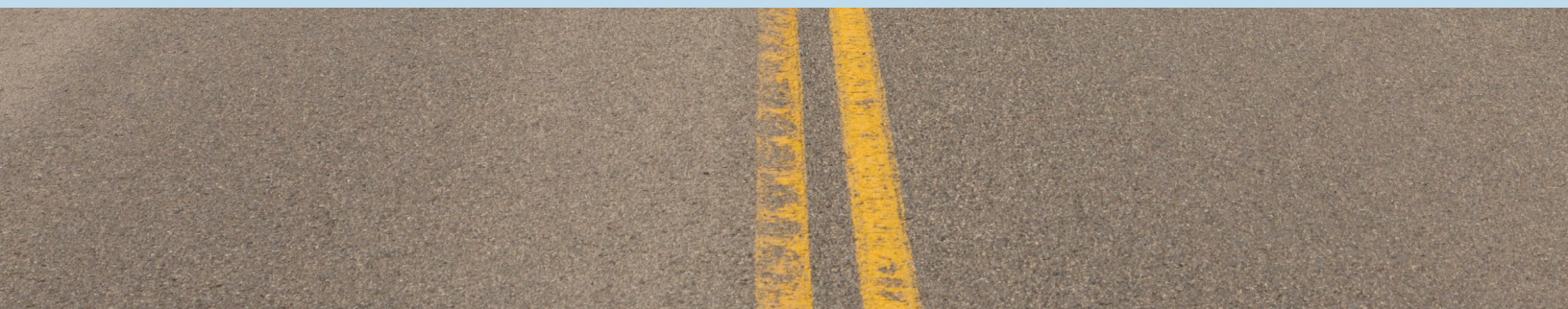




# DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

| A Community Profile of Yellowhead County  
October 2019





## Contents

Introduction	4
Purpose	6
Population	8
Age Analysis	11
Location	12
Households	14
Family Composition	17
Housing	18
Housing Tenure	20
Shelter Costs	23
Income	24
Income Cohorts	26
Education	28
Occupation	30
Employment	32
Industry	34
Labor and Gender	36
Immigration	38
Low Income	39
Issue Summary	40
Measurement Summary	41









This report exclusively examines the population of Yellowhead County’s municipal boundaries as obtained through Statistics Canada community profiles from 1996 to 2016.

Covering a wide geographical area between the Pembina River and the gates of Jasper National Park, Yellowhead County encompasses the two towns of Edson and Hinton. Given their status as major service and population centers within the County, achieving a complete understanding of regional social and economic conditions would require integrating the town’s data into this analysis.

This report was prepared by the Yellowhead County Planning and Development Department in order to develop a stronger understanding of Yellowhead County residents and their unique social and economic circumstances.

## Definitions

Where necessary the report will define the specific data category using Stats Canada definitions.

## Recommendations

Connecting cross-categorical data presents the possibility of interpretive error. Issues will be described using commonly accepted indicator metrics.

## Context

Given that the issues affecting Yellowhead County are similar to issues faced by many rural communities in North America, they can be contextualized by existing research. This report utilizes this research to place the provided information into context.

## Purpose 1.



### IDENTIFY UNKNOWN PROBLEMS AND NEW SOLUTIONS

Demographic data can identify previously unknown issues and new, organically emerging successes.

Local knowledge is often general and regards the geography of a place as one whole. This data provides greater insight into County residents by identifying the nature and extent of social and economic challenges.

Additional detail can then illuminate new opportunities while expanding upon potential threats and weaknesses.

### EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FUTURE COUNTY PROJECTS

The Municipal Development Plan lays out Yellowhead County's future needs, wants, goals and methods to attain them. Demographic data can be used to evaluate the results of potential County interventions.

As an example, the diversification of the economy is one of Yellowhead County's Guiding Principles (MDP 3.4.8). The success of various economic programs can then be measured using employment, income, or production across industries, across occupations, or across the tax base. Targets may then be identified and positions re-evaluated on a 5 year basis.

## Purpose 2.



Purpose 3.



PLACE YELLOWHEAD COUNTY IN  
ITS RURAL CONTEXT

Considerable literature exists on rural economic and policy development. The applicability of this evidence depends on a clear characterization of Yellowhead County across its social, economic and environmental domains.

To use recommendations from research, identifying similarities between other rural communities and Yellowhead County is of significant importance.

THIS REPORT CREATES A COMMUNITY PROFILE OF YELLOWHEAD COUNTY BY  
MEASURING CHANGE IN KEY DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS.

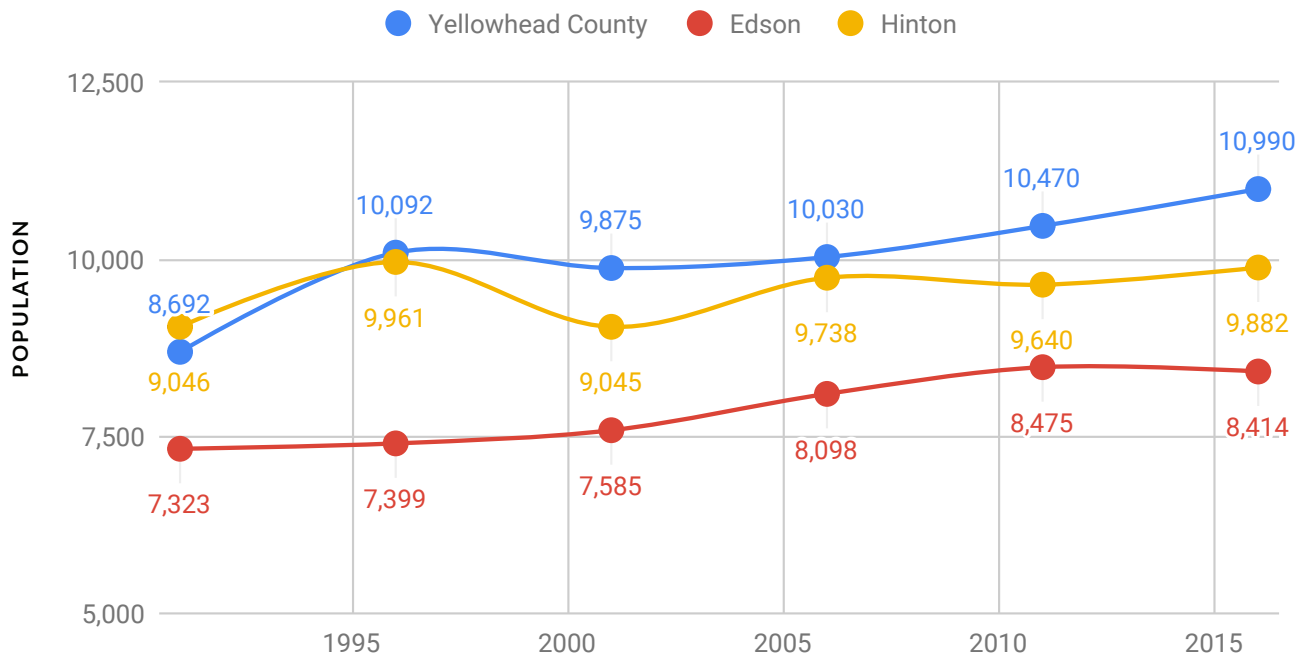
- The change in population of distinct age cohorts. 1
- Population distribution within Yellowhead County. 2
- Housing type, cost, age and household composition. 3
- Population by income, gender and family composition. 4
- Education, occupation, immigration and industry employment change. 5

5  
Data  
Categories



# Population

## Yellowhead County, Edson and Hinton Population Change (1991 to 2016)



### Analysis of Population Change

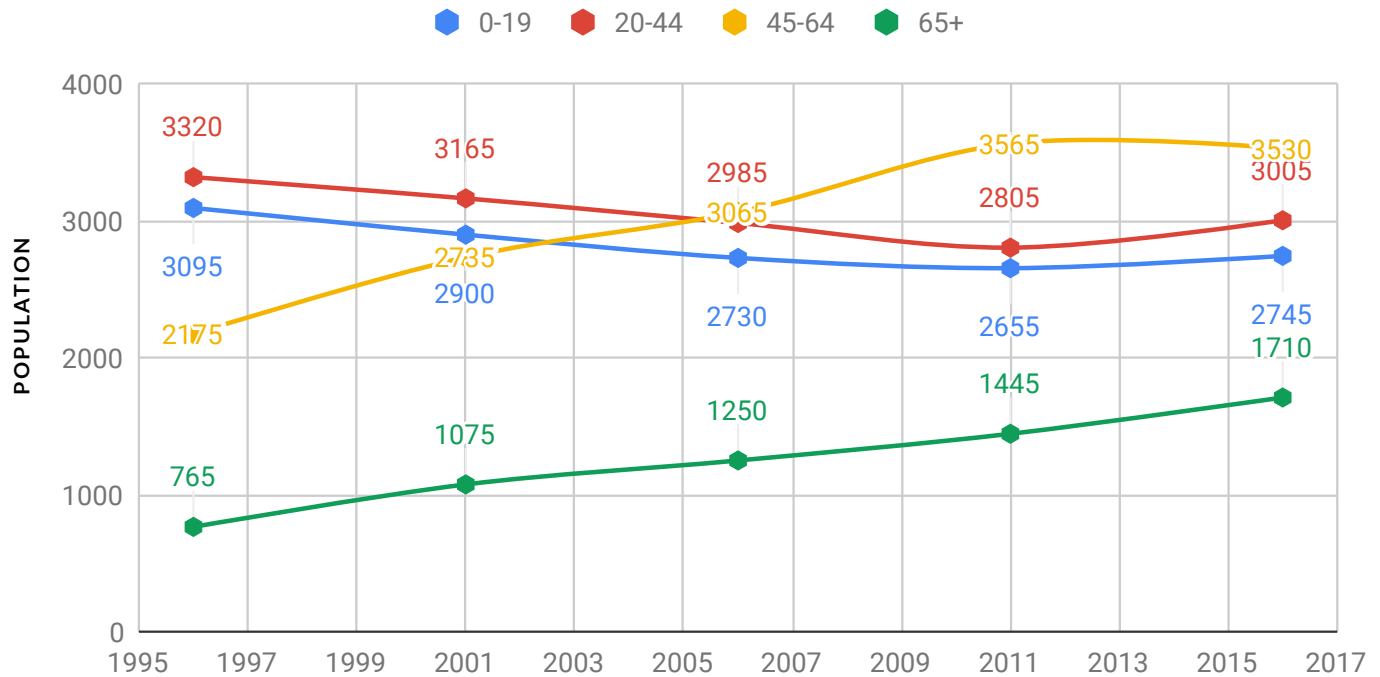
**0.57%**  
**Annual Growth**

Yellowhead County has experienced slow but stable population growth since 2001, with an annual percentage growth rate of 0.57%. Edson and Hinton have experienced less consistent growth with the Edson population declining by 0.14% from 2011 to 2016.

This population increase is largely the result of in-migration - adding more than 600 new residents. Population is the sum of births minus deaths plus net migration, and it signifies the total consumer market size in an area. This is an important metric for developers to measure the economic health and investment attraction of an area. Businesses also use this as a metric for market size when evaluating startup, expansion or relocation decisions.

The closer a rural community is to a city, the higher its rate of population growth (Reimer & Bollman, 2018). Rural communities less than 1 hour outside of a large city, and those around lakes and mountains are generally growing. Communities dependent on the production of commodities (including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining) have experienced declining populations (Alasia et al. 2008).

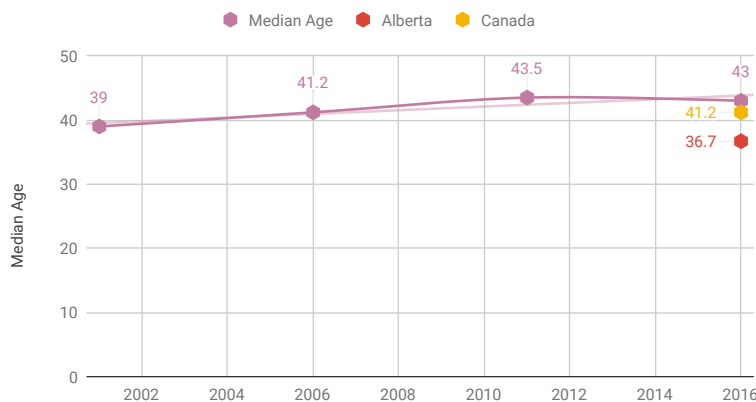
## Yellowhead County Change of Age Cohorts (1996 to 2016)



### An Aging Population

The recent stabilization of the median age is the result of an increase in 20-44 year olds and a corresponding increase in children 0-19. A drop in 45-64 year olds likely due to emigration is also a contributing factor. The trend of aging across OECD economies is more apparent in rural regions and is forecast to continue. The capacity for rural communities to provide an attractive living situation and integrate newly arrived migrants will shape their ability to address the challenge of aging and shrinking populations (OECD Rural Policy 3.0).

