has been a significant erosion of the real value of Alberta Works benefits for all family types. There have been long periods of time where there have been no benefit increases, including the years between 1993 and 2002.

- Most recently, there were no monthly benefit increases between April 2012 and 2018, causing their real value to decline relative to living costs.

- 2019 saw a slight increase in Alberta Works benefits, although these benefits are still low relative to living costs.

Average Monthly Number of AISH Recipients, Edmonton Region
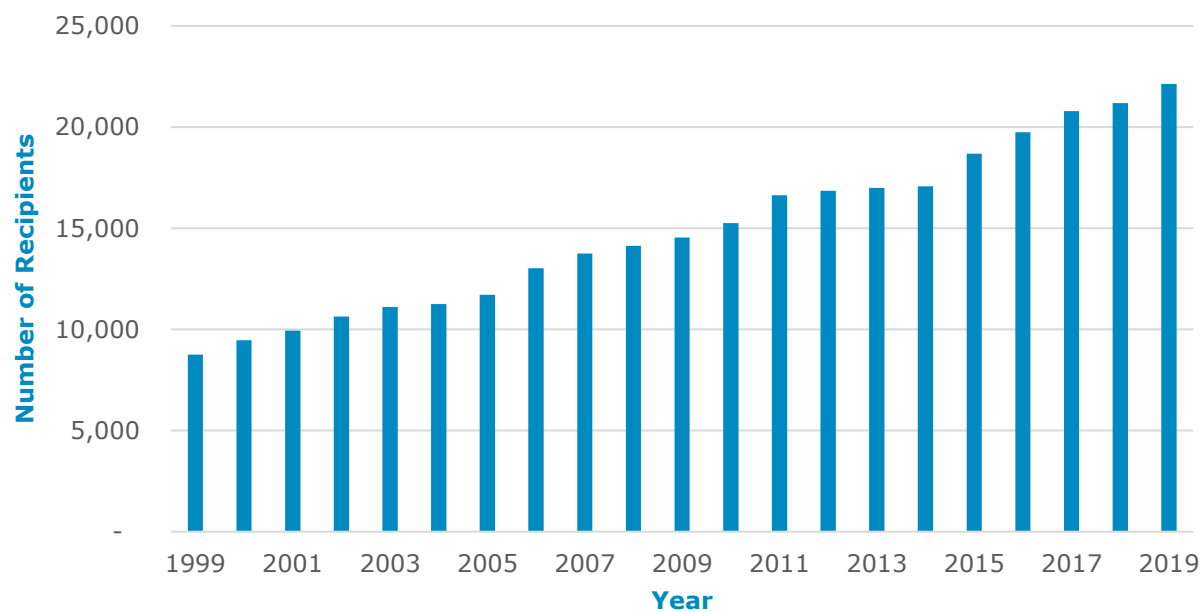
- AISH recipients are vulnerable adults with complex disabilities. This may include severe physical, intellectual, and mental health challenges.

- The average number of AISH recipients in the Edmonton Region has increased from 8,746 in 1999 to 22,440 in 2019, an increase of 153%.

Maximum Monthly AISH Benefit Payments, ($2019 Constant), Alberta
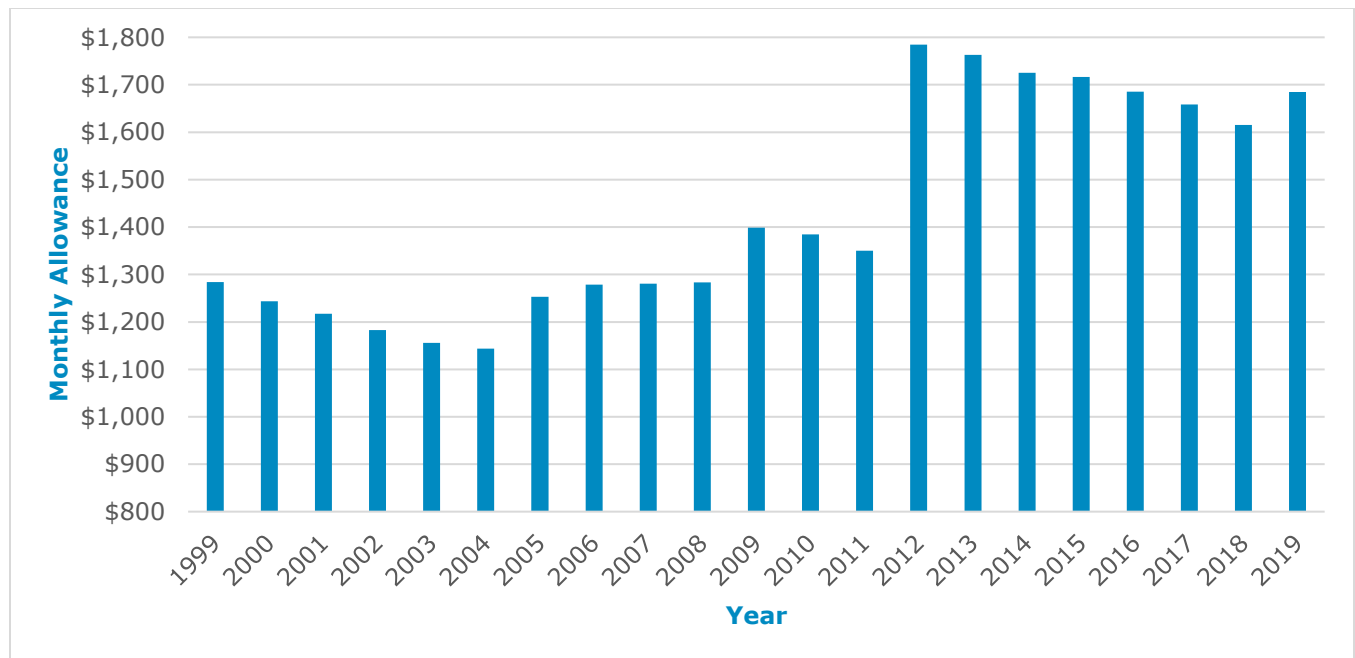
- The real value of the maximum monthly AISH benefit increased by 31.2% between 1999 and 2019.

- In April 2012, there was an increase of $400 to AISH benefits, however, the real value of the monthly AISH benefit then declined 9.5% by 2018. There was a small increase in 2019, with a monthly benefit of $1,685.

- In October of 2019, the provincial government announced that AISH would no longer be indexed to the price of inflation. AISH will thus remain at $1,685 until at least 2023. [2019 Alberta Budget]

Number of Individuals Receiving Employment Insurance (EI), Edmonton CMA
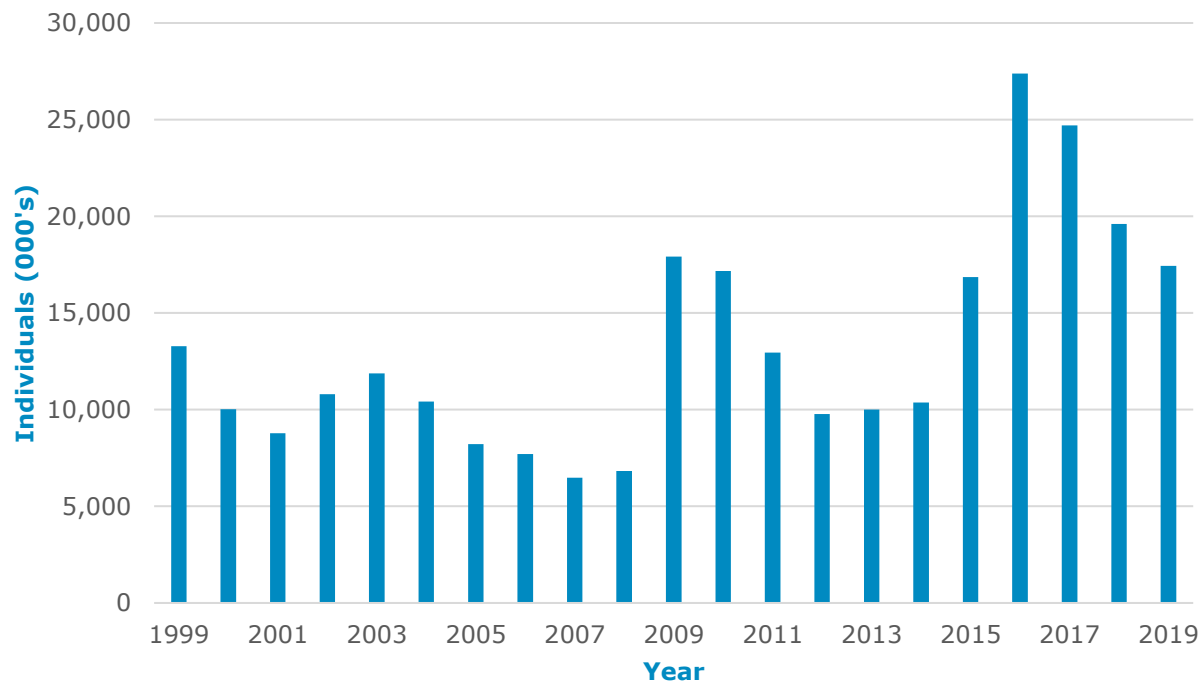
- Of all income transfer programs, EI is most closely tied to economic cycles. A worker is only eligible for EI if they are laid off or involuntarily lose employment.

- Over the past 20 years, the number of metro Edmonton residents receiving EI reached a low of 6,473 in 2007 (a boom year), spiked to 17,915 in 2009 during the global financial crisis, dropped to 9,778 during the economic recovery, only to spike again to an average of 27,388 in 2016 in the aftermath of the oil price collapse.

- In 2019, the number of metro Edmonton residents receiving EI dropped to 17,435.