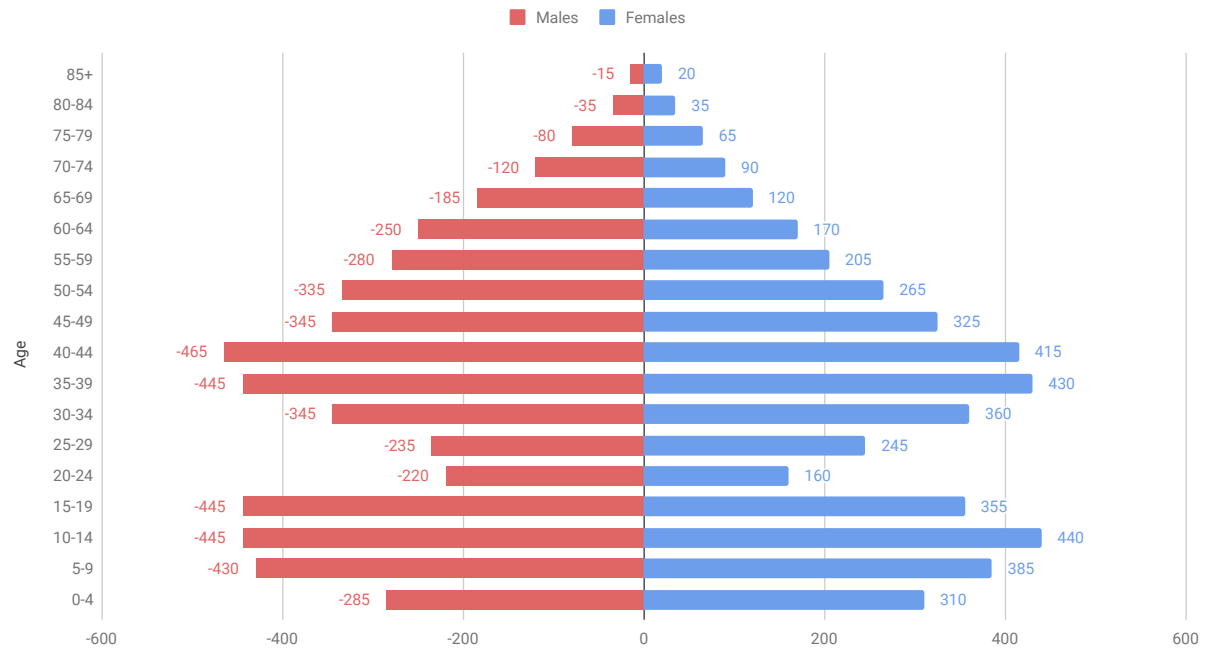
### Yellowhead County Change of Median Age (2001 to 2016)



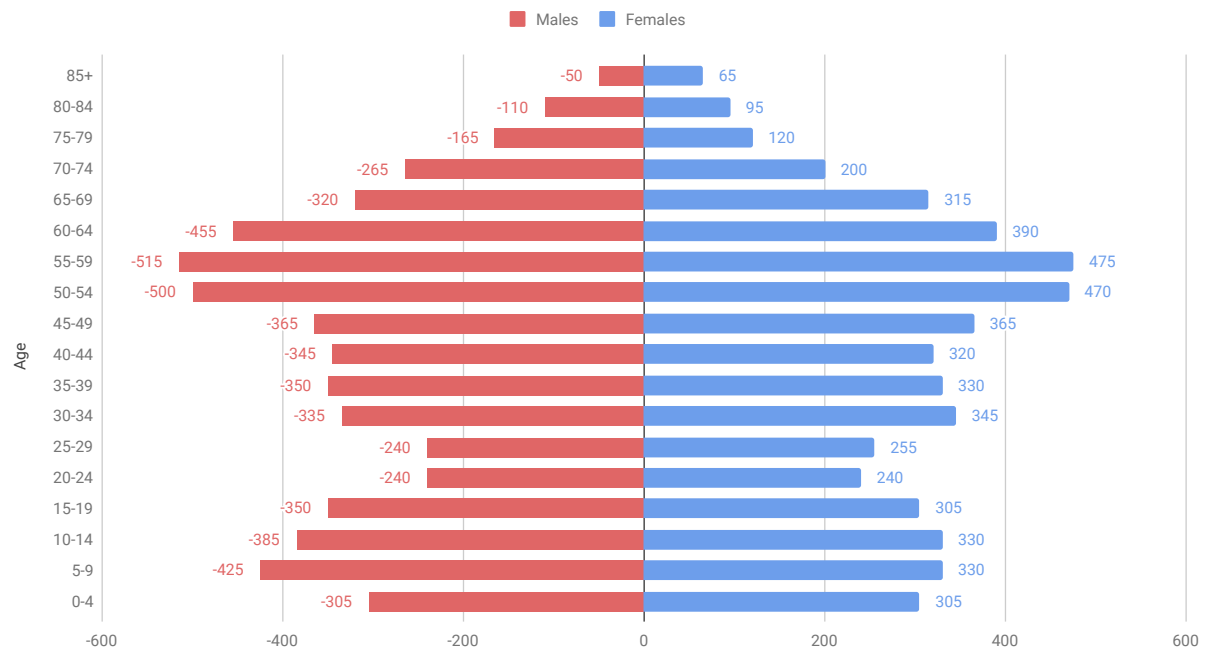
#### MEDIAN AGE

Yellowhead County (43) is significantly older than Edson (35.9), Hinton (37.2), Alberta (36.7) and Canada (41.2). This aging has slowed recently, but will likely increase as the large 45-64 population enters the oldest age cohort in the next 15 years.

## Yellowhead County 1996 Population Pyramid



## Yellowhead County 2016 Population Pyramid



The baby boomer bubble moving from the 40-44 cohort to the 60-64 cohort is evident in the above population pyramids. In 20 years the over-70 population may be as large as the current population between 30 to 45.

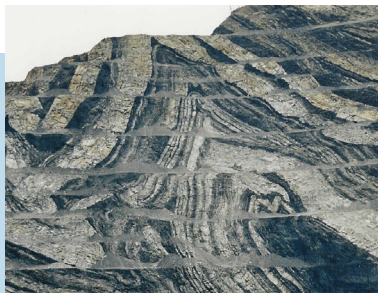


## Age Analysis



### CHILDREN

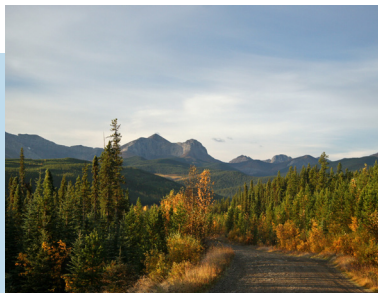
The amount of children (0-14) and young adults (15-19) in the County has shrunk from 3095 in 1996 to 2750 in 2016. This has had the effect of slowing down the growth of the Dependency Ratio, defined as the amount of dependent seniors (65+), dependent children (0-14), divided by the working age group (15-64). It may also present a challenge in regards to school viability in the hamlets.



### LABOUR FORCE

The working age group (15-64) has increased from 5495 in 1996 to 6535 in 2016. However, the largest cohort in this age group is currently 55-59 year olds. They can be expected to leave the work force in the next 5-10 years, presenting a labour force challenge in Yellowhead County.

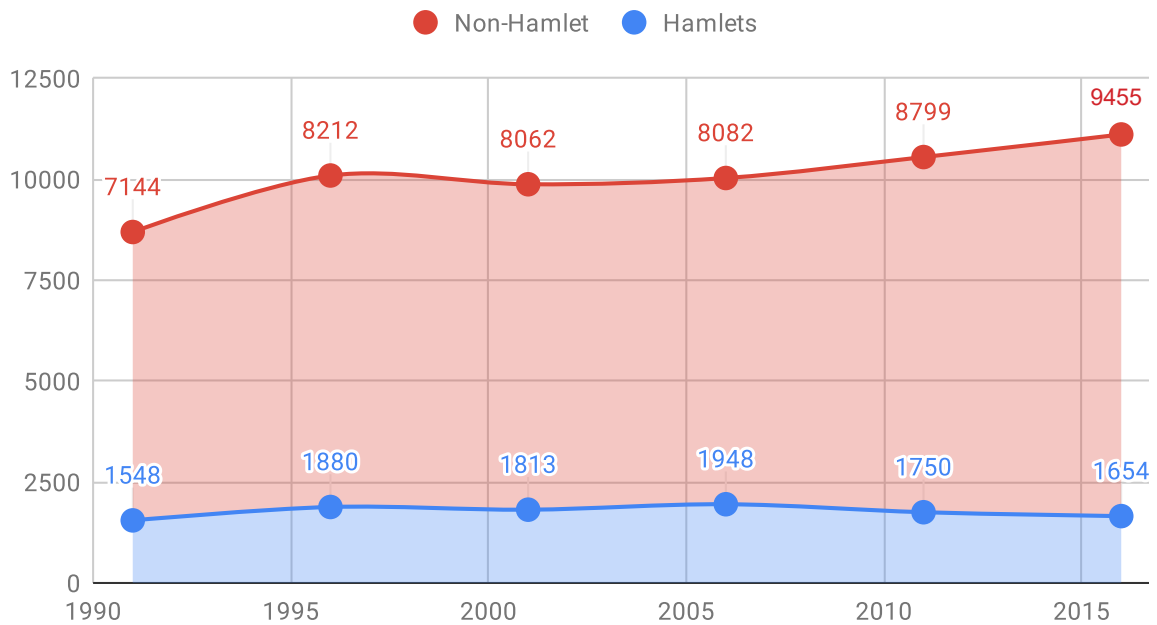
High dependency ratios decrease local economic growth due to a large tax collecting population compared to a smaller tax paying population. This results in increased healthcare, education and social costs, while changing consumption patterns influence regional housing markets and businesses.



In 2010, North America had a Dependency Ratio of 49. **Yellowhead County went from 55 in 1996 to 58 in 2016.** Solutions to increase the working population include immigration and increasing the labour participation of women via education and access to affordable child-care.

## Location

Yellowhead County Change of Population Distribution (1991 to 2016)



### Where are people moving?

**1.1% NON-HAMLET  
GROWTH RATE**

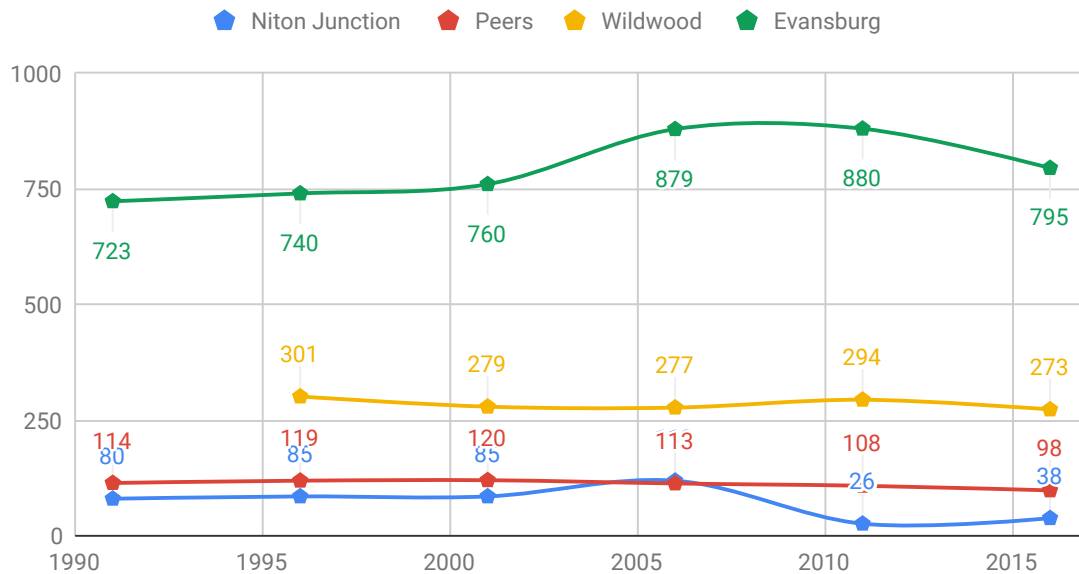
**0.3% HAMLET  
GROWTH RATE**

The population of residents living in the 8 hamlets is dropping. The population growth that is occurring is almost entirely located outside of the hamlet boundaries. Land supply constraint in the hamlets may present a growth bottleneck. While new greenfield development is minimal, housing opportunities are being made for infill via zoning reform.

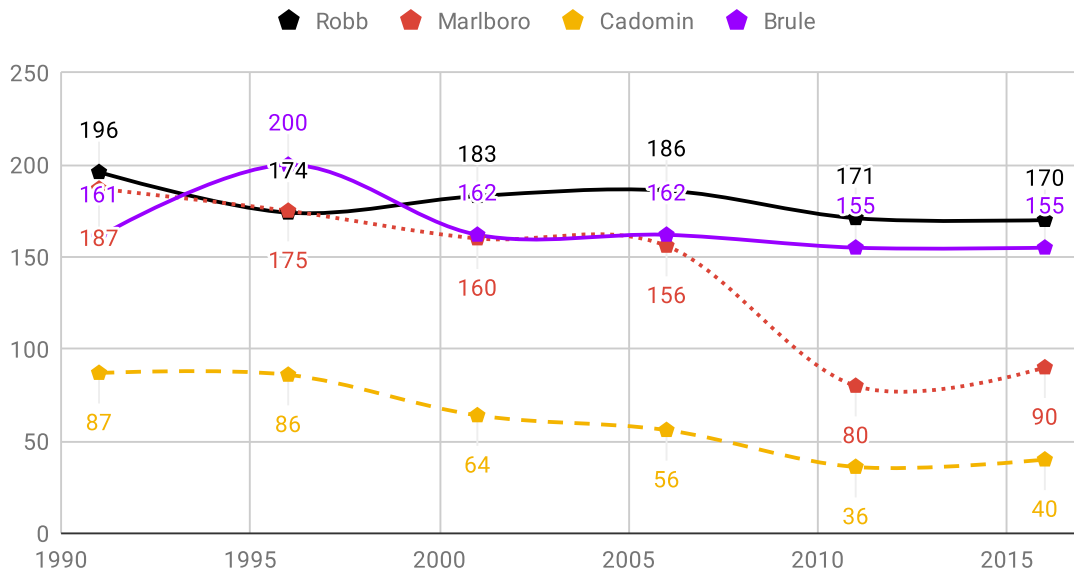
Median age may be rising due to the in migration of retirees looking for country residential property outside of the hamlets. Combined with a trend of residents leaving the hamlets, this reduced the number of children in the County. This presents a considerable challenge from a number of areas. New country residential residents may demand access to goods and services in the hamlets, while businesses there may not be financially viable due to their decreasing local market base.