Source of Government Transfers, All Family Types, Edmonton CMA, 2018

- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Canada Child Tax Benefit
- Employment Insurance
- Social Assistance
- Provincial Refundable Tax Credits and Family Benefits
- Workers' Compensation
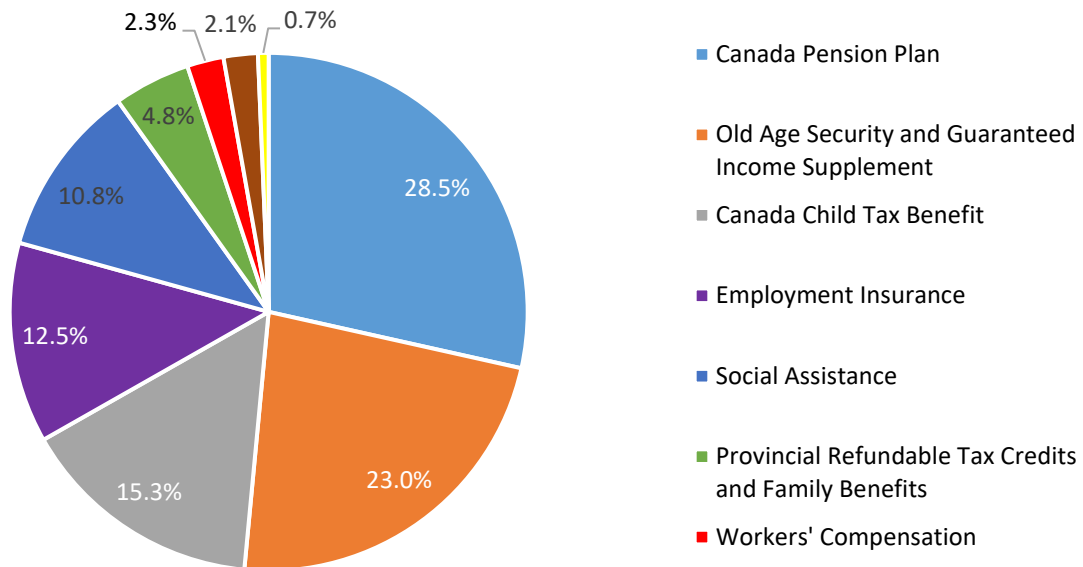
- For all family types of all ages combined in the Edmonton CMA, in the 2018 tax year government transfers comprised $6 billion out of total income from all sources of $58.87 billion, or 10.2% of all income.

- The two largest components of government transfers for all family types are retirement income including the contributory Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and the non-contributory Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

Source of Government Transfers, Couple Families, Edmonton CMA, 2018

- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security and Guarateed Income Supplement
- Canada Child Tax Benefit
- Employment Insurance
- Social Assistance
- Provincial Refundable Tax Credits and Family Benefits
- Workers' Compensation
- Goods and Services Tax Credit
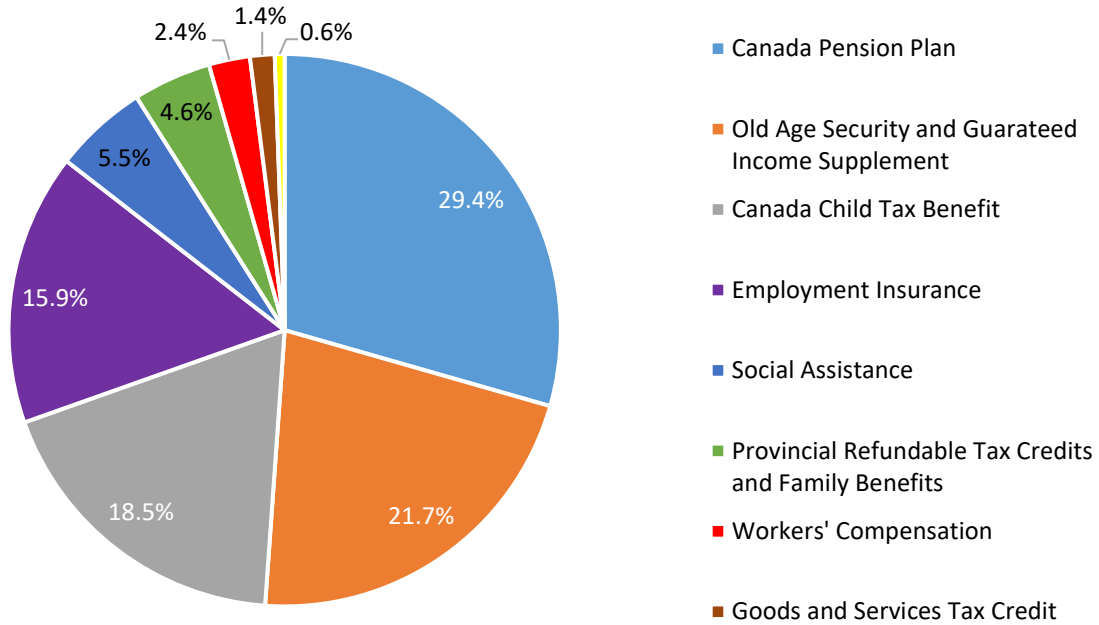
- For couple families of all ages in the Edmonton CMA, in the 2018 tax year government transfers comprised $3.49 billion out of total income from all sources of $43.88 billion, or 8.0% of total income.

- The two largest components of government transfers for couple families were also retirement income from the CPP and OAS/GIS.

Source of Government Transfers, Lone-Parent Families, Edmonton CMA, 2018
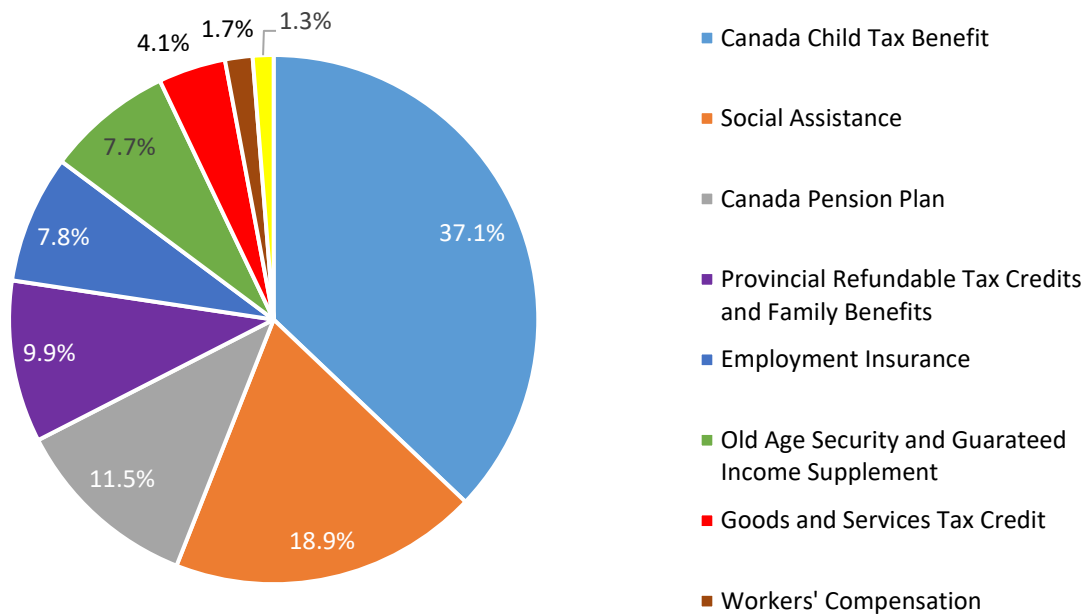
- For lone-parent families of all ages in the Edmonton CMA, in the 2018 tax year government transfers comprised $741.6 million out of total income of 3.54 billion, or 21.0% of total income.

- The two largest components of government transfers for lone-parent families were the federal Canada Child Tax Benefit and provincial social assistance (includes Alberta Works and AISH).
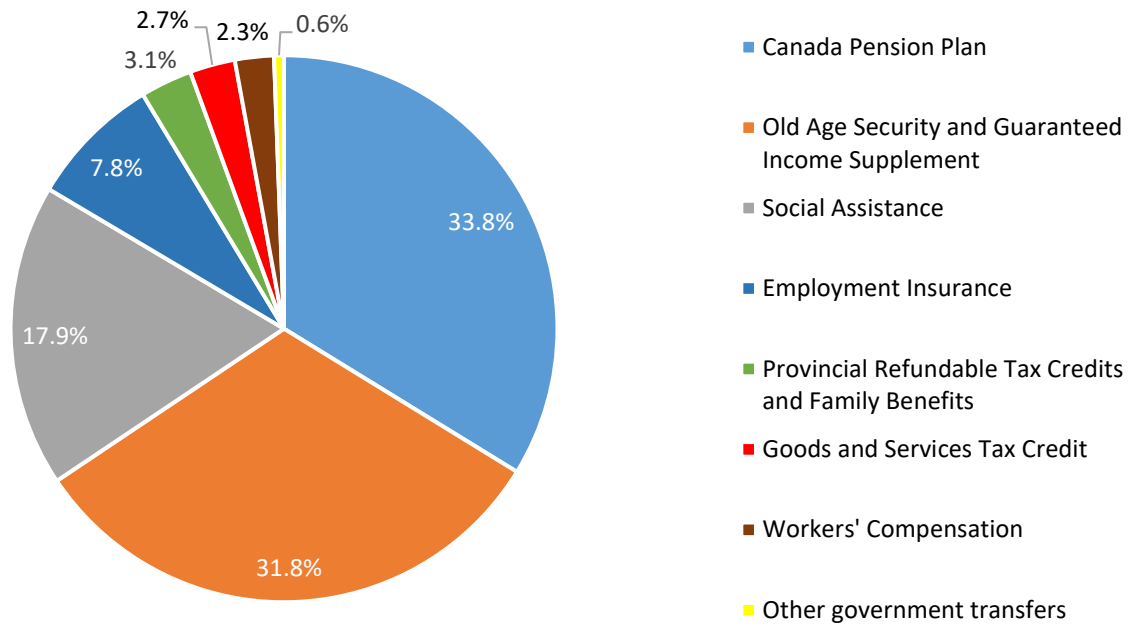
- For single adults of all ages in the Edmonton CMA, in the 2018 tax year government transfers comprised $1.78 billion out of total income of $11.45 billion, or 15.6% of total income.

- The two largest components of government transfers for single adults was retirement income from CPP and OAS/GIS.