Such a divide may lead to competition for resources between growing country residential residents and declining hamlet populations. Generally, improving rural infrastructure (roads, Internet, recreation, waste management) does not in itself cause increased rural development. It can instead be used to bolster rural development that is already occurring (Reimer & Bollman, 2018).

## East Hamlets Population Change (1991 to 2016)



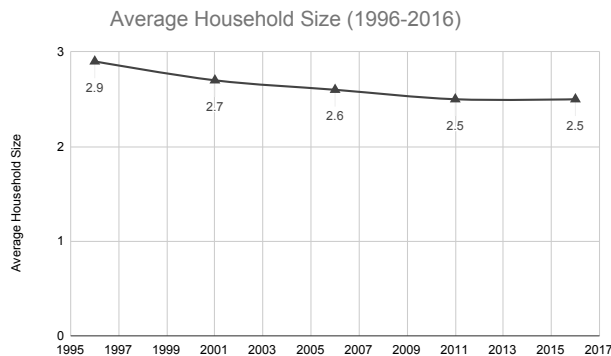
## West Hamlets Population Change (1991 to 2016)



As noted by the research, communities closer to metropolitan areas are experiencing slower population decline than those located farther. Evansburg is the only hamlet where the population has grown since 1996. This is likely due to its proximity to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. Evansburg could therefore represent a target for investment. This data is based on Statistics Canada analysis of hamlet populations. Brule has been identified as having a population of 31 residents in 2015. A count of the residents in 2020 identified approximately 155 seasonal and permanent residents, illustrating considerable error in this data set. This error does not appear to apply to other hamlets.



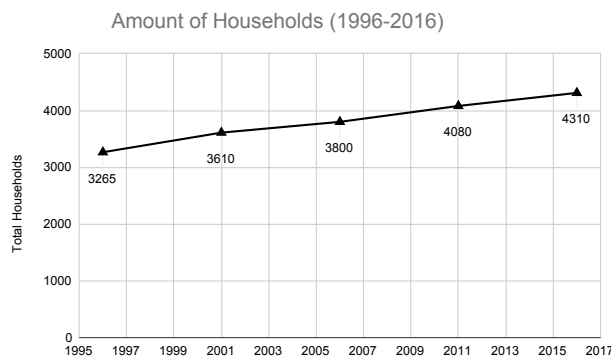
# Households



## HOUSEHOLD SIZE

### *Below the Alberta average*

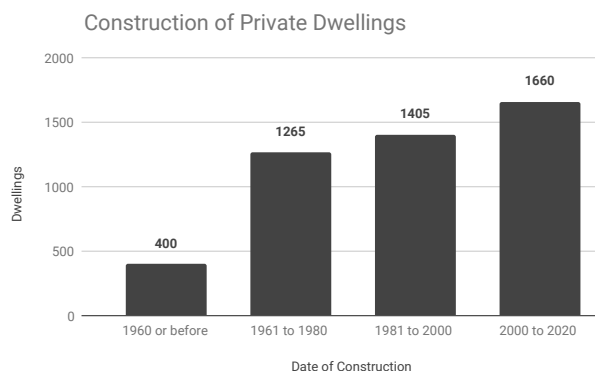
Average household size in Yellowhead County has decreased to below the Alberta average (2.6). Only recently has this decline slowed down. This is due to a much slower increase in the proportions of 1 and 2 person households between 2011 and 2016.



## TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS

### *New households are older households*

The total number of households has increased by 230 since 2011. 520 new residents in 230 new households creates an average household size of 2.26 since 2011. This supports the idea that Yellowhead County is growing mostly through an influx of retired couples and to a lesser extent young families.



## CONSTRUCTION

### *Steady growth*

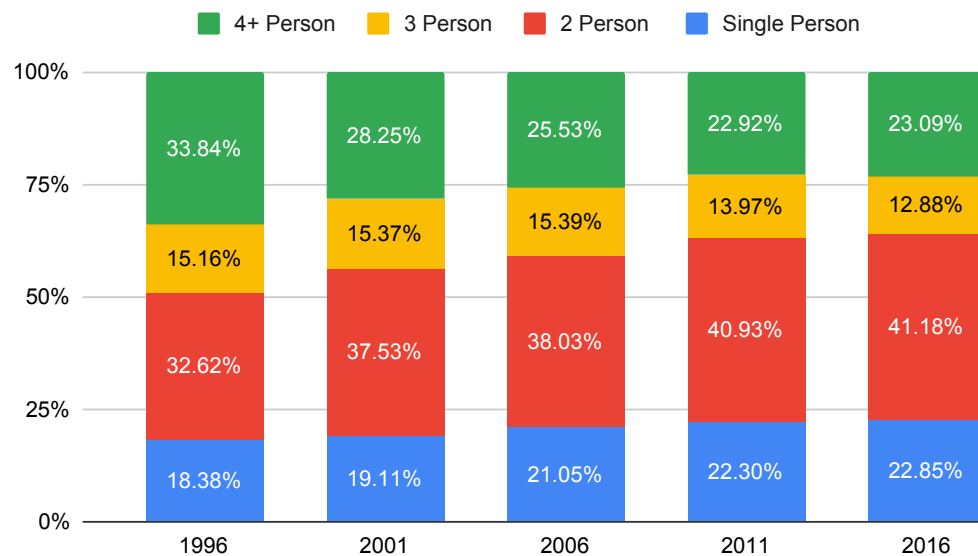
The amount of housing units constructed every twenty years has increased. However, as the average household size has decreased, the number of households needing housing units has increased. This increased demand is met by a supply which is only in line with population growth, which may lead to higher housing costs.

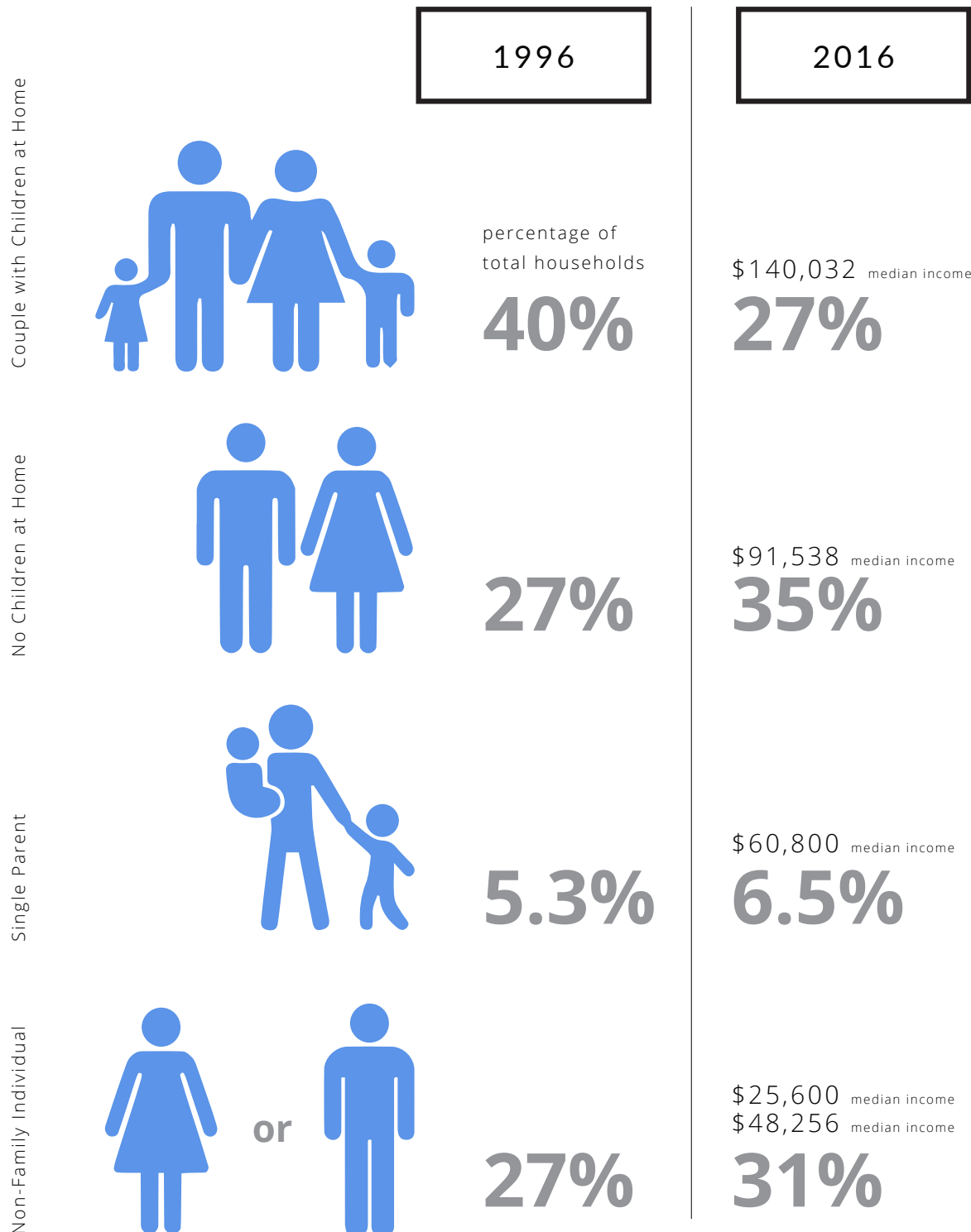
## Single and two person households now make up the majority of Yellowhead County.

In 1996 the balance between households which had 3 or more people and households which had 2 or less was approximately equal. In 2016 this ratio is considerably different. 65% of households in Yellowhead County now have either one or two residents. As children grow up and move away or retired couples sell their homes, the demographic of the community changes. As demographics change, so does the demand for various forms of housing. It is likely that the traditional 4/5-bedroom single detached dwelling no longer represents an optimal balance between cost and floor area for a majority of households in Yellowhead County.

Continually reviewing our development regulations to ensure that they allow for the simple, cost-effective and timely construction of new, in-demand housing units is essential to increasing the amount of people that want to call Yellowhead County home.

### Percentage Change in Household Size (1996-2016)





The amount of couples with children at home has shrunk from 1440 to 1300, while the amount of couples with no children at home has grown from 965 to 1660. This is the result of less children being born and children growing up and leaving home.



## Family Composition



### LONE ADULTS

The amount of non-family individuals rose from 980 in 1996 to 1475 in 2016. 870 of these individuals were male. The amount of single parents grew from 190 in 1996 to 310 in 2016. Females made up 130 of these lone adult households in 1996 and 205 in 2016.



### HOUSING

As family compositions change the types of housing which families demand also changes. Traditionally, single detached housing has been the dominant housing form in Yellowhead County. This form may need to adapt in size and location as we look to grow our population, attract new residents and retain the residents already here.

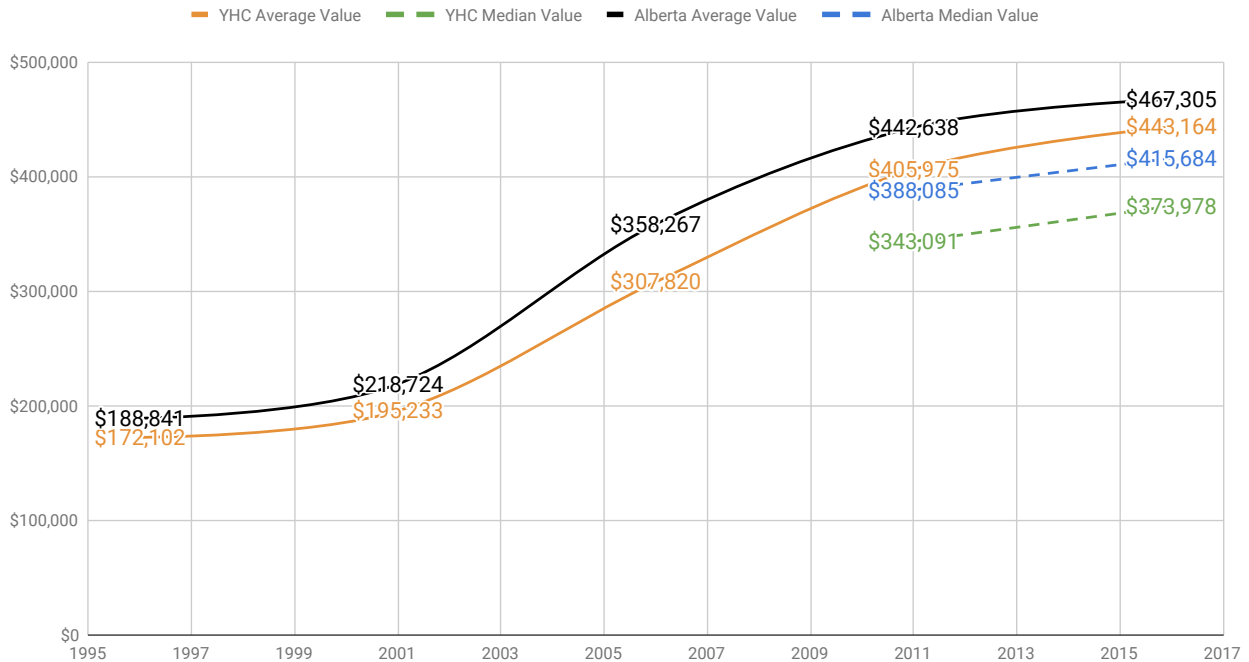


Older couples may find it difficult to maintain country residential properties far away from healthcare services and retail. As they have to give up driving, it is likely that their only option becomes urban life. Single individuals and parents following jobs may be more apprehensive about committing to purchasing a home right away and look to higher quality rentals.

There may be higher demand for rental housing, smaller units, backyard suites, basement suites and multi-family units.

# Housing

## Dwelling Value in 2019 Dollars (1996-2016)



## Housing Value

**1996-2016**  
**7.9% ANNUAL GROWTH**

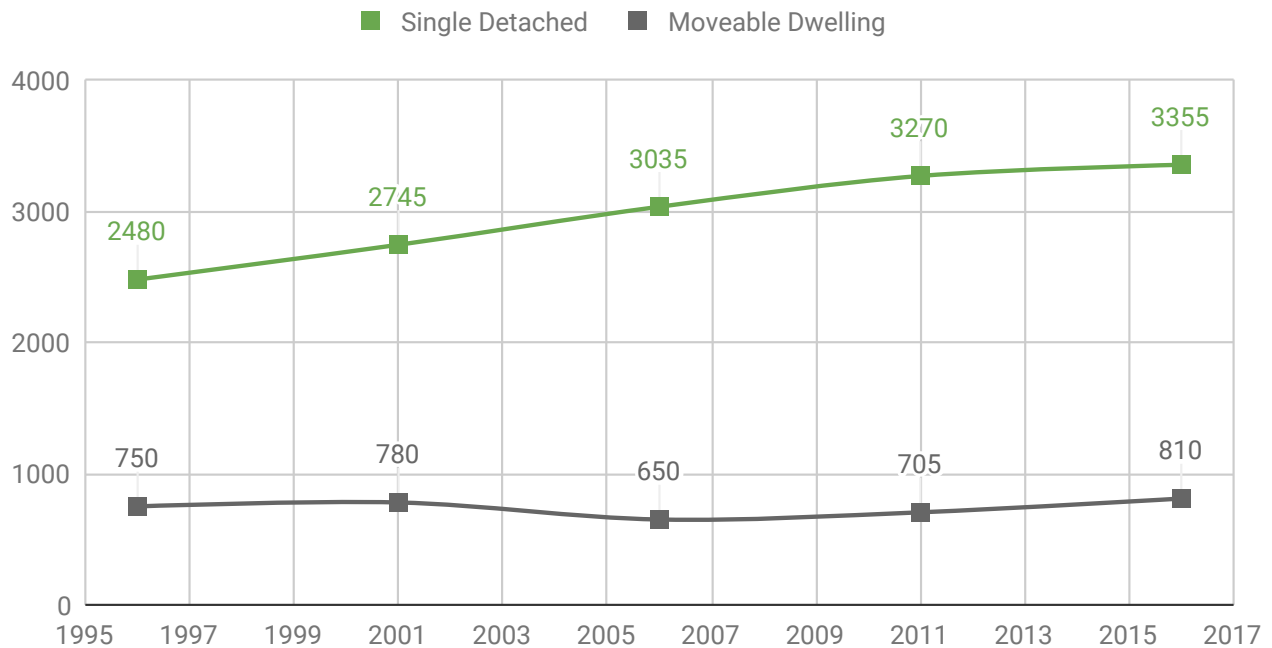
**2011-2016**  
**1.8% ANNUAL GROWTH**

Dwellings in the County have followed the provincial trend by increasing in value between 1996 and 2016. While average dwelling prices did not increase as quickly in the County as in Alberta, the difference has decreased from over \$50,000 in 2006 to \$24,000 in 2016. The difference between median values is unchanged from 2011.

Average values are biased towards extremes. Tracking median value, which represents the figure which splits the distribution into two equal halves, provides a more accurate representation of actual housing prices in a location. In 2016 Yellowhead County's housing stock was again below the Alberta median value, with the most common price for a home just under \$374,000. As housing in Yellowhead County increasingly shifts towards more country residential properties, median dwelling value in the County has approached closer to Alberta median value. As land is less valuable in Yellowhead County, it is likely that the major factor responsible for housing cost increases is an increase in local construction costs.

Home values are increasing faster (+7.9%) than the construction of new units (+1.28%), thereby increasing the absolute amount of tax paid per residential property. As the Residential Mill Rate has remained consistently low for 10 years, tax payments from residential properties have increased only due to a rise in assessed value.

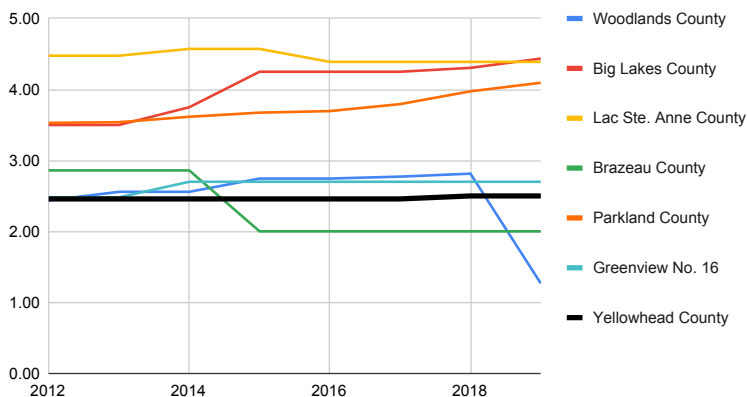
## Amount of Single Detached and Moveable Homes



## Housing Forms

Single detached homes make up 79% of all housing units in Yellowhead County. Moveable dwellings make up 19% of the total housing units in the County, with apartments completing the remaining 2%. The annual percent growth rate of single detached home was 2.1% from 1996-2011, and 0.5% from 2011 to 2016. Due to the cyclical economy, it is also likely that a large informal housing market exists in the form of boarding houses and rental rooms.

### Residential and Farmland Mill Rate (2012-2019)

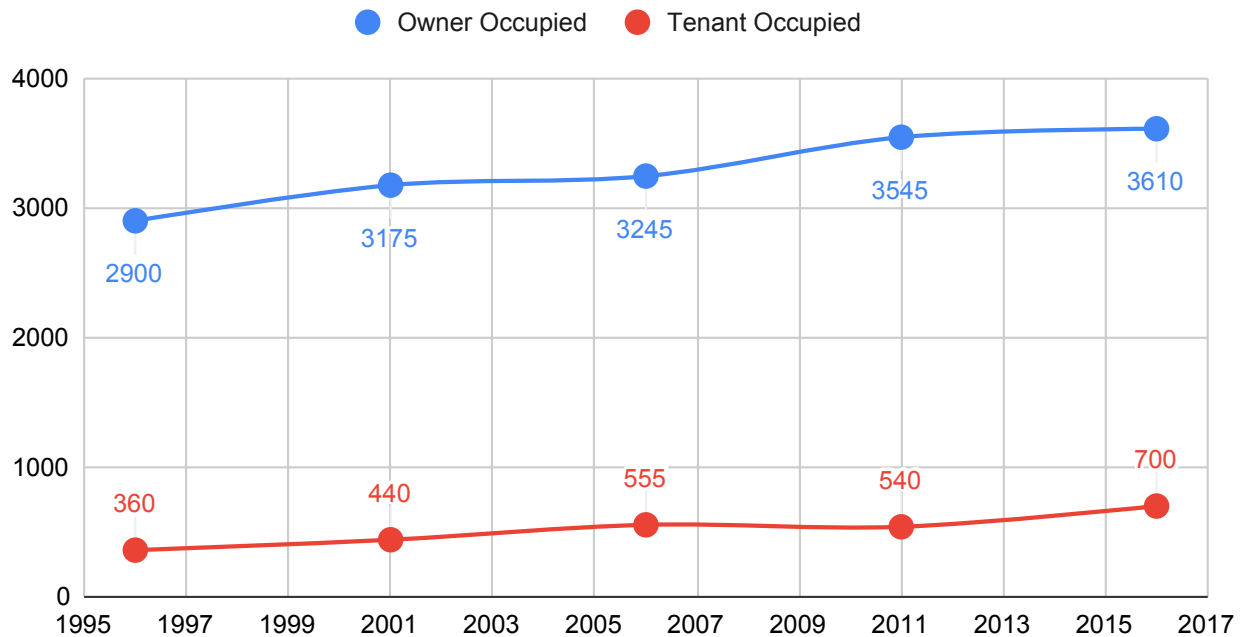


## Taxation

When compared to its neighbors and similar municipalities, Yellowhead County provides incredibly competitive residential (3rd) and commercial/industrial tax rates (1st). This is due to consistently low rates which have provided stability to residents. Taxes are therefore unlikely to slow down housing construction.

## Housing Tenure

### Housing Tenure (1996-2016)



### Owning and Renting

**1996-2016 OWNER**  
1.1% ANNUAL GROWTH

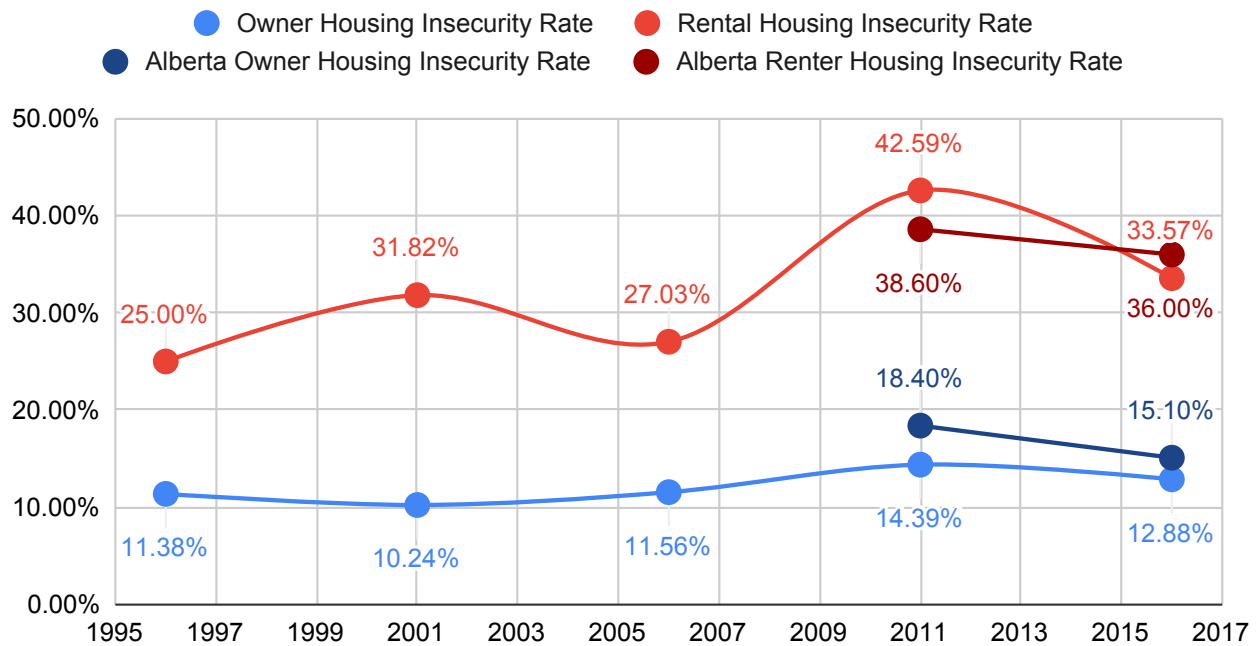
**1996-2016 RENTER**  
3.4% ANNUAL GROWTH

Owner occupied housing makes up 84% of housing units in the County, while 16% of households rent. This ties Okotoks as the highest proportion of owner occupied households in Alberta. 72.4% of households in Alberta own their home. Yellowhead County has a much higher ownership rate than Canada (67.8%).

The high rate of home ownership is likely correlated with the higher median age of County residents. Homeownership rates climb dramatically until age 40, grow slowly to age 65, and then stay constant. Rates generally decline after age 70 (Kendig, 1984). The faster annual growth of renting in Yellowhead County, specifically after 2011 (+5.3%), may be attributed to affordability concerns and an increase in non-permanent employment.

Households which spend 30% or more of their total household income on shelter expenses are defined as having a housing affordability problem. This represents a point at which financial strain is likely in regards to affording other necessities. Renting is generally less costly than owning and due to the higher upfront costs of entering the housing market, renting commonly sees lower housing affordability rates.