- Because eligibility for CPP, OAS, and GIS does not start until the age of 65, there is a paucity of supports for single adults who are still of working age.
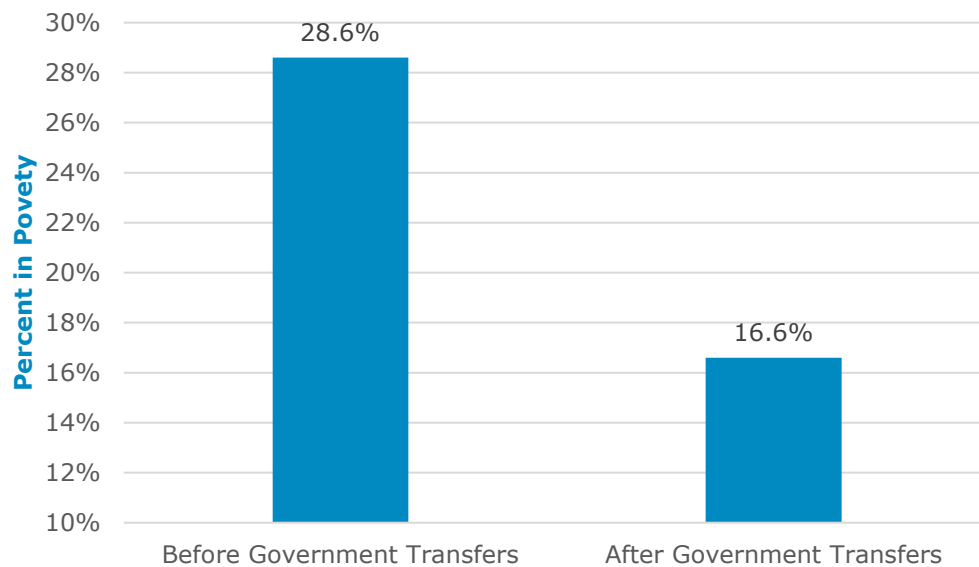
- Government income transfers are a crucial tool used to lift people out of poverty, especially children and youth aged 0 to 17 years.

- In the absence of these transfers, in 2017, 28.6% of Alberta children would have been living in poverty. As a result of these transfers, the proportion of Alberta children who were living in poverty was 16.6%. This represents a 12% decrease in child poverty.

Section F: Data Tables

Table F1. Average Monthly Number of Households Receiving Alberta Works, Edmonton Region

Year	Households	Year	Households
1997	16,582	2009	15,470
1998	15,195	2010	16,718
1999	14,478	2011	15,852
2000	13,194	2012	15,901
2001	12,196	2013	15,253
2002	12,423	2014	15,600
2003	12,787	2015	18,121
2004	12,464	2016	23,540
2005	11,768	2017	27,439
2006	11,309	2018	29,683
2007	11,454	2019	30,860
2008	12,086		

Table F2. Alberta Works Payments (Basic and Shelter Allowances) for the Expected to Work, (Constant, $2017), Alberta

	Single Adult	Single Parent	Two Parents
1987	$692	$1,977	$2,295
1988	$704	$2,016	$2,350
1993	$682	$1,749	$2,088
2002	$569	$1,234	$1,516
2006	$492	$1,078	$1,326
2008	$688	$1,124	$1,384
2011	$663	$1,083	$1,333
2012	$705	$1,158	$1,405
2013	$696	$1,143	$1,388
2014	$681	$1,119	$1,358
2015	$673	$1,106	$1,342
2016	$666	$1,093	$1,327
2017	$655	$1,076	$1,306
2018	$638	$1,048	$1,271
2019	$745	$1,293	$1,578

Table F3. Average Monthly Number of AISH Recipients, Edmonton Region

Year	Recipients	Year	Recipients
1997	7,503	2009	14,546
1998	8,012	2010	15,260
1999	8,746	2011	16,624
2000	9,472	2012	16,860
2001	9,935	2013	17,000
2002	10,638	2014	17,077
2003	11,109	2015	18,682
2004	11,247	2016	19,752
2005	11,707	2017	20,788
2006	13,024	2018	21,180
2007	13,750	2019	22,140
2008	14,130		

Table F4. Maximum Monthly AISH Benefit Payments, ($2019 Constant), Alberta

Year	Monthly Payment	Year	Monthly Payment
1997	$1,307	2009	$1,399
1998	$1,302	2010	$1,384
1999	$1,284	2011	$1,350
2000	$1,244	2012	$1,785
2001	$1,217	2013	$1,763
2002	$1,183	2014	$1,725
2003	$1,156	2015	$1,716
2004	$1,144	2016	$1,686
2005	$1,253	2017	$1,659
2006	$1,279	2018	$1,615
2007	$1,281	2019	$1,685
2008	$1,283		

Table F5. Number of Individuals Receiving Employment Insurance (EI), Edmonton CMA

Year	Households	Year	Households
1997	12,777	2009	17,915
1998	12,860	2010	17,167
1999	13,286	2011	12,950
2000	10,028	2012	9,778
2001	8,772	2013	10,002
2002	10,798	2014	10,361
2003	11,872	2015	16,865
2004	10,425	2016	27,388
2005	8,211	2017	24,698
2006	7,710	2018	19,599
2007	6,473	2019	17,438
2008	6,818		

SECTION G:
SOCIAL HEALTH INDICATORS

Background

As of 2018, ESPC no longer includes a social health index. Instead, a selection of important social health indicators for the Edmonton area are included, which are not reported in other sections.

The decision to not include a social health index was made for several reasons. Some indicators included in previous editions are no longer available, while in other cases, methodological or technology changes meant that some of the indicators are no longer comparable over time. In addition, constructing the social health index meant that some indicators that were already reported in other sections would have to be repeated in this section. Some readers found this confusing, and the duplication added to the overall length of the publication.

ESPC is aware that social well-being indices are addressed in other jurisdictions. One such initiative is the Canadian Index of Wellbeing; and a national and Ontario provincial index have thus far been developed. In future it may be possible to develop a similar index at the Edmonton level.

How is Edmonton Changing?

Some Edmonton social health indicators are showing clear improvement, such as the marked decline in the teen birth rate. Other indicators are showing steady, albeit modest, improvement such as the increase in life expectancy and the reduction in the ratio of lone-parent to couples with children.

The community safety (crime) indicators show improvement over longer periods of time, but with peaks and valleys depending on the year.

Suicide rates show considerable yearly fluctuations as well, with perhaps the most concerning aspect being the much higher rate of male to female suicides.

Some indicators are progressively growing worse. The proportion of children born with low birth weight is getting modestly higher. Another alarming indicator is the rate of sexually transmitted infections, which has significantly increased since 2000.
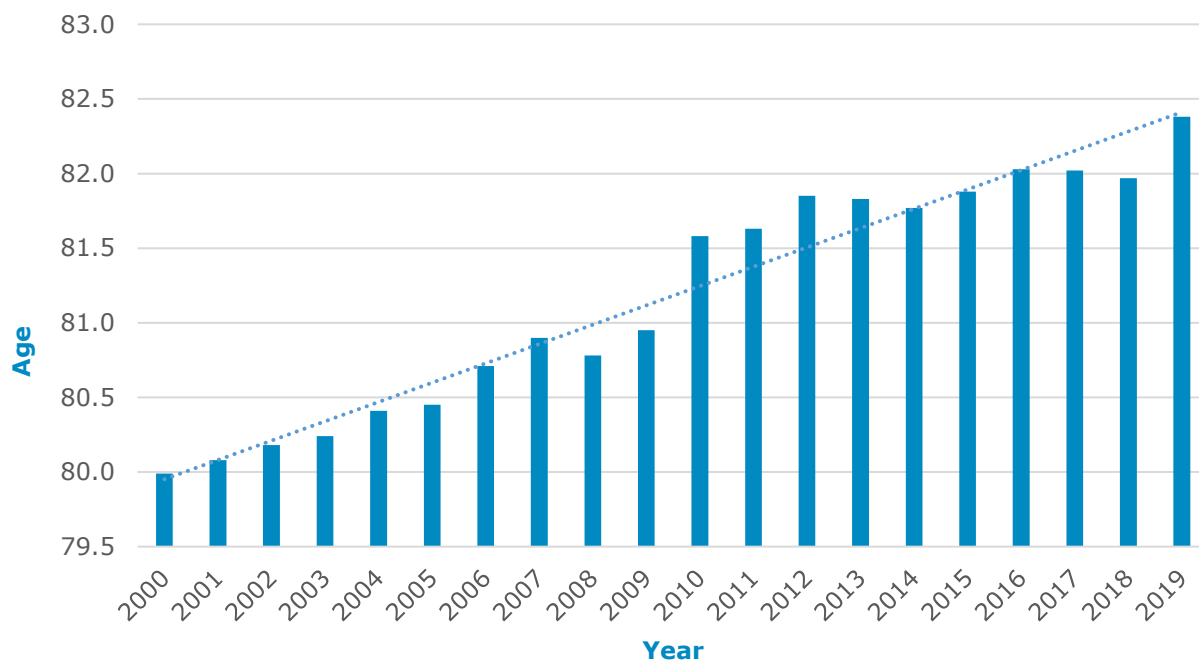
- Life expectancy is the number of years a person is expected to live, starting from birth and based on mortality statistics.

- As of 2019, the average life expectancy for the Edmonton Zone is 82.4 years, an increase of 2.4 years from 80.0 in the year 2000.