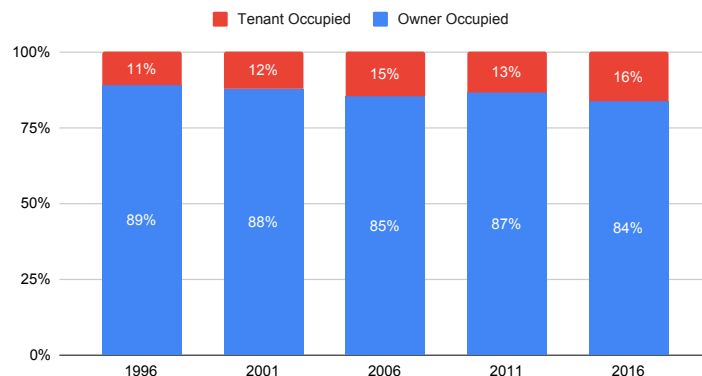
## Housing Affordability Rates (1996-2016)



## Housing Affordability

The flexibility of renting allows the insecurity rate to change significantly in line with economic conditions and rental housing demand. If rent becomes too expensive, people move. Renting in Yellowhead County will likely be in manufactured or single detached homes. These forms being more expensive than apartments, the percent of the population that pays more than 30% of their income towards rental is greater than the Alberta rate. Despite rising housing costs and values, housing affordability has not been lowering for residents who own their homes.

### Proportions of Housing Tenure (1996-2016)



### OPPORTUNITY

#### Adaptable Housing

Rental housing increases may represent a population growth opportunity. More rental friendly housing options may provide new residents with incentives towards working in Yellowhead County. By not committing to ownership, new residents may account for industry volatility.



## 2016 Monthly Shelter Costs



**\$1341**  
Owner Average Costs



**\$1126**  
Owner Median Costs

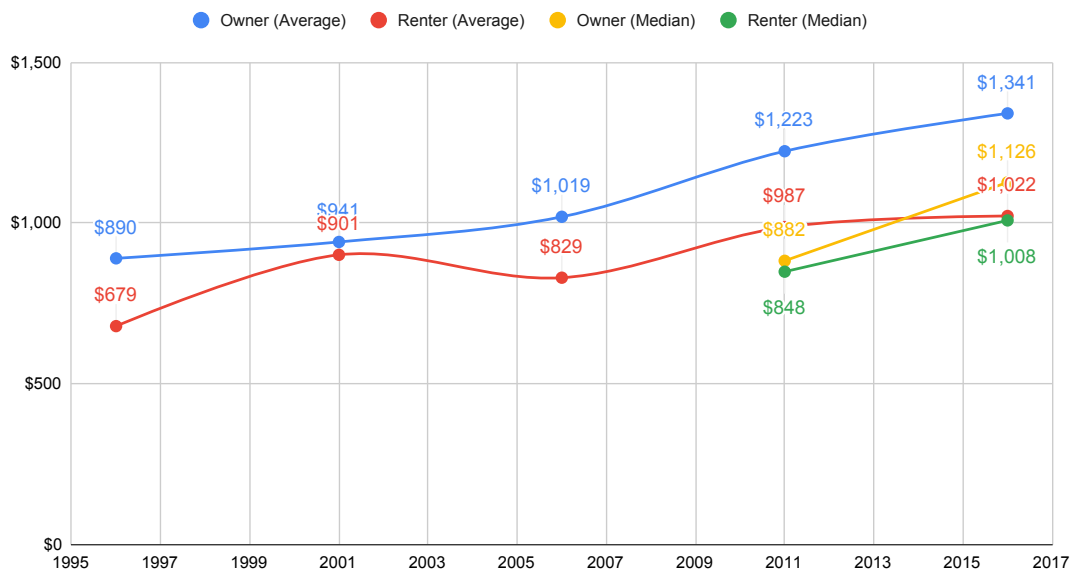


**\$1022**  
Renter Average Costs



**\$1008**  
Renter Median Costs

### Shelter Costs in Yellowhead County (1996-2016)



Shelter cost refers to the average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that rent or own their dwelling. All figures have been adjusted for inflation and represent real shelter costs in 2019 dollars.

## Shelter Costs



### OWNING

The average cost of owning a home in Yellowhead County has been climbing steadily, growing at 2.5% a year. This number is less than the 7.9% per year that houses have increased in value between 1996 and 2016. Median costs have increased dramatically between 2011 and 2016, indicating a general increase in one or more of mortgage payments, property taxes, municipal services, or utilities.



### RENTING

Average rental costs have increased with more volatility in response to the effects of economic conditions on rental supply and demand. They have also grown 2.5% per year since 1996. Median costs increased from 2011 to 2016 by 3.7% a year. Despite this increase, housing affordability increased for renters. The amount of renters has also increased.

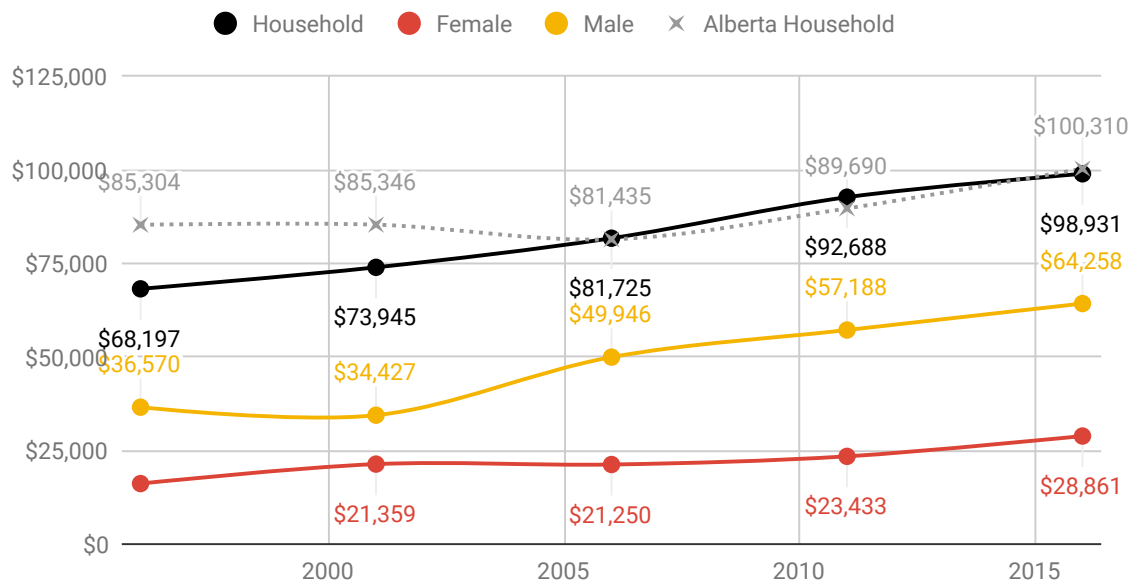


### COMPARISONS

Despite these increases, housing affordability increased for renters and owners between 2011 and 2016. The growth of monthly shelter costs at 2.5% per year outpaces the yearly growth of median household incomes (1.8%) over the last 20 years, contributing to Yellowhead County's moderately unaffordable housing market. Parkland County median shelter costs were \$1300 for owners and \$1340 for renters.

# Income

## Median Income in 2019 Dollars (1996-2016)



## MEDIAN INCOME

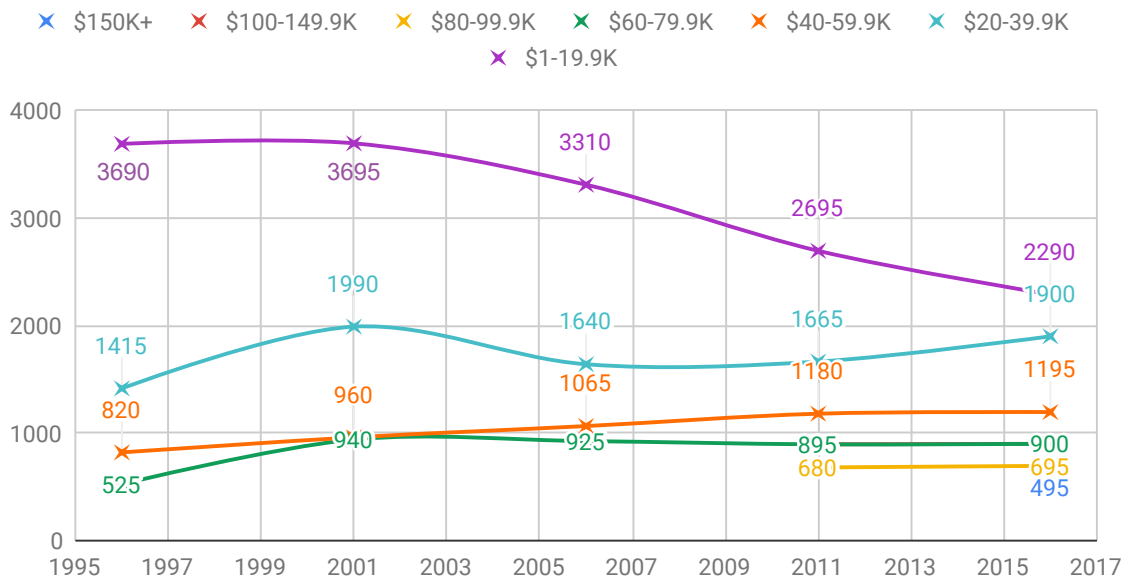
### *On pace with Alberta*

Adjusted for inflation, median household income has grown steadily at an annual rate of 1.88%. This is much slower than the growth of housing value (+7.8%). With a median unit price of nearly \$374,000 and a median household income of nearly \$99,000, Yellowhead County's Median Multiple of 3.78 indicates a Moderately Unaffordable housing market.

## Yellowhead County's Median Multiple of 3.78 indicates a Moderately Unaffordable housing market.

A median multiple of 3.00 is considered to be representative of a generally affordable housing market. For comparison, as of 2019, Fort McMurray is 2.2, Edmonton 3.6, Calgary 4.0 and Vancouver 12.6. There is growing evidence which places partial responsibility for unaffordability on highly regulated land use and development restrictions (Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey 2019). **Identifying and changing municipal land use policies which limit housing development is of vital importance.**

## Population by Income Bracket (1996-2016)



## INCOME COHORT CHANGE

### *Rising median incomes due to a drop in the lowest bracket*

The largest change in income bracket population is a decrease in the lowest income bracket from nearly 3700 to 2290 workers. Given the rise in the second lowest bracket, it can be concluded that the drop in the lowest bracket is largely a replacement effect. The amount of jobs paying under \$19,000 has decreased or the workers in those jobs have either left the labour force, or found jobs with higher pay.

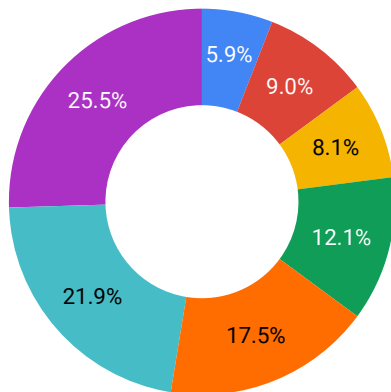
### **The population in the highest income cohorts has remained the same from 2011 for males and females.**

The growth in median household income has been largely due to a steady increase in the population of females in the 20-39.9K, 40-59.9K and 60-79.9K income brackets, and a drop in males and females earning less than 19.9K. The most rapid growth is in the male population earning 100-149.9K, and the most rapid decrease (-49.8%) is in the male population of the lowest income bracket.

## Income Cohorts

**Income population distribution in Yellowhead County is more polarized than Alberta. There is a higher proportion of high earners, and of low earners.**

Alberta Population by Income Bracket (2016)

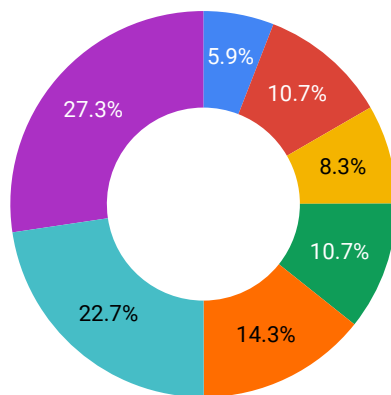


### Income Population

These charts demonstrate the proportion of various income groups within Yellowhead County and Alberta. The incomes are reflective of the yearly pre-tax earnings of County residents in the previous tax year.

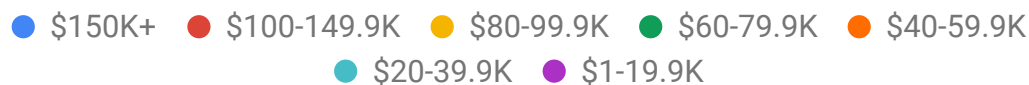
47.4% of Alberta workers made below \$40,000 a year, while 50% of Yellowhead County workers made less than that amount.

Yellowhead County Population by Income Bracket (2016)



29.6% of Alberta workers earned between \$40-60,000 while 25% of Yellowhead County residents earnings are within this range.

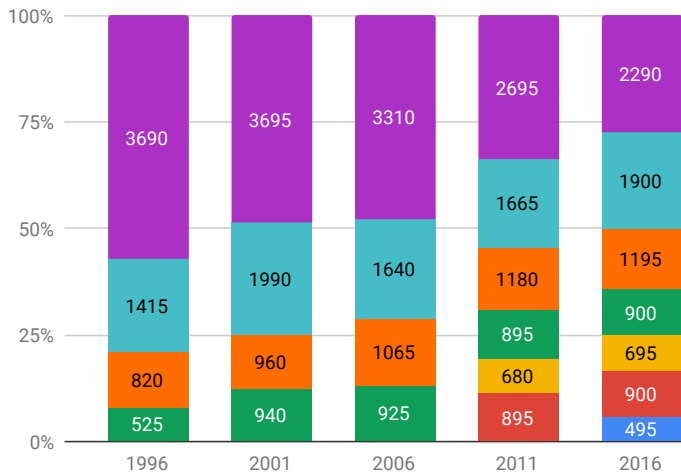
24.9% of Yellowhead County workers earned over \$80,000 compared to 23% of Alberta residents.



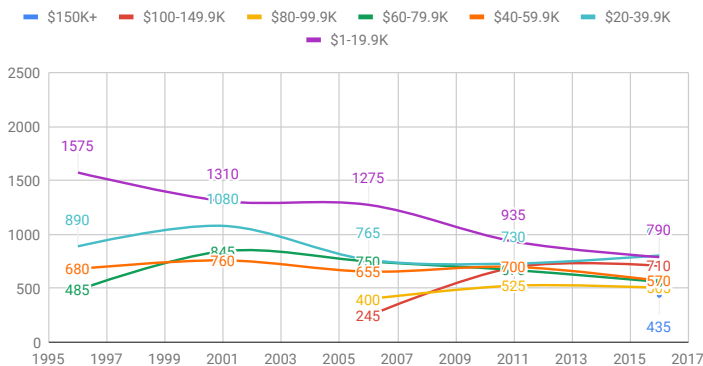
The increased polarization of incomes influences the demand for the two dominant housing types in Yellowhead County.



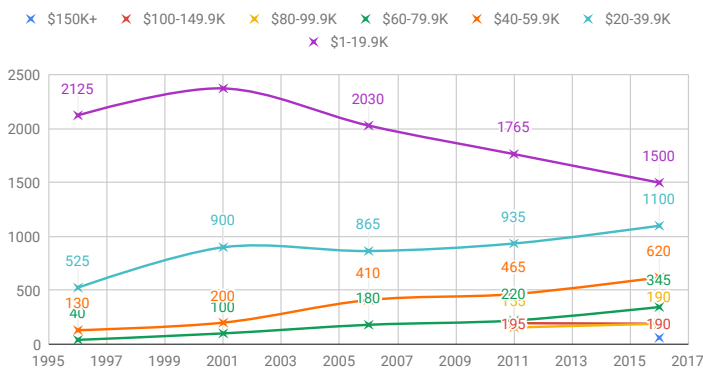
Total Population by Income Bracket (1996-2016)



Male Population by Income Bracket (1996-2016)



Female Population by Income Bracket (1996-2016)



## INCOME CHANGES

### Of Labour Force Participants

The population of workers earning less than \$20K has shrunk by 38%. The population of workers earning more than \$60K has grown by more than 71%, with most of this growth occurring in workers earning over \$100K.

These changes are partially due to inflation. \$20,000 dollars in 1996 is the equivalent of \$30,258 in 2019. Real income has been growing in Yellowhead County at 1.88% per year, adjusted for inflation. Minimum wage increases may also be responsible.

The distribution of male workers between the various income cohorts is very even. There are nearly as many males earning between \$100-150K as males earning less than \$20K. The median income for males in Yellowhead County is \$64,258.

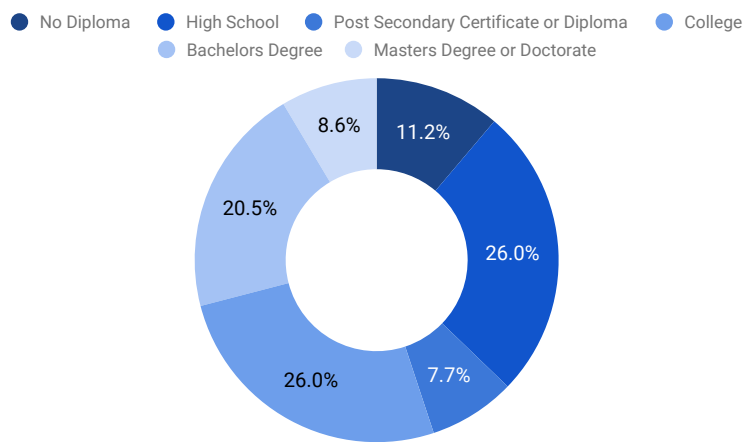
The median female income is \$28,861. Of the workers who earned under \$20K a year, 65% are female. Of those who earned between \$20,000 to \$40,000, 58% are female. There are 50 more females in the \$40-60K income bracket than males. Of the 14.3% of workers who earned between \$60-80K, 38% are female. 17% of workers in the two highest income brackets are female.

Yellowhead County's \$99K median household income is likely to be comprised of either a lone male higher income earner, a high income earner with a partner who works part-time, or two workers who earn between \$40-60K.

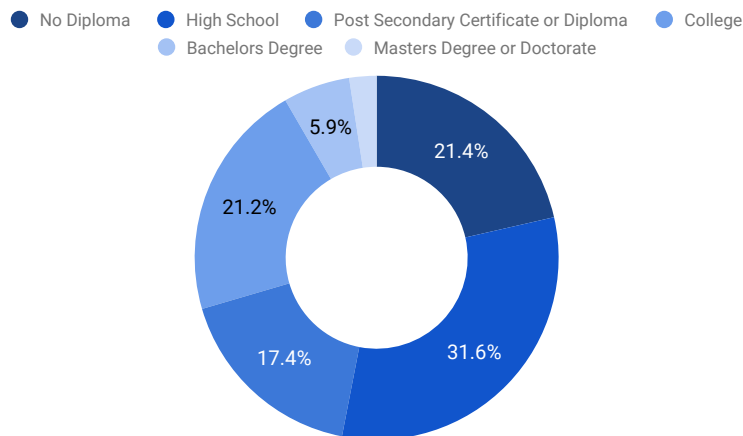
## Education

**This variable refers to the highest level of education that the population between the ages of 24 and 65 has successfully completed.**

Alberta Highest Level of Schooling (2016)



Yellowhead County Highest Level of Schooling (2016)



### Educational Attainment

While median incomes are relatively comparable to Alberta, educational attainment is not. 63% of Albertans have some post secondary education compared to 47% of residents from Yellowhead County.

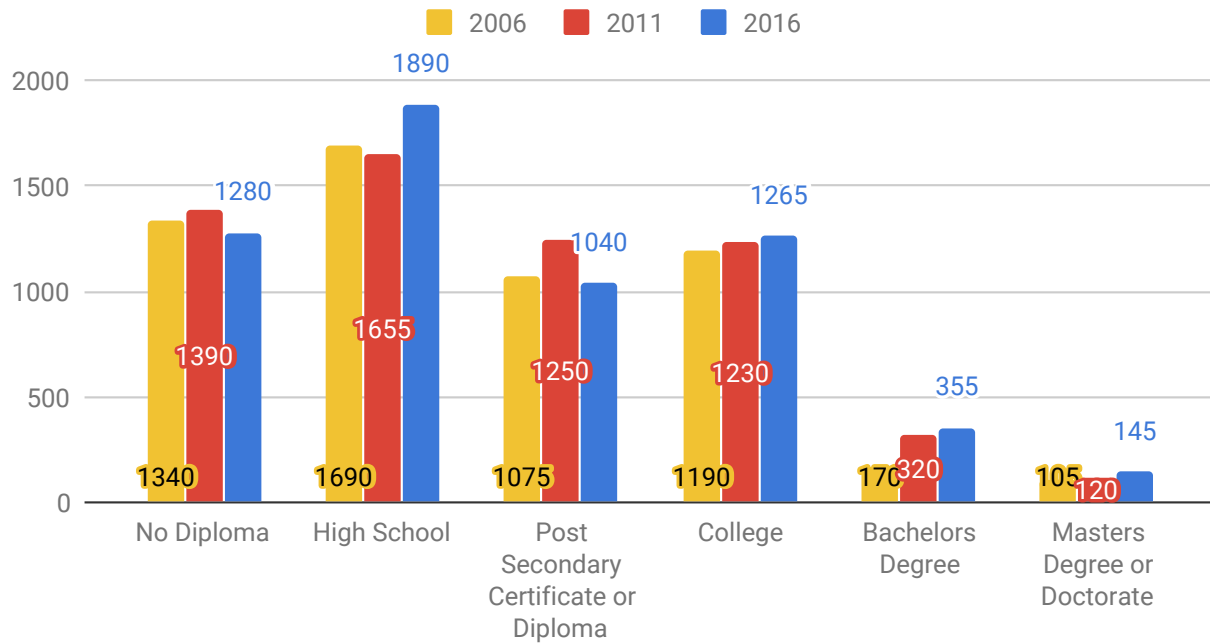
More than 1 out of 5 Yellowhead County residents between age 24 and 65 does not have a high school diploma. This amounts to 1280 people.

Of the 1890 people with a high school diploma, 1040 have some post secondary training such as a certificate. 1265 have a non-university degree or diploma. 355 residents have a Bachelors degree.

5.9% of Yellowhead County has a Bachelors degree compared to the 20.5% of Albertans who hold a Bachelors degree.

Educational attainment is increasing rapidly in Alberta and Canada, with the proportion of the population with some post secondary education moving from 56% and 57% in 2004 to 63% and 65% in 2014. The proportion of Yellowhead County Residents with some post secondary has also increased from 45.7% to 46.9%.

## Yellowhead County Educational Attainment (2006-2016)



### Education in Rural Canada

**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**  
1.2% ANNUAL GROWTH

**BACHELOR DEGREE**  
7.6% ANNUAL GROWTH

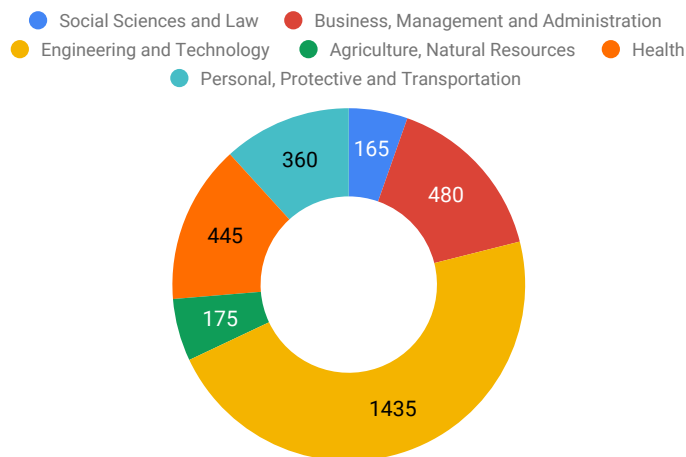
The statistics are encouraging for education in Yellowhead County despite the unfavorable comparison with Alberta at large. The population of residents with a high-school diploma has increased by 14% since 2011, compared to 5% of population growth since 2011. This indicates that more residents are getting a high school diploma.

It is not the case that new residents who move to the county tend to already have a diploma. The population of Yellowhead County has generally become more highly educated from 2006 to 2016. Access to education has generally reduced incidences of rural poverty in Canada. With a standardized curriculum, individuals who cannot find work in their home community have skills which allow them to find compatible employment elsewhere. This has also had the effect of 'educating' individuals to leave their rural hometowns (Reimer and Bollman, 2018). Access to standardized training has accelerated the filling of labour gaps in rural communities, but it has also not informed students about possible local job prospects (Redden, 2005).

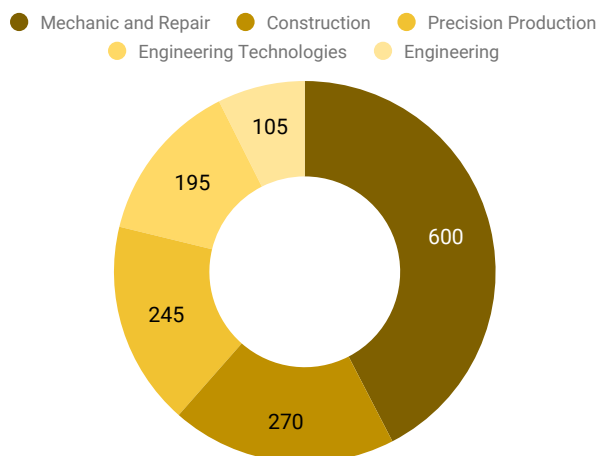
## Education

**This variable refers to the predominant area of learning or training of a person's highest completed postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree, for those over 15 years old.**

Major Fields of Study (2016)



Studies in Engineering and Technology (2016)



### Post Secondary

Of the 2805 residents of Yellowhead County with some post secondary education, the major field of study is in Engineering and Technology, making up nearly half of all post secondary education.