STI rate, Edmonton Zone
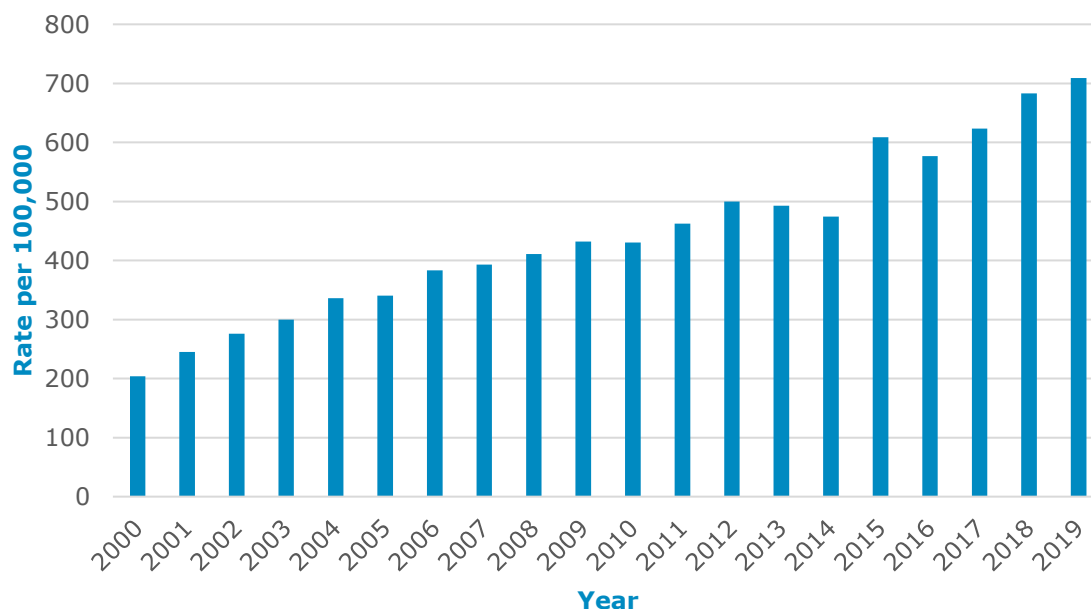
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) include: Chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

- Rates of genital herpes and genital warts are not included because Alberta Health Services has stopped reporting them. This chart is not comparable to previous editions of *Tracking the Trends.*

- STI rates have increased significantly, from a rate of 203.9 per 100,000 persons in 2000 to 708.9 per 100,000 persons in 2019, an increase of 247.7%.

- Chlamydia is the most prevalent STI, growing from a rate of 178.28 per 100,000 persons in 2000 to 437.00 per 100,000 persons in 2019, an increase of 145%.

- Data for HIV rates is only available from 2010 onwards. These rates have remained relatively stable—the rate of HIV in 2019 is 8.37 per 100,000 persons.
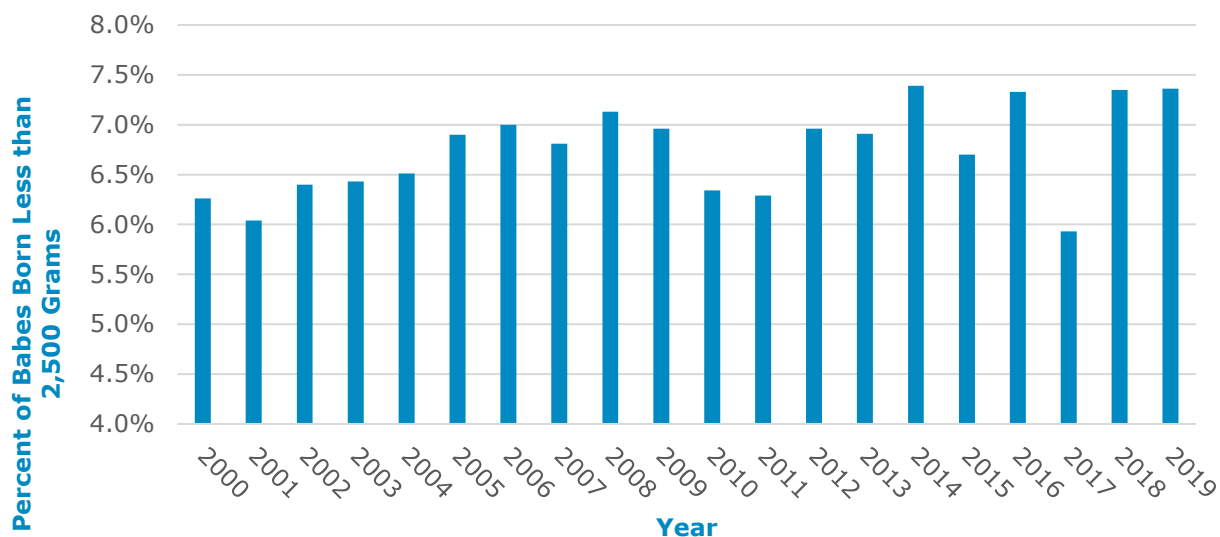
- In 2019, the percentage of babies born with low birth weight was 7.4%, up from 6.3% in the year 2000.

- The percentage of low birth weight babies has been increasing, although there are considerable year to year fluctuations.
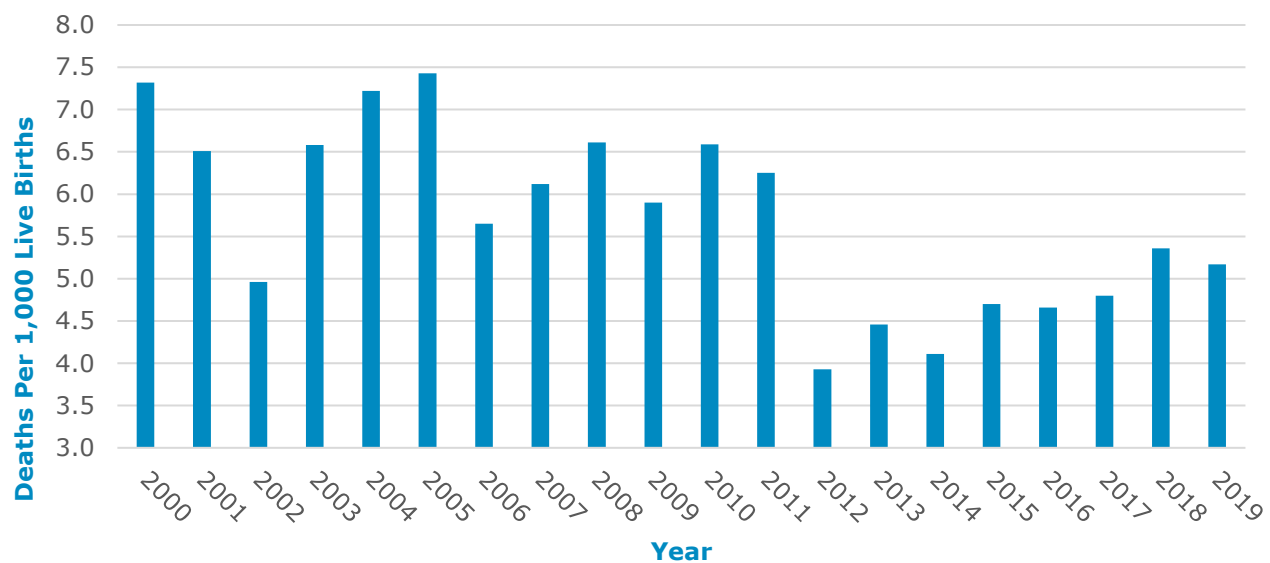
- In 2019, the infant mortality rate for Edmonton was 5.2 deaths per 1,000 live births.

- The infant mortality rate was 28.8% lower in the year 2019 than it was in the year 2000.

Teen Birth Rate (Females Aged 15-19 Years), Edmonton Zone
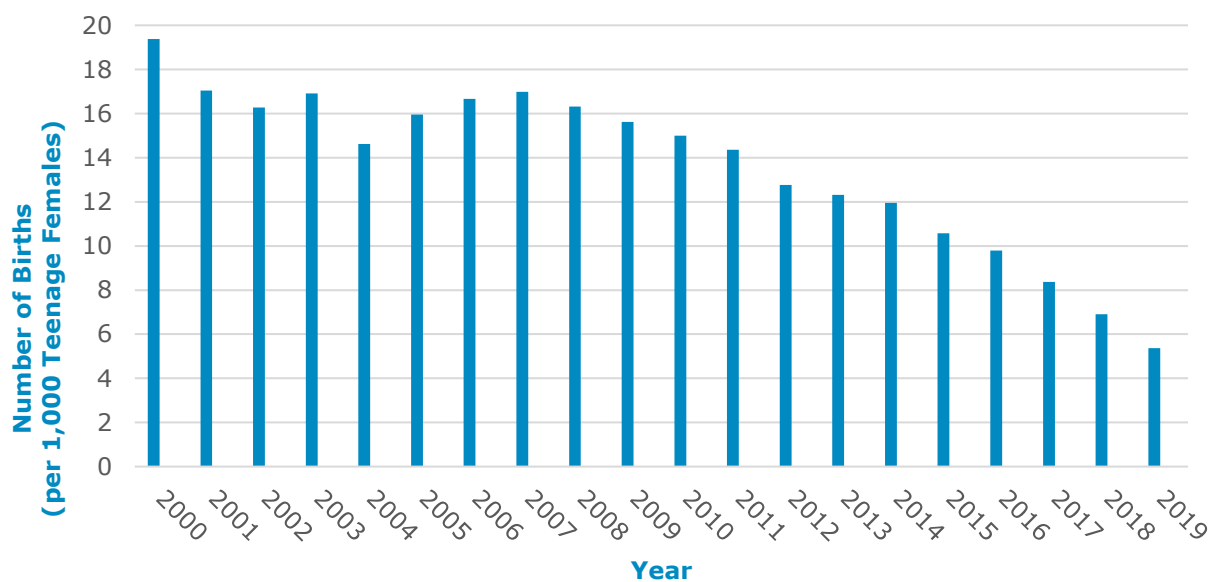
- The number of births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 years (teen birth rate) is steadily declining.

- In 2019, the teen birth rate was 5.4 per 1,000. This is a decrease of 72.2% from a rate of 19.4 per 1,000 in the year 2000.

Suicide Rate, Edmonton Zone
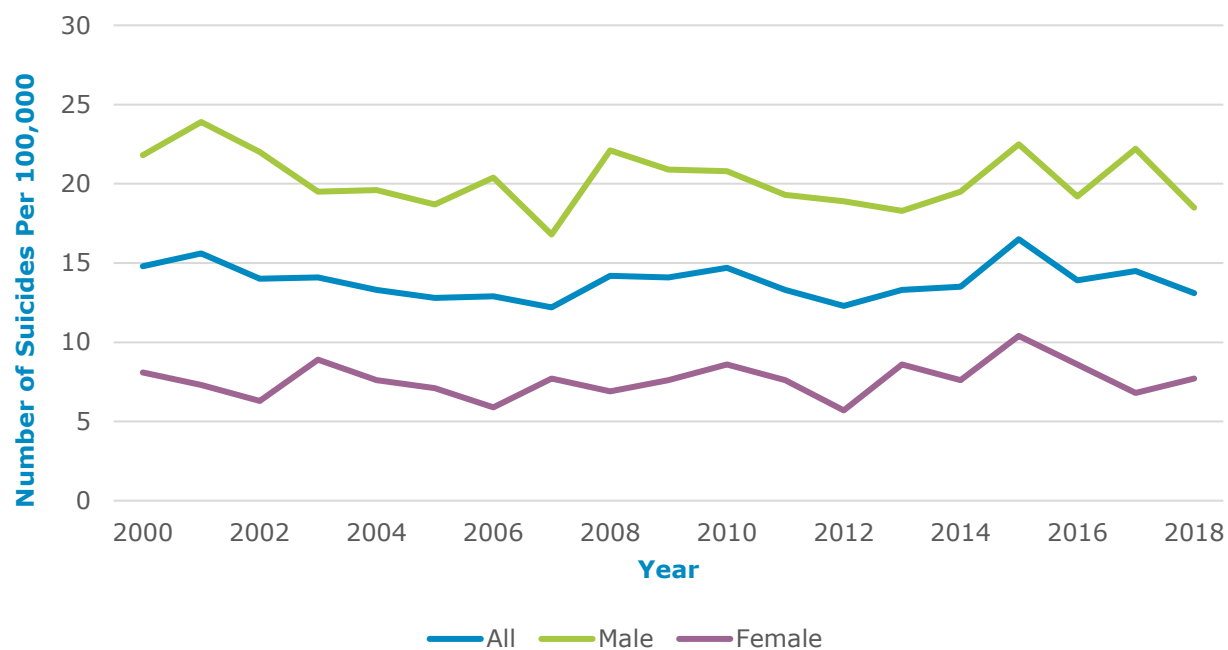
- The suicide rate is the number of self-inflicted deaths per 100,000 people.

- Since 2000, the suicide rate has been relatively steady with considerable yearly fluctuations.

- The suicide ratio for males is consistently higher than that for females, most years by a margin of over 2:1, and in some years, 3:1.

Consumer Insolvency Rate per 1,000 persons aged 18 and over, Edmonton CMA
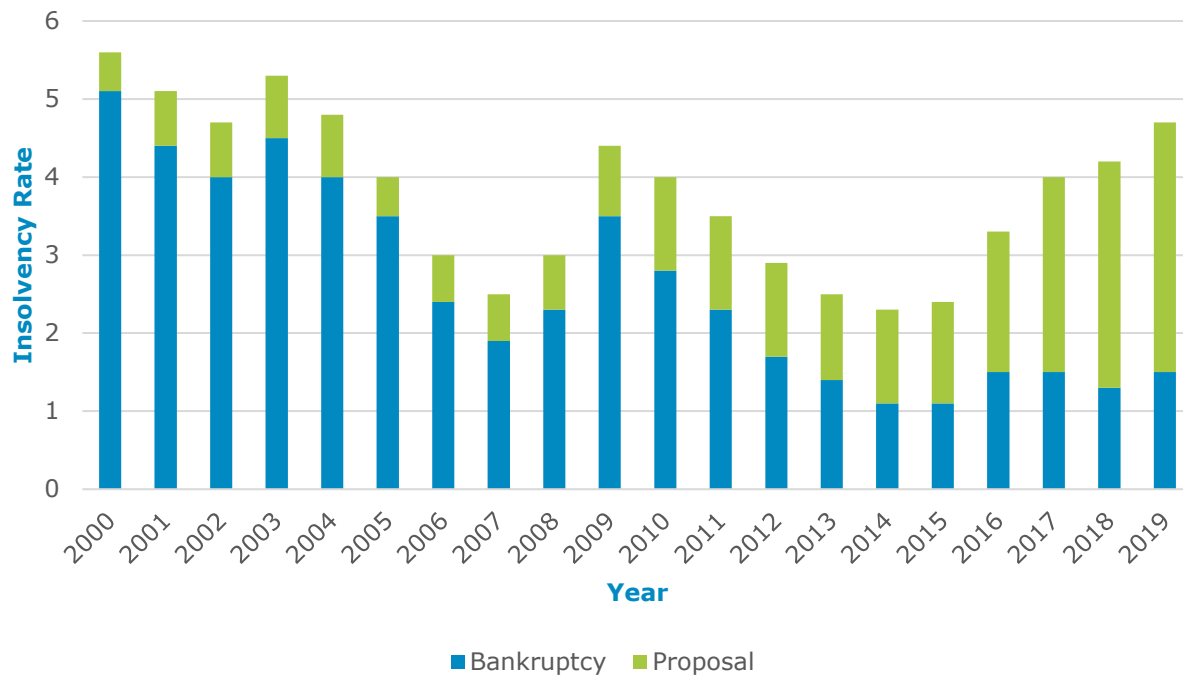
- In a personal bankruptcy, all non-exempt assets are given to a trustee who sells them and distributes any proceeds to creditors. In a proposal, a debtor makes arrangements with creditors to pay agreed upon amounts or percentages of what is owed.

- The insolvency rate—which combines bankruptcies and proposals into a combined rate—decreased from 5.6 per 1,000 adults in the year 2000 to 4.6 per 1,000 adults in the year 2019, a decrease of 17.9%. Insolvency rates tend to go up during economic downturns though the overall trend line has gone down.

- There has also been a trend toward consumer proposals and away from bankruptcies, in part because the latter are often contested, thereby driving up legal costs for both parties.

Lone-Parent to Couple Family Proportion, Edmonton CMA
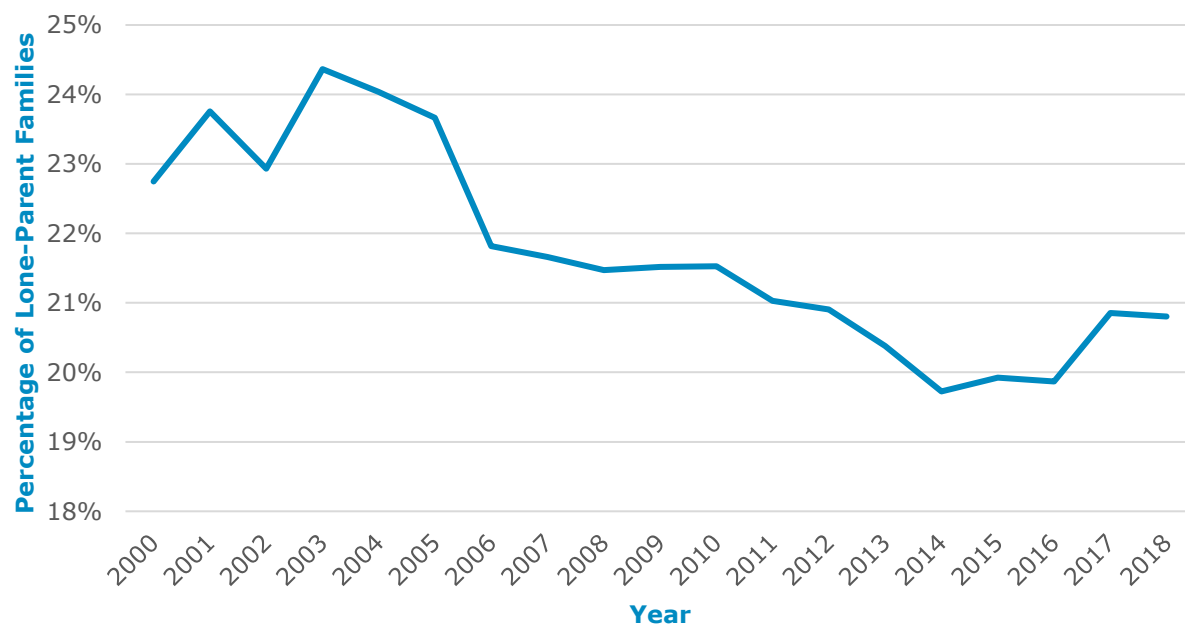
- As shown throughout this report, lone-parent families have significantly lower after-tax incomes and significantly higher poverty rates than couple families with children.

- The chart above measures the percentage of lone-parent families (adults and children). Since climbing to a peak of 24.0% in 2004, the proportion has declined to 20.8% in 2018.

Property Crime Rate, Edmonton City
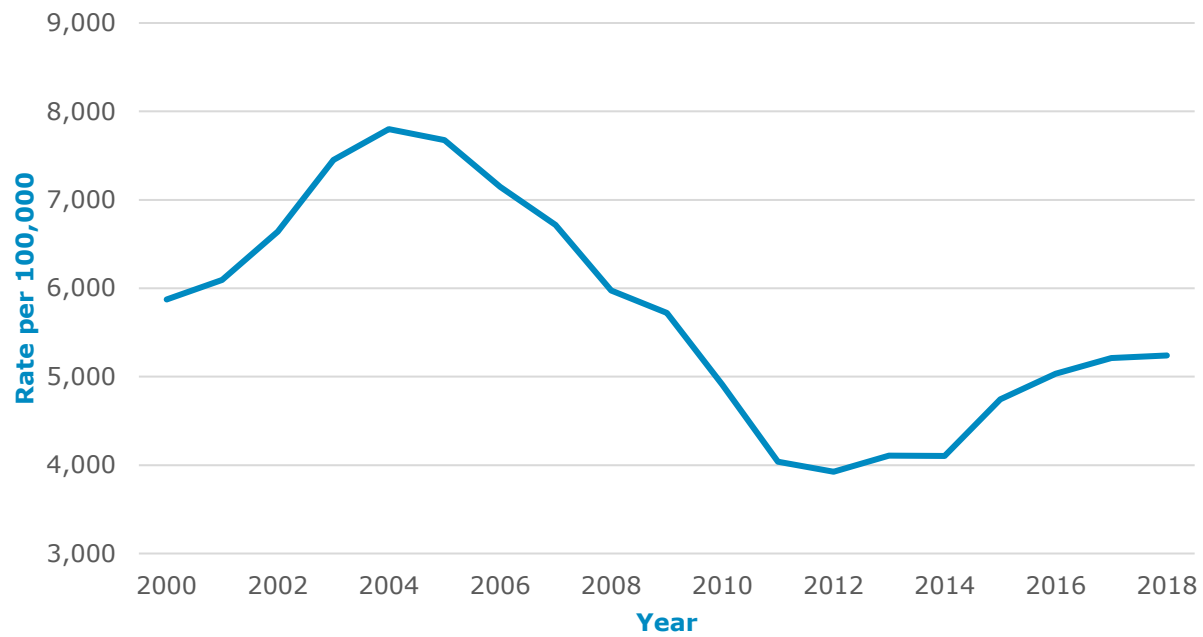
- In 2018, there were 74,679 property crime violations, with a rate of 5,238.3 violations per 100,000 people in the population.

- The property crime rate reached a 15-year peak of 7,799.6 in 2004 and a low of 3,924.6 in 2012. While the rate has gone up in the past several years, it is still below the levels reached in the early 2000s.

- In 2018, there were 16,956 violent criminal code violations, a rate of 1,189.4 violations per 100,000 people in the population.

- Over the past 18 years, the violence crime rate was lowest in the years 2004 and 2005, and highest in the years 2008 and 2009.
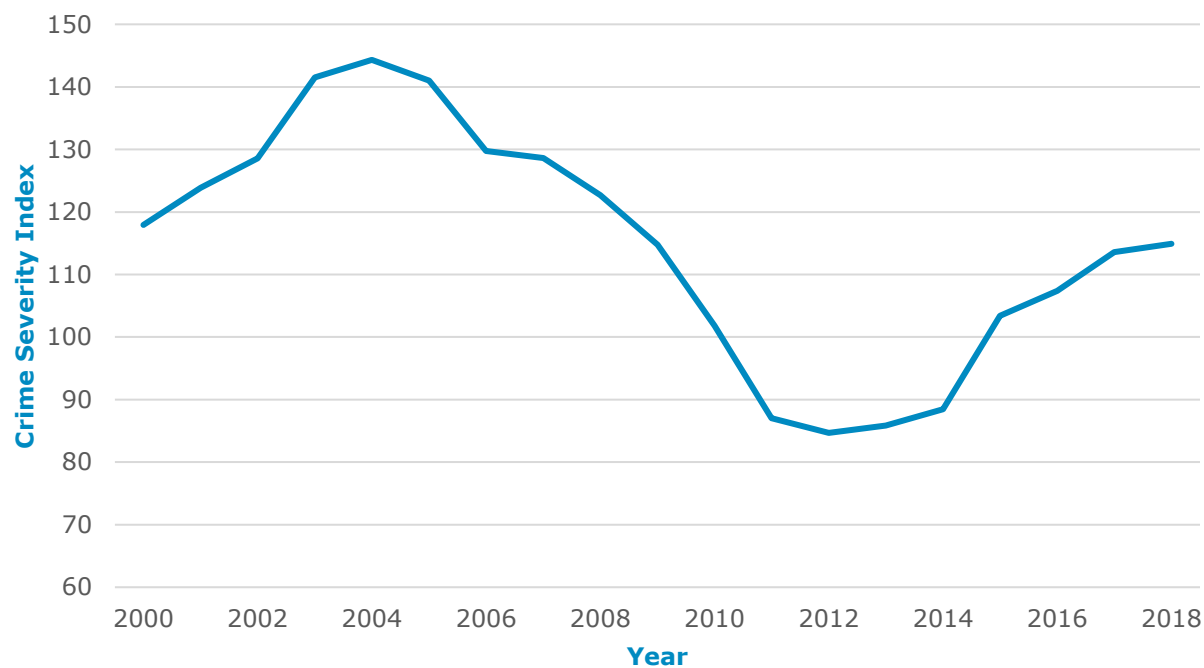
- The Crime Severity Index measures not only the volume of crime, but tracks its relative severity as well.

- While declining overall, in the past 18 years the Crime Severity Index hit a high of 144.3 in 2004, dropped to a low of 84.7 in 2012, and increased to 114.9 in 2018.

Voter Turnout, Average of Federal, Provincial and Municipal Elections, Edmonton City
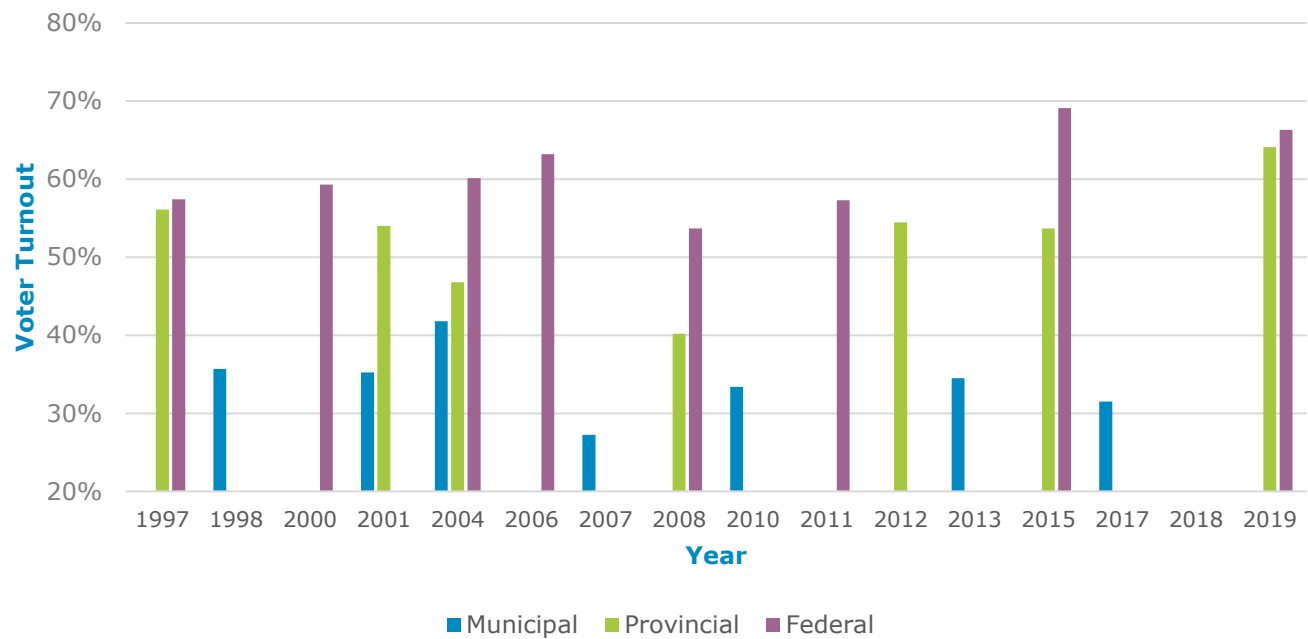
- Voter turnout by Edmontonians is consistently the highest for federal elections and consistently lowest for municipal elections.

- Competitive elections—with the prospect of a change in government at the federal/provincial levels, and a competitive mayoralty race at the municipal level—tend to lead to higher voter turnout.

- The 2019 provincial election was highly competitive with a change from an NDP government to a UCP one. It had the highest voter turnout in the Edmonton region in the past two decades.

Section G: Data Tables

Table G1. Life Expectancy, Edmonton Zone

Year	Life Expectancy in Years	Year	Life Expectancy in Years
2000	79.99	2010	81.58
2001	80.08	2011	81.63
2002	80.18	2012	81.85
2003	80.24	2013	81.83
2004	80.41	2014	81.77
2005	80.45	2015	81.88
2006	80.71	2016	82.03
2007	80.9	2017	82.02
2008	80.78	2018	81.97
2009	80.95	2019	82.38

Table G2. STI Infections per 100,000 people, Edmonton Zone

Year	STI rate	Year	STI rate
2000	203.9	2010	430.58
2001	245.19	2011	462.29
2002	275.88	2012	499.79
2003	299.76	2013	492.65
2004	336.25	2014	474.61
2005	340.51	2015	608.72
2006	383.5	2016	576.89
2007	392.84	2017	623.51
2008	410.94	2018	682.81
2009	432.2	2019	708.85

Table G3. Percent of Babies Born Less than 2,500 Grams (Low Birth Weight)

Year	Percent	Year	Percent
2000	6.3%	2010	6.3%
2001	6.0%	2011	6.3%
2002	6.4%	2012	7.0%
2003	6.4%	2013	6.9%
2004	6.5%	2014	7.4%
2005	6.9%	2015	6.7%
2006	7.0%	2016	7.3%
2007	6.8%	2017	5.9%
2008	7.1%	2018	7.4%
2009	7.0%	2019	7.4%

Table G4. Infant Mortality Rate, Edmonton Zone

Year	Infant Mortality	Year	Infant Mortality
2000	7.3	2010	6.6
2001	6.5	2011	6.3
2002	5.0	2012	3.9
2003	6.6	2013	4.5
2004	7.2	2014	4.1
2005	7.4	2015	4.7
2006	5.7	2016	4.66
2007	6.1	2017	4.8
2008	6.6	2018	5.36
2009	5.9	2019	5.17

Table G5. Observed Births per 1,000 Females Aged 15 to 19 years Edmonton Zone

Year	Observed Births	Year	Observed Births
2000	19.4	2010	15.0
2001	17.0	2011	14.4
2002	16.3	2012	12.8
2003	16.9	2013	12.3
2004	14.6	2014	12.0
2005	16.0	2015	10.6
2006	16.7	2016	9.8
2007	17.0	2017	8.4
2008	16.3	2018	6.9
2009	15.6	2019	5.4

Table G6. Number of Suicides per 100,000 people, Edmonton Zone

Year	All	Male	Female
2000	14.8	21.8	8.1
2001	15.6	23.9	7.3
2002	14.0	22.0	6.3
2003	14.1	19.5	8.9
2004	13.3	19.6	7.6
2005	12.8	18.7	7.1
2006	12.9	20.4	5.9
2007	12.2	16.8	7.7
2008	14.2	22.1	6.9
2009	14.1	20.9	7.6
2010	14.7	20.8	8.6
2011	13.3	19.3	7.6
2012	12.3	18.9	5.7
2013	13.3	18.3	8.6
2014	13.5	19.5	7.6
2015	16.5	22.5	10.4
2016	13.9	19.2	8.6
2017	14.5	22.2	6.8
2018	13.1	18.5	7.7

Table G7. Consumer Insolvency Rate per 1,000 Population 18+ Years, Edmonton CMA

Year	Bankruptcy	Proposal	Insolvency
2000	5.1	0.5	5.6
2001	4.4	0.7	5.1
2002	4.0	0.7	4.7
2003	4.5	0.8	5.3
2004	4.0	0.8	4.8
2005	3.5	0.5	4.2
2006	2.4	0.6	3.0
2007	1.9	0.6	2.5
2008	2.3	0.7	3.0
2009	3.5	0.9	4.5
2010	2.8	1.2	4.0
2011	2.3	1.2	3.5
2012	1.7	1.2	2.9
2013	1.4	1.1	2.5
2014	1.1	1.2	2.3
2015	1.1	1.3	2.4
2016	1.5	1.8	3.3

	1.5	2.5	3.9
2017	1.5	2.5	3.9
2018	1.3	2.9	4.2
2019	1.5	3.2	4.6

Table G8. Lone-parent-to-Couple Family Proportion, Edmonton CMA

Year	Ratio	Year	Ratio
2000	22.7%	**2010**	21.5%
2001	23.8%	**2011**	21.0%
2002	22.9%	**2012**	20.9%
2003	24.4%	**2013**	20.4%
2004	24.0%	**2014**	19.7%
2005	23.7%	**2015**	19.9%
2006	21.8%	**2016**	19.9%
2007	21.7%	**2017**	20.9%
2008	21.5%	**2018**	20.8%
2009	21.5%		

Table G9. Property and Violent Crime Rates, Crime Severity Index, Edmonton City

	Property Crime		Violent Crime		Crime Severity Index
Year	**Number of Offences**	**Rate per 100,000**	**Number of Offences**	**Rate per 100,000**	
2000	56,172	5,871.9	11,492	1,197.1	117.9
2001	59,166	6,092.1	12,171	1,253.2	123.9
2002	65,726	6,641.8	11,755	1,187.9	128.6
2003	74,440	7,449.6	12,063	1,207.2	141.5
2004	79,921	7,799.6	11,480	1,120.4	144.3
2005	80,588	7,677.1	11,712	1,116.8	141.0
2006	77,331	7,148.0	12,410	1,147.1	129.8
2007	74,849	6,716.3	14,843	1,331.9	128.6
2008	68,228	5,973.9	15,497	1,356.9	122.7
2009	66,872	5,719.6	15,673	1,340.5	114.7
2010	58,473	4,910.1	15,197	1,276.9	101.8
2011	48,963	4,039.8	14,747	1,216.7	87.1
2012	48,674	3,924.6	14,904	1,201.7	84.7
2013	52,496	4,106.9	14,663	1,147.1	85.9
2014	54,092	4,102.0	14,554	1,103.7	88.5
2015	63,813	4,744.3	16,058	1,193.9	103.4
2016	69,037	5,034.0	15,719	1,146.2	107.4
2017	72,772	5,209.4	16,847	1,206.0	113.6
2018	74,679	5,238.3	16,956	1,189.4	114.9

Table G12. Voter Turnout, Average of Federal, Provincial and Municipal Elections, Edmonton City

Year	Municipal	Provincial	Federal
1997		56.1%	57.4%
1998	35.7%		
2000			59.3%
2001	35.2%	54.0%	
2004	41.8%	46.8%	60.1%
2006			63.2%
2007	27.2%		
2008		40.2%	53.7%
2010	33.4%		
2011			57.3%
2012		54.5%	
2013	34.5%		
2015		53.7%	69.1%
2017	31.5%		
2018			
2019		64.10%	66.30%

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Alberta Works
Commonly referred to as social assistance or welfare, Alberta Works Income Support provides financial benefits to individuals and families who do not have the resources to meet their basic needs, like food, clothing and shelter (Alberta Works, N.D.)

- **Recipients** The number of individuals receiving Alberta Works allowances.

- **Cases** The number of households receiving Alberta Works allowances.

By Names List is a list of all individuals identified by service providers to be homeless (CAEH, 2018).

CMA The Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area includes the City of Edmonton, the City of St. Albert, Parkland County, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County, Leduc County, and all incorporated urban centres and First Nations located within the boundaries of those counties. The boundaries of Edmonton Zone of Alberta Health Services are the same as the CMA except they include the easternmost portion of Yellowhead County (Kolkman, 2018).

Constant dollars Refers to dollars of several years expressed in terms of their value ("purchasing power") in a single year, called the base year. This type of adjustment is done to eliminate the impact of price changes. Current dollars are converted to constant dollars using an index of price movements. The most widely used index for household or family incomes, provided that no specific uses of the income are identified, is the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which reflects average spending patterns by consumers in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2011).

Current dollars The value of a dollar in the current time period. Current dollars are used unless otherwise stated (Statistics Canada, 2011).

Crime
- **Property Crimes** Involve unlawful acts to gain property, but do not involve the use or threat of violence against the person. They include offenses such as break and enter, theft and fraud.
- **Violent Crimes** Violent crimes (crimes against the person) involve the use or threatened use of violence against a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault and robbery. Robbery is considered a crime against the person because unlike other theft offences it involves the use, or threat of, violence.
- **Crime Severity Index** Refers to a measure of police-reported crime that reflects the relative seriousness of individual offences and tracks changes in crime severity (Statistics Canada, 2020 C).

Earnings This includes income from both paid employment and self-employment (Statistics Canada, 2020 A).

- **Paid Employment** These are gross earnings from all jobs held as an employee, before payroll deductions such as income taxes, employment insurance contributions or pension plan contributions, etc. Wages and salaries include the earnings of owners of incorporated businesses, although some amounts may instead be reported as investment income. Commission income received by salespersons as well as occasional earnings for baby-sitting, for delivering papers, for cleaning, etc. are included. Overtime pay is included.
- **Self-employment** This is net self-employment income after deduction of expenses. Negative amounts (losses) are included. Income received from self-employment, in partnership in an unincorporated business, or in independent professional practice is included. Income from boarders (excluding that received from relatives) is included. Note that because of the various inclusions, receipt of self-employment income does not necessarily mean the person held a job.

Earnings Ratio, Female-to-Male Represents the value of average earnings of females relative to males, expressed as a percentage. For example, a ratio of 78% means that females earn, on average, $78.00 for every $100.00 earned by males in the given year (Statistics Canada, 2020 B).

Family Type, Economic Refers to either economic families or unattached individuals (Statistics Canada, 2020 A).

- **Economic Family** 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.
- **Single Adult** A person living either alone or with others to whom he or she is unrelated, such as roommates or a lodger.

Family Type, Census Refers to either census families or persons not in census families (Statistics Canada 2020 B).

- **Census Family** Commonly referred to as a "nuclear family" or "immediate family". In general, it consists of a married **couple** or common-law couple with or without children, or a lone-parent with a child or children. Furthermore, each child does not have his or her own spouse or child living in the household. A "child" of a parent in a census family must be under the age of 25 and there must be a parent-child relationship

(guardian relationships such as aunt or uncle are not sufficient). By definition, all persons who are members of a census family are also members of the same economic family.

- **Persons "not in census families"** Includes persons living alone, living with unrelated individuals, or living with relatives but not in a husband-wife or parent-unmarried child (including guardianship-child) relationship.

Government Transfers Includes all direct payments from federal, provincial and municipal governments to — individuals or families (Statistics Canada, 2020 B). Government transfers include:

- Child tax benefits (Canada Child Tax Benefit, Canada Child Benefit)
- Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan benefits
- Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement/Spouse's Allowance
- Employment Insurance benefits
- Social assistance
- Worker's compensation benefits
- GST/HST credits
- Provincial/Territorial tax credits (Alberta Child Benefit, Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit
- Other government transfers - transfers not included elsewhere, mainly any other non- taxable transfers. This includes: training program payments not reported elsewhere, the Veteran's pension, pensions to the blind and the disabled, regular payments from provincial automobile insurance plans (excluding lump-sum payments), benefits for fishing industry employees, and the Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB).
- It should be noted that many features of the tax system also carry out social policy functions but are not government transfers per se. The tax system uses deductions and non-refundable tax credits, for example, to reduce the amount of tax payable, without providing a direct income.

Immigrants Persons born outside of Canada.

Income, After-Tax Equivalent of total income, which includes government transfers, less income tax.

Some government transfers are not taxable and are allocated to only one family member, depending on age, income, or gender. These include social assistance, child tax benefits, and seniors benefit. When looking at person-level data, users should be aware that these transfers are not equally divided amongst family members (Statistics Canada, 2020 B)

Income, Average The mean or average income is computed as the total or "aggregate" income divided by the number of units in the population. It offers a convenient way of tracking aggregate income while adjusting for changes in the size of the population.

There are two drawbacks to using average income for analysis. First, since everyone's income is counted, the mean is sensitive to extreme values: unusually high income values will have a large impact on the estimate of the mean income, while unusually low ones, i.e. highly negative values, will drive it down. Secondly, it does not give any insight into the allocation of income across members of the population (Kolkman, 2018).

Income, Family The sum of income of each adult (16 years or older as of December 31st in the reference year) in the family. Family membership is defined at a particular point in time, while income is based on the entire calendar year. The family members or "composition" may have changed during the reference year, but no adjustment is made to family income to reflect this change (Statistics Canada, 2020 B).

Income, Household The sum of income of each adult (16 years or older as of December 31st in the reference year) in the household. Household membership is defined at a particular point in time, while income is based on the entire calendar year. The household members or "composition" may have changed during the reference year, but no adjustment is made to family income to reflect this change (Statistics Canada, 2020 B).

Income, Own Source The sum of earnings (from employment and net self-employment), net investment income, (private) retirement income, and the items under "Other income". It is equivalent to total income minus government transfers. It is also called income before taxes and transfers (Statistics Canada, 2020 B).

- **Earnings** See "Earnings"
- **Investment Income** Includes interest received on bonds, deposits and savings certificates from Canadian or foreign sources, dividends received from Canadian and foreign corporate stocks, cash dividends received from insurance policies, net rental income from real estate and farms, interest received on loans and mortgages, regular income from an estate or trust fund and other investment income. Realized capital gains from the sale of assets are excluded. Negative amounts are accepted.
- **Retirement Income** Includes retirement pensions from all private sources, primarily employer pension plans. Amounts may be received in various forms such as annuities, superannuation or RRIFs (Registered Retirement Income Funds). Withdrawals from RRSPs (Registered Retirement Savings Plans) are not included in retirement pensions. However, they are taken into account as necessary for the estimation of certain government transfers and taxes. For data obtained from administrative records, income withdrawn from RRSPs before the age of 65 is treated as RRSP withdrawals, and income withdrawn from RRSPs at ages 65 or older is

treated as retirement pensions. Retirement pensions may also be called pension income.

- **Other income** Includes, but is not restricted to, support payments received (also called alimony and child support), retirement allowances (severance pay/termination benefits), scholarships, lump- sum payments from pensions and deferred profit-sharing plans received when leaving a plan, the taxable amount of death benefits other than those from CPP (Canada Pension Plan) or QPP (Quebec Pension Plan), and supplementary unemployment benefits not included in wages and salaries.

Income, Median The value for which half of the units in the population have lower incomes and half has higher incomes. To derive the median value of income, units are ranked from lowest to highest according to their income and then separated into two equal-sized groups. The value that separates these groups is the median income (50th percentile).

Because the median corresponds exactly to the midpoint of the income distribution, it is not, contrary to the mean (average), affected by extreme income values. This is a useful feature of the median, as it allows one to abstract from unusually high values held by relatively few people. Since income distributions are typically skewed to the left – that is, concentrated at the low end of the income scale – median income is usually lower than mean income (Statistics Canada, 2020 B).

Income, Total Refers to income from all sources including government transfers before deduction of federal and provincial income taxes. It may also be called income before tax (but after transfers). All sources of income are identified as belonging to either market (own source) income or government transfers (Statistics Canada, 2020 B).

Income Tax The sum of federal and provincial income taxes payable (accrued) for the taxation year. Income taxes include taxes on income, capital gains and RRSP withdrawals, after taking into account exemptions, deductions, non-refundable tax credits, and the refundable Quebec abatement (Statistics Canada, 2020 B).

Infant Mortality The number of infants who die before their first birthday out of every 1000 live born babies (Alberta Health Services, 2015).

Labour Force Participation Rate Total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and older. (Statistics Canada, 2020 A).

Low-income Gap Also called the poverty gap, the amount that the family income falls short of the relevant low-income threshold. For example, a family with an income of $15,000 and a low-income threshold of $20,000 would have a low-income gap of $5,000. In percentage terms this gap would be 25%. The average gap for a given population, whether expressed in dollar or percentage terms, is the average of these values as calculated

for each unit. For the calculation of this low-income gap, negative incomes are treated as zero. (Statistics Canada, 2020 B)

Low-income Measure (LIM) LIMs are established using data from tax records filed for the year noted in the tables. The LIM for a household of one person is 50% of the median adjusted income adjusted for family size. Family units are formed from information obtained from the tax returns. Tax-filers from the same family, including children, are formed using common links (e.g. social insurance numbers, same address, and shared tax credits and deductions).

- **Census Family LIM** uses the census family as a unit of measure, they are scaled by the square root of the number of people in the family (Pinard, 2018).

Low-income Rate The proportion of persons or families whose incomes are below the applicable Low-income Line (LIL). To determine whether a person (or family) is in low-income, the appropriate LIL(given the family size) is compared to the income of the person's economic family. If the economic family income is below the line, all individuals in that family are considered to be in low-income. Overall, the low-income rate for persons can then be calculated as the number of persons in low-income divided by the total population. The same can be done for families and various sub-groups of the population; for example, low-income rates by age, sex, province or family types. (Statistics Canda, 2020 B)

Minimum Wage The minimum amount employers must pay workers within the province of Alberta. The Government of Alberta outlines minimum wage within the Employment Standards Regulation (Alberta Human Services, 2019).

Net Worth (Wealth) The net worth of a family unit is defined as the difference between the value of its total asset holdings and the amount of total indebtedness. Assets and debts were reported for the family unit as a whole and not for each person in the family (Kolkman, 2018).

- **Assets** Total value of all financial assets, non-financial assets and equity in business. Includes:
  - **Private pension assets** - RRSPs, LIRAs, RRIFs, other - Employer pension plans
  - **Financial assets, non-pension** - deposits in financial institutions, mutual/investment funds income trusts - stocks - bonds (savings and other) - other financial assets
  - **Non-financial assets** - principal residence - other real estate - vehicles - other non-financial assets
  - **Equity in business**

- **Debts** Total value of all amounts owed in the following debt categories:
    - **Mortgage** - principal residence - other real estate
    - **Line of credit** - home equity LOC - regular LOC
    - **Credit card and installment debt** - major credit cards, retail store cards, gasoline station cards, etc. - deferred payment of installment plans
    - **Student loan** - Canada/provincial student loan programs - loans from financial institutions taken directly to attend school
    - **Vehicle loans**
    - **Other debt** - other loans from financial institutions, unpaid bills, etc.

Percentiles Income (and net worth) percentiles are a convenient way of categorizing units of a given population from lowest income to highest income/net worth for the purposes of drawing conclusions about the relative situation of people at either end or in the middle of the scale. Rather than using fixed income/net worth ranges, as in a typical distribution of income/net worth, it is the fraction of each population group that is fixed.

Percentiles are calculated by first ranking all the units of the population, whether individuals or families, are from lowest to highest by the value of their income/net worth. Then the ranked population is divided into groups of equal numbers of units. (Statistics Canada, 2017).

- **Deciles** The percentile produced when the ranked population is divided into ten groups. Each decile represents 10% of the population.
- **Quintiles** The percentile produced when the ranked population is divided into five groups. Each quintile represents 20% of the population.

Permanent Residents People who have been given permanent resident status in Canada. Permanent residents must live in Canada for at least 730 days (two years) within a five-year period or risk losing their status. Permanent residents have all the rights guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms such as equality rights, legal rights, mobility rights, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of association. They do not, however, have the right to vote in elections. (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2017).

Private Sector Includes all other employees working for businesses or the non-profit sector (Kolkman, 2018).

Public Sector Includes employees in public administration at the federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, First Nations and other Aboriginal levels as well as in Crown corporations, liquor control boards and other government institutions such as schools (including universities), hospitals and public libraries (Kolkman, 2018).

Temporary Residents Foreign nationals who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a valid document (i.e., a work permit, study permit, temporary resident permit, or a visitor record) issued for the purpose of entering Canada in compliance with the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (or with the Immigration Act of 1976 prior to 2002), and individuals who make a refugee claim upon or after their arrival in Canada and remain in the country pending the outcome of processes relative to their claim. Temporary residents (as profiled in this publication) include foreign workers, foreign students, and the humanitarian population. (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2017).

- **Foreign Workers** Temporary residents who entered Canada mainly to work and have been issued a work permit requiring a Labour Market Impact Assessment to ensure the foreign worker does not have a detrimental impact on the Canadian labour market.
- **Foreign Students** Temporary residents who entered Canada mainly to study and have been issued a study permit (with or without other types of permits). Foreign students exclude temporary residents who have been issued a study permit but who entered Canada mainly for reasons other than study.
- **Humanitarian Population** Primarily refugee claimants, but this group also includes other foreign nationals allowed to remain in Canada on humanitarian or compassionate grounds under "special considerations."
- **International** The International Mobility Program includes work permit holders who are not subject to Mobility Labour Market Impact Assessment. By exempting some foreign nationals from needing a Labour Market Impact Assessment before being able to work in Canada, the International Mobility Program aims to provide competitive advantages to Canada and reciprocal benefits to Canadians, rather than filling particular jobs.

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Section A: Demographics

A1. Population chart/table

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B1 to BB7. All K to 12 Education Charts

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B8 to B14. Employment and Unemployment

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B14. Off Reserve Indigenous unemployment

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B15. Duration of Unemployment

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B16 and B17. Seniors and employment

Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0039-01 - Characteristics of seniors, tax-filers and dependents, seniors with income by source of income and age groups, annual

B 18 and B19. Population by Occupation

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0314-01 Employment by census metropolitan areas and occupation, annual (x 1,000)

Section C: Cost of living and Housing

C1. Consumer Price Index

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C2. Nutritious Food Basket

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Section D – Wages and Income

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D2. Female to male income ratio

Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0050-01 Tax filers and dependents with income by after-tax income, sex and age.

D3 to D5. Median after tax income by family type

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D6 to D8. Source of Income, By family type

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D9. Real Median After tax income growth

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E4 to E6. Poverty Gap, by family type

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E7 and E8. Child Poverty

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Section F: Government Income Transfers

F1. Average monthly number of households receiving Alberta Works

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F5. Number of Households receiving EI

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0011-01 Employment insurance beneficiaries (regular benefits) by province and territory, monthly, seasonally adjusted

F6 to F9. Source of Transfer Payments

Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0014-01 Sources of income by census family type

F10. Child Poverty Reduction

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Section G: Social Health Indicators

G1 to G6. Life Expectancy, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Low birth weight babies, infant mortality rate, teen birth rate, suicide rate

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G8. Lone-parent to Couple family ratio

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G9 and G10. Crime Rates

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Crime Severity Index

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