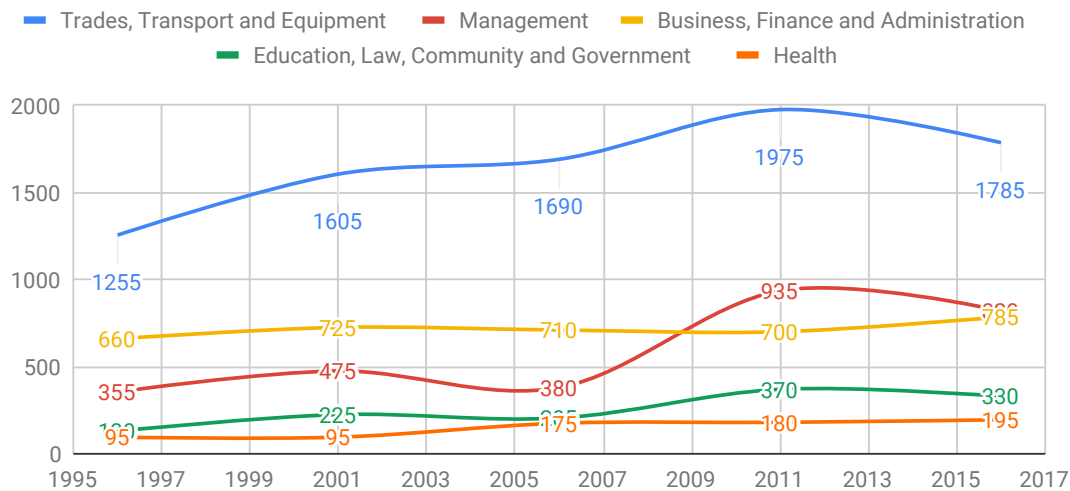
Within this field, 600 residents have some post secondary training in Mechanics and Repair.

Business, Management and Administration training is the second largest post secondary field of study, and management occupations were the fastest growing in the 20 year occupational history of the County.

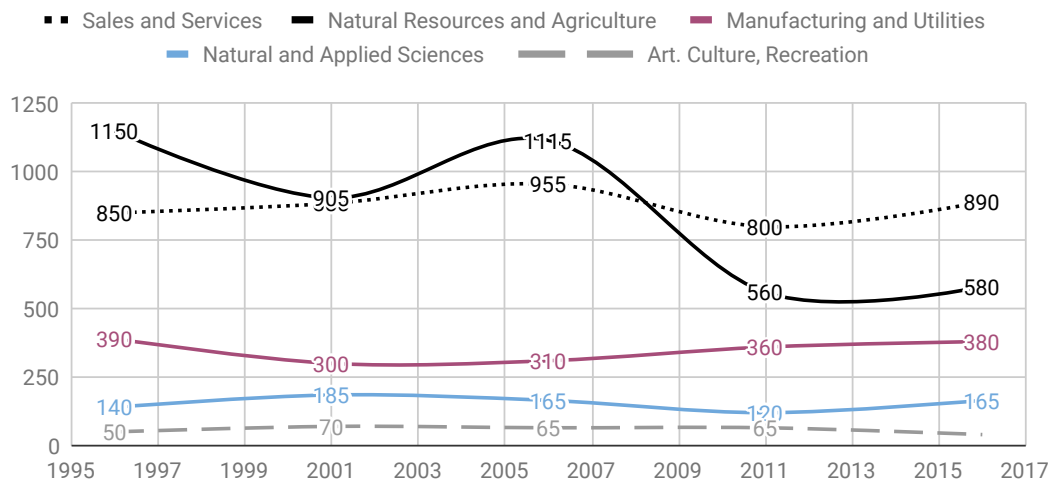
While many residents also studied healthcare, the amount of healthcare jobs in the County has increased slightly. This job data is regionally limited and ignores the new Edson Healthcare Centre.

Education, occupation and industrial flows are a regional phenomenon. More information is needed to understand the labour relationships between Yellowhead County, Edson and Hinton residents.

## Growing Occupation Classes (1996-2016)



## Other Occupation Classes (1996-2016)



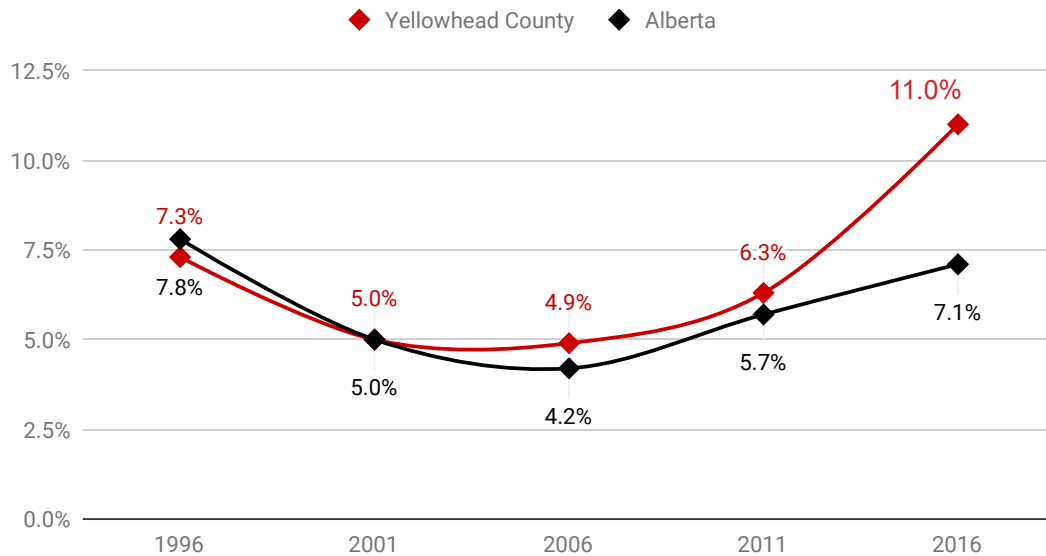
This identifies the work performed by persons aged 15 years and over as determined by the description of the main activities in their job. A lawyer working within an oil company would be in the Education, Law, Community and Government occupation class, not in Natural Resources and Agriculture.

In 1996, the growing occupations employed a total of 1765 people, increasing to 2835 residents, for a net gain of 1070 jobs. The occupations classes holding steady or falling employed 2970 residents in 1996, dropping by 615 jobs to 2355 workers. Natural Resources and Agricultural positions have decreased by 535 people, or nearly 50%.



## Employment

### Unemployment Rate (1996-2016)



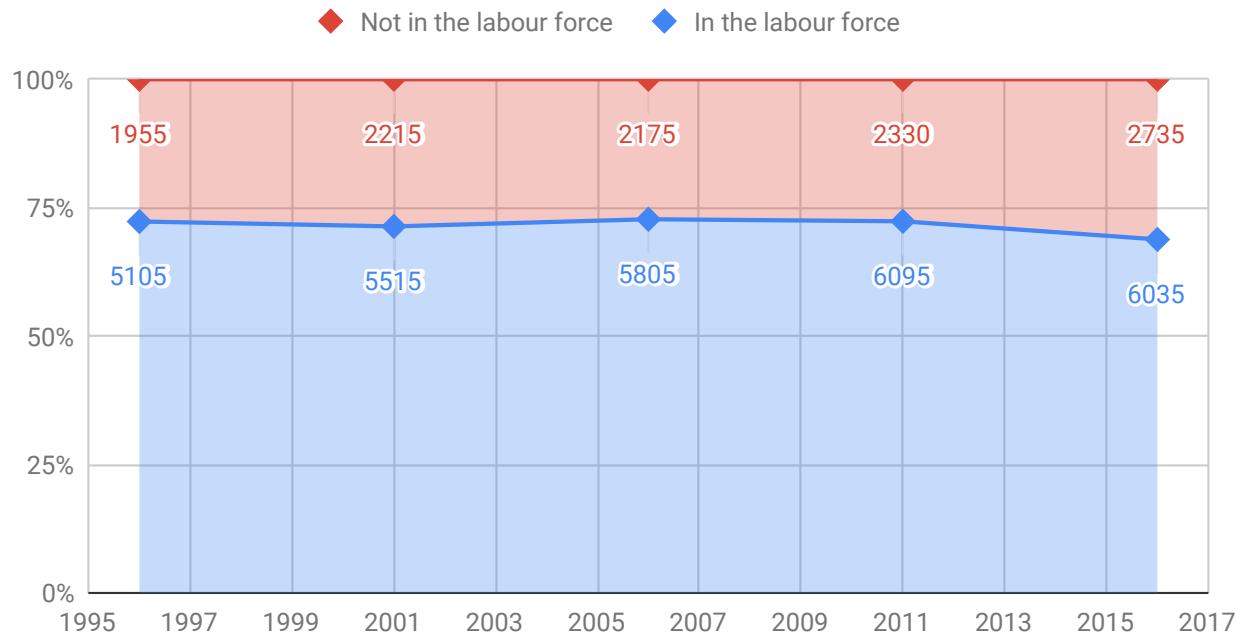
### Changing Occupations and Industry

The unemployment rate is defined as the number of unemployed workers and people searching for a paid job, expressed as a percentage of the labour force. Yellowhead County unemployment diverged from the Alberta unemployment rate in 2014. This is likely due to a regional economy with relatively more employment in resource extraction, construction and agriculture compared to the overall Alberta economy. Annual job growth (+0.68%) is higher than the population growth rate. This indicates a potential for labor shortages in the industry and occupation classes which are gaining these jobs.

A two-century long trend of increases in the value of human labour has seen farming and other businesses in rural Canada continuously substitute machines for labour (Schultz, 1972). Rural communities are seeing a continuous decline in the number of workers producing commodities (Reimer & Bollman, 2018). This substitution of machines for labour causes rural depopulation in every community which cannot generate employment in another sector faster than what is being replaced in the primary sector. Regardless of the change in the price of the output, the increasing value of labour means that fewer and fewer workers will be employed.

Primary sector employment in Yellowhead County has fallen due to higher labour costs as real median incomes rise, and falling output prices in 2014.

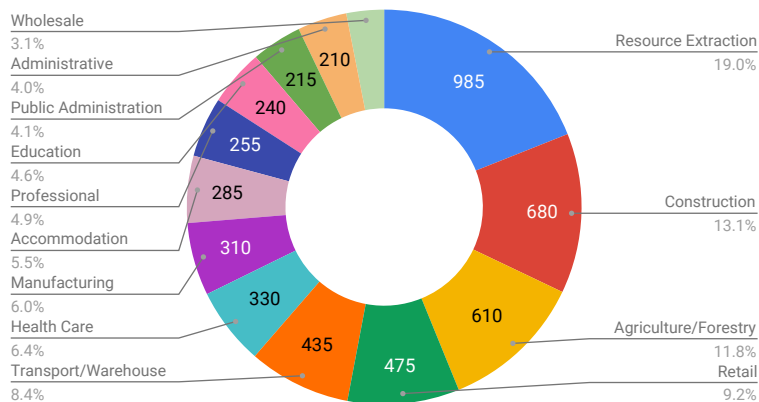
## Population Older than 15 Years by Labour Force Activity



## Labour Force Participation

The aging local population, the influx of retirees and a largely primary sector economy may present a considerable labour challenge. With a labour force participation rate of 68.8%, Yellowhead County is lower than Parkland (70.2%), Woodlands (72.4%), Greenview (72.7%) and Brazeau County (73.8%). This may indicate a future challenge in finding qualified employees for growing industries such as healthcare, wholesale and manufacturing. Job growth in general is out-pacing population growth in Yellowhead County.

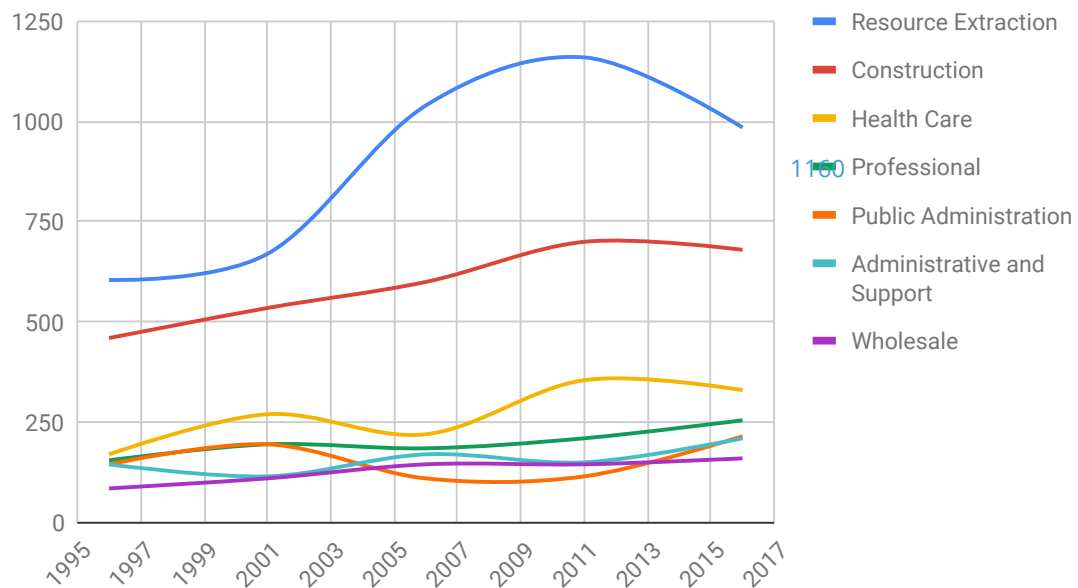
### Employment per Industry (2016)



Nearly 1 in 3 Yellowhead County workers was employed in either resource extraction or construction in 2016. Construction has grown as an employment industry and responded fairly well to economic downturns. Resource extraction has also grown, but with much more volatility. Agriculture and Forestry employment has decreased steadily.

## Industry

### Industry Experiencing Employment Growth (1996-2016)



## Growing Industry

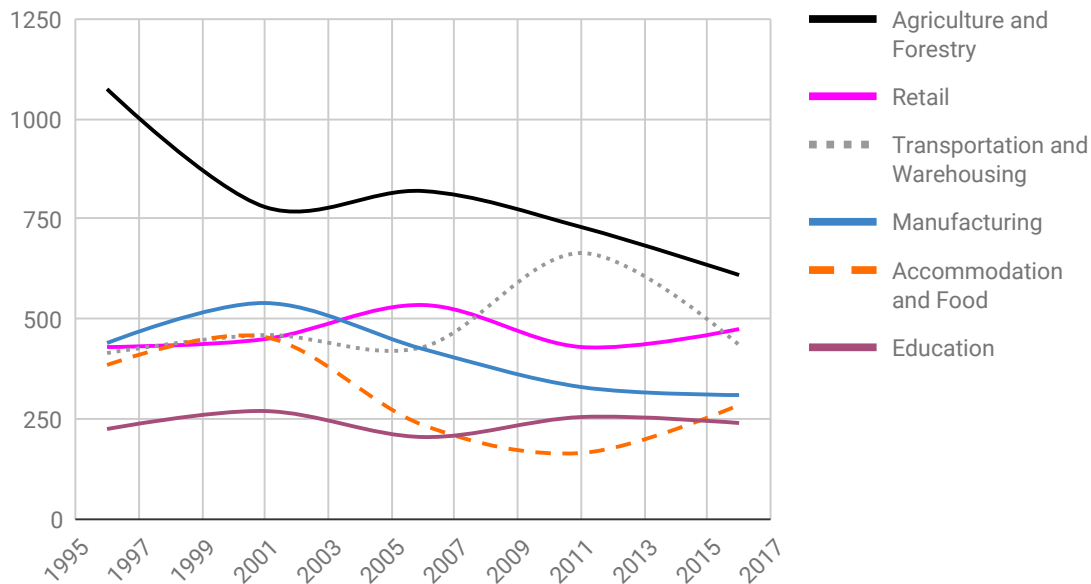
### Yellowhead County

Industry is defined by Stats Canada as the general nature of the business carried out in the establishment where the person worked. A lawyer working in an oil company would be counted in Resource Extraction, not in Professional. Employment in the Resource Extraction industry has grown at 3.14% per year since 1996, despite a 175 job decrease between 2011 and 2016. Construction has grown more slowly at 2.4% a year. This growth has been more steady, without the boom and bust displayed by Resource Extraction.

### Resource Extraction, Construction, Healthcare and Professional industry employment is growing faster than the population.

Healthcare industry employment has grown from 170 to 330 jobs, reaching a peak of 355 in 2011 which represents annual growth of 4.7% a year. This growth rate may increase as an older population increases demand for healthcare services.

## Industry Experiencing Employment Loss (1996-2016)



## Shrinking and Stable Industry

### *Yellowhead County*

Once the dominant industry in Yellowhead County, employment in Agriculture and Forestry has shrunk by 2.2% since 1996 to become the 3rd largest industry in the County. This loss in industrial employment also coincides with the loss of occupational employment from Natural Resources and Agriculture. In 2011 Transportation and Warehousing companies employed 665 County residents. This dropped to 435 in 2016. As this data pertains only to Yellowhead County workers, additional analysis is needed to identify labour market gaps and issues.

### **Agriculture and Forestry companies employed more than Resource Extraction and Construction combined in 1996.**

Filled jobs in the County increased from 4730 to 5375 since 1996, at an annual growth rate of +0.68% a year. The number of workers in the labour force has increased from 5105 to 6035, growing faster at +0.91% a year. Yellowhead County's high unemployment rate in 2016 may be the result of certain industry and occupation classes losing jobs. It may also be challenging to fill open positions in other fields where employment demand is growing faster than the population can provide.



Children (0-9 Yrs)

1290



Children (0-9 Yrs)

1080



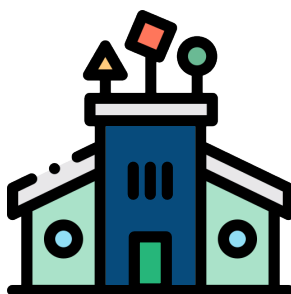
Children (0-9 Yrs)

1365



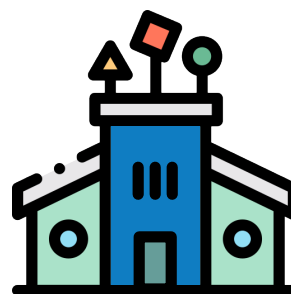
Child Care Spaces

346



Child Care Spaces

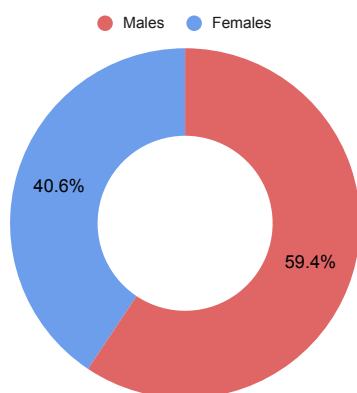
221



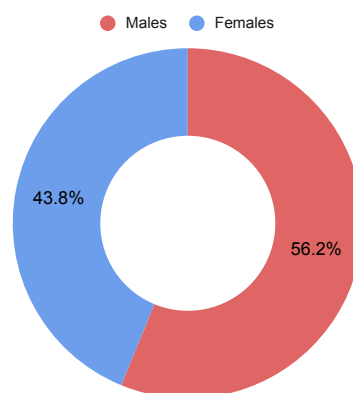
Child Care Spaces

24

1996 Labour Force Participation



2016 Labour Force Participation



In 1996, 1940 females and 2785 males were employed in the County. Unemployment rates were similar at 6.5% and 7.9%. In 2016, 2445 females and 2930 males were employed with unemployment at 7% and 14%.



## Labour and Gender



### BIRTHRATES

More females participating in the paid economy may be due to an inability for families and couples in Yellowhead County to get by on one income. This generally results in a dropping birthrate which would increase the median age. The Dependency Ratio may stay constant as the labor force increases, but over time increase as less children enter the workforce.



### CHILD CARE

The amount of employed females in Yellowhead County has grown faster than the annual population growth rate, with 1.16% annual growth. The availability of a large segment of the workforce depends on quality child care. 6.8 children ages 0-9 per space in the region is an indicator of a potential labour force challenge. The Edmonton Metropolitan Region averages 5.8 children aged 0-12 per licensed space.



### UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate for females was similar in 2016 as it was in 1996. While more data is required for other years, it appears that the labour market has had no problem integrating the increase in female labour. This is likely due to less female employment in industry and occupation classes which have lost the most jobs.

## 2016 Immigration

1015
residents have moved since <b>2015</b>

405
of these moved internally

610
came from elsewhere

540
came from inside Alberta

60
came from outside Alberta

10
came from outside Canada

---

3225
residents have moved since <b>2010</b>

1415
of these moved internally

1815
came from elsewhere

1360
came from inside Alberta

345
came from outside Alberta

110
came from outside Canada

---

The majority of new residents come from inside Alberta, making up 75% of all new residents who moved to Yellowhead County between 2016 and 2011, and 89% of residents who moved here after 2014.

## Low Income

### In 2015, 9.9% of Yellowhead County households were deemed to be low income based on the LIM-AT

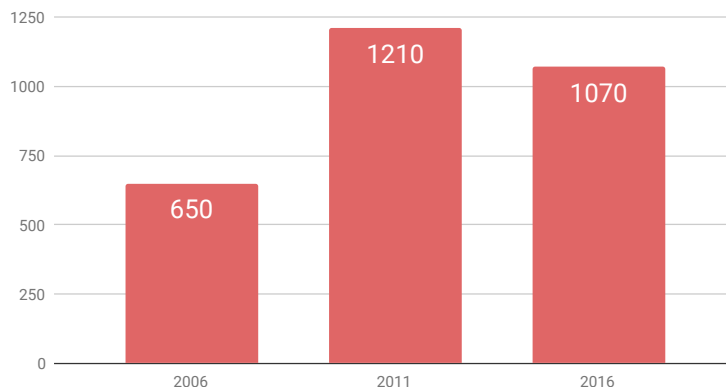
The Low Income Measure, after tax (LIM-AT), refers to the fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted after tax income of private households. When the unadjusted after-tax income of a household pertaining to a person falls below the threshold applicable to the person, the person is considered to be in low income according to LIM-AT. This is adjusted for household sizes to reflect increasing needs.

In 2015, 9.9% of Yellowhead County households were deemed to be low income based on the LIM-AT. Compared to 6.7% of Parkland County and 9.3% of Edmonton Metropolitan Region households, the Yellowhead County incidence of low income is higher.

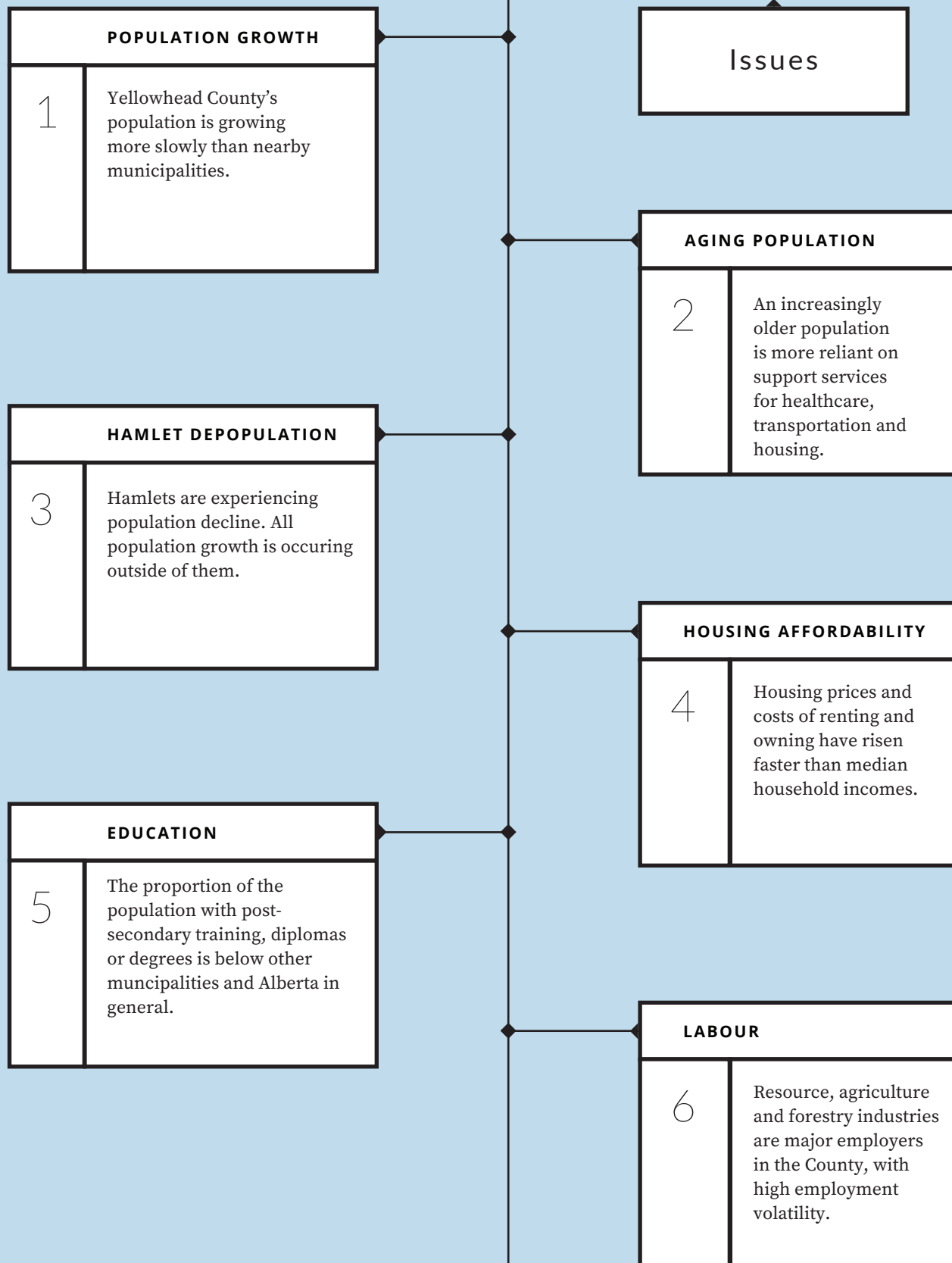
This 9.9% amounts to 1070 individuals. 575 of these individuals were between 18-64 years old and 245 were over 65 years of age. In relative terms, 14.8% of residents over the age of 65 have low income status. This is a dramatic increase from 9.8% in 2011 and 2.5% in 2006.

There were 245 children living in low income households in 2016. This is a decrease from the 350 children in low income households in 2011, when nearly 15% of children were living in households considered to be low income.

Individuals in LIM-AT Households (2006-2016)



The proportion of individuals in LIM-AT households was 6.5% in 2006, 11.7% in 2011 and 9.9% in 2016. This down, up, down relationship is also seen in Parkland County.







*Recognized as a place of choice for those who  
want to be where great things happen.*





## Regional Disclaimer

The information presented in this report presents data collected in the National Census about Yellowhead County residents.

Population, job, education and industry flows don't correspond to any singular municipal boundary. This is especially true in a region where one rural municipality surrounds two small town centers. The relationships between the major service centers and the surrounding residents of Yellowhead County cannot be full understood by analyzing just one set of data.

**A regional demographic and labour market report may more accurately inform decision makers in Administration and Council.**



DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT