

2006 CENSUS - POPULATION COUNTS

2006 Census Data Released

Population and dwelling counts from the May 16th 2006 Census were released on March 13th, 2007¹. These counts are the final estimates and will remain unchanged in subsequent releases of data from the Census.

Population - May 16, 2006	
CANADA	31,612,897
BC	4,113,487
VANCOUVER CMA	2,116,581
CITY OF VANCOUVER	578,041

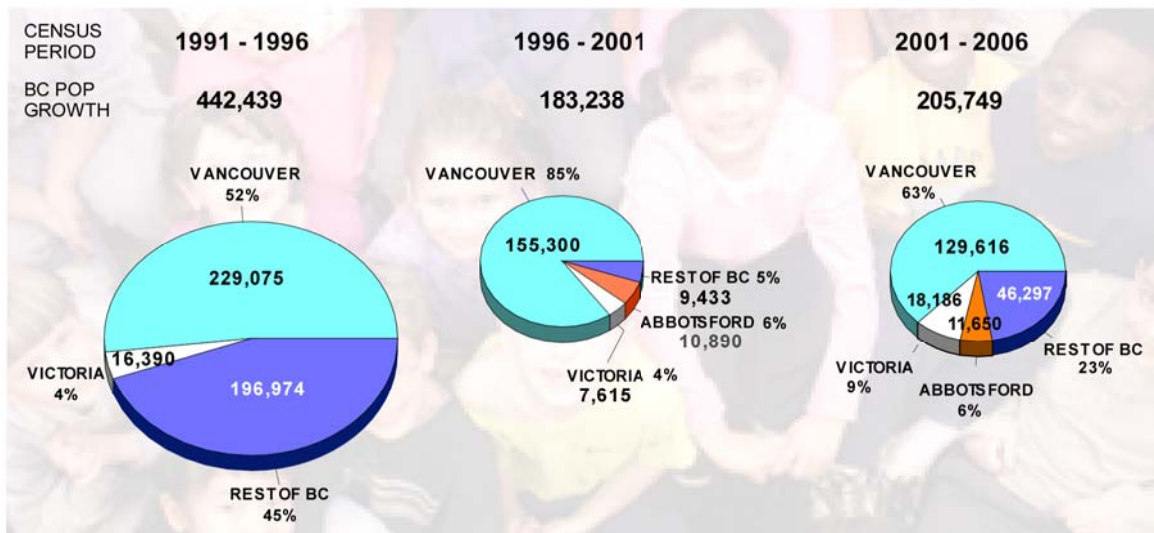
However, Statistics Canada conducts sample surveys after each Census to estimate how many people and dwellings were missed and how many people were counted more than once. The difference between the two is called the “net undercoverage”, and is used to adjust the estimates of *total* population. For the 2006 Census, this survey will not be complete until fall 2008. In 2001, the undercoverage rates for metro Vancouver was 3.9%. As the age groups with the highest undercoverage are the 20-34 age groups, the populations of areas like the city of Vancouver are underestimated more than the populations of other areas.

Less Concentrated National & Provincial Growth

Between 2001 and 2006, Canada’s population grew faster than during the second half of the 1990s, with the national growth rate increasing from 4.0% to 5.4%. In addition, the focus of growth shifted away from Ontario and Alberta that together accounted for 66% of the national increase, compared to 81% in the second half of the 1990s.

BC’s population grew by 5.3% between 2001-06; slightly lower than the national rate and slightly higher than the previous five-year growth rate of 4.9%, but still less than half the 13.5% growth BC experienced in the early 1990s. Almost 13% of the increase in Canada’s population occurred in BC, compared to 16% in 1996-2001 and 23% in 1991-96. Within BC, the focus of growth shifted away from the three Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) of Vancouver, Victoria, and Abbotsford, which had accounted for 95% of BC’s growth between 1996 and 2001. Between 2001 and 2006, the three metro areas accounted for 77% of provincial growth, and areas such as Vernon, Chilliwack and Courtney grew faster than metro Vancouver. However, metro Vancouver’s share of the BC population remained unchanged at 51%.

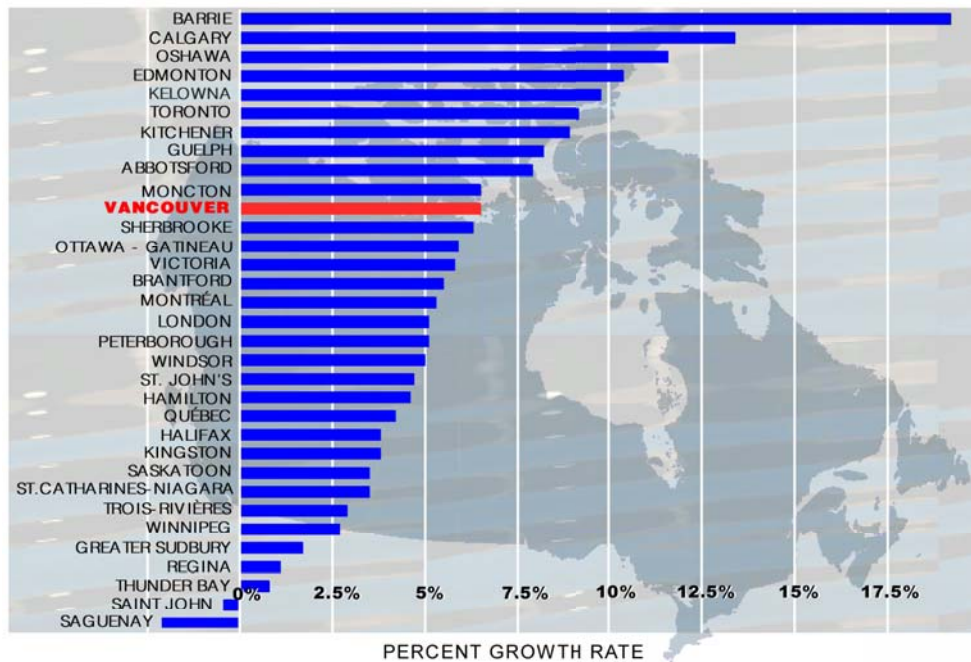
METROPOLITAN AREAS’ SHARE OF BC’S POPULATION GROWTH



Vancouver the Eleventh Fastest Growing CMA in Canada

Between 1991 and 1996, Vancouver was the fastest growing metropolitan area in Canada with a 14.3% growth rate. By the second half of the 1990s, its growth rate had dropped to 8.5%, putting it in fifth place. Between 2001 and 2006, metro Vancouver fell to eleventh place with a growth rate of 6.5% – Barrie, Kelowna, Kitchener, Guelph, Abbotsford and Moncton joined the group of metro areas growing faster than Vancouver. Even with at the lower growth rate, the Vancouver CMA added almost 130,000 people in five years – the equivalent of adding a municipality the size of Abbotsford.

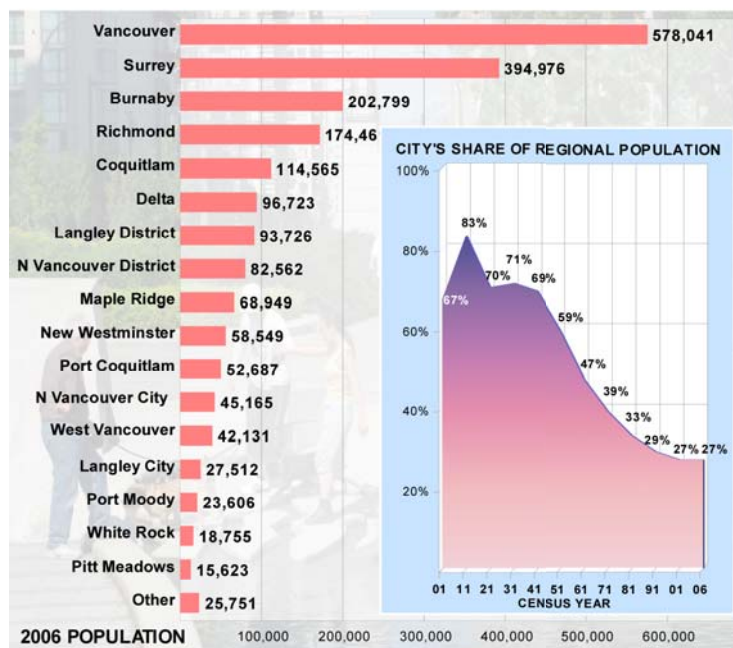
CMA POPULATION GROWTH RATES, 2001 - 2006



Port Moody Growing the Fastest Within Vancouver

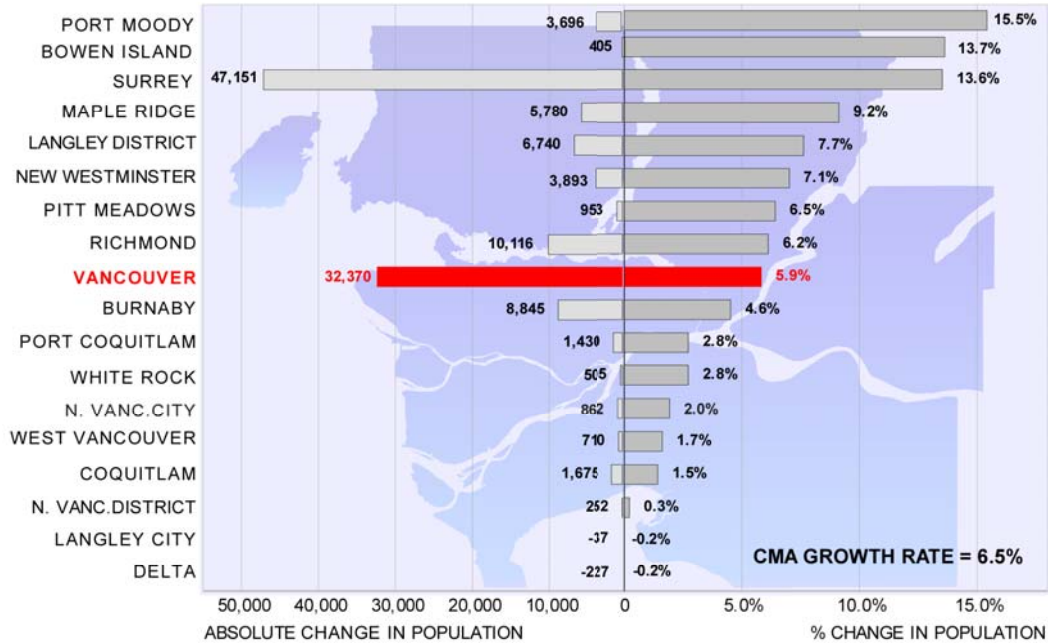
The City is the largest municipality in the Vancouver CMA, and its 2006 population of just over 578,000 is almost 46% larger than that of the next largest municipality of Surrey. Twenty-seven percent of the total CMA population lives within the City of Vancouver.

POPULATION BY MUNICIPALITY, 2006



Within the CMA, the fastest growing municipality was again Port Moody (the fastest growing in 1996-2001 as well) with a growth rate of 15.5%. Delta and Langley were the only municipalities to lose population. In terms of absolute numbers, Surrey experienced the largest increase, with an addition of 47,151 people, or 36% of the total CMA increase. The city's addition of 32,370 people accounted for 25% of the CMA increase. Together, Surrey and Vancouver accounted for 61% of metro growth, compared to 48% between 1996 and 2001. The city's share of regional growth has been increasing steadily since its 4% share in second half of the 1970s – to 15% in the 1980s, and 18% and 20% in the 1990s.

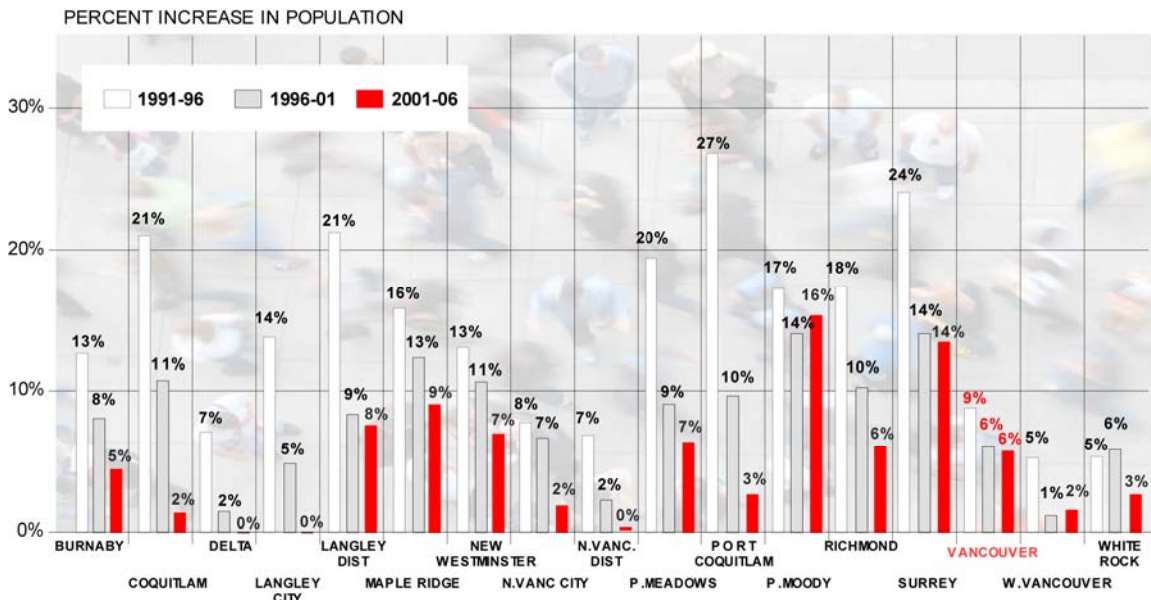
CHANGE IN POPULATION BY MUNICIPALITY, 2001 - 2006



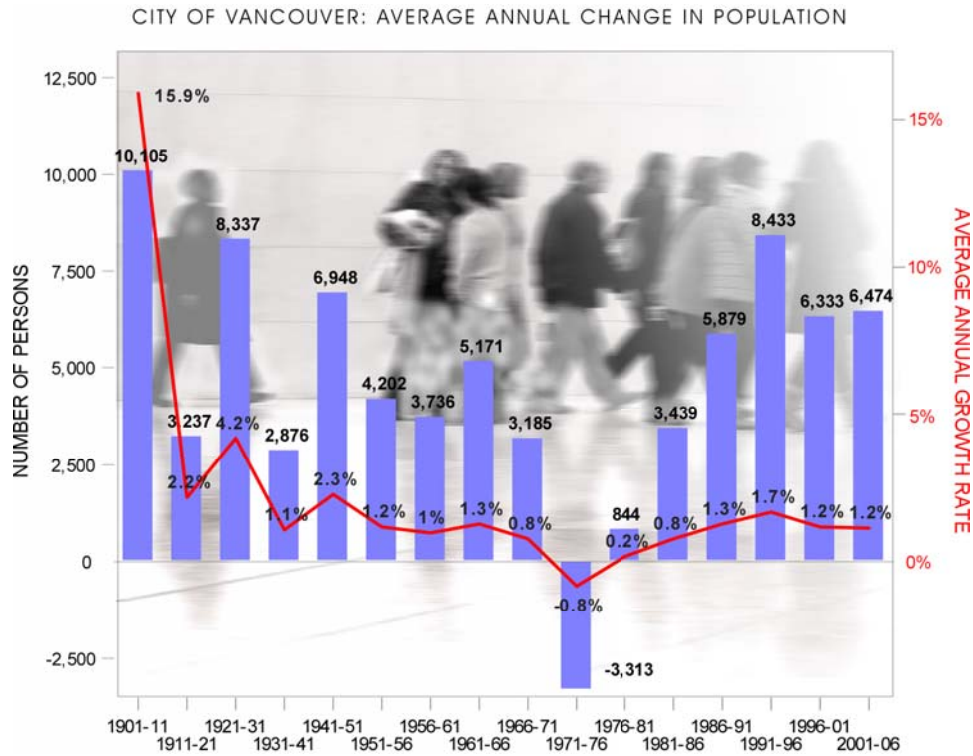
Slower Growth in Almost All Municipalities

All but two municipalities experienced slower growth over the last five years – Port Moody and West Vancouver were the only municipalities to experience faster growth compared to the 1996-2001 period. Surrey, Vancouver, and Langley District experienced the lowest declines in growth rates. Growth was lower in absolute terms for twelve municipalities. Coquitlam, for example, grew by 11,000 people between 1996 and 2001, and by less than 2,000 over the last five years.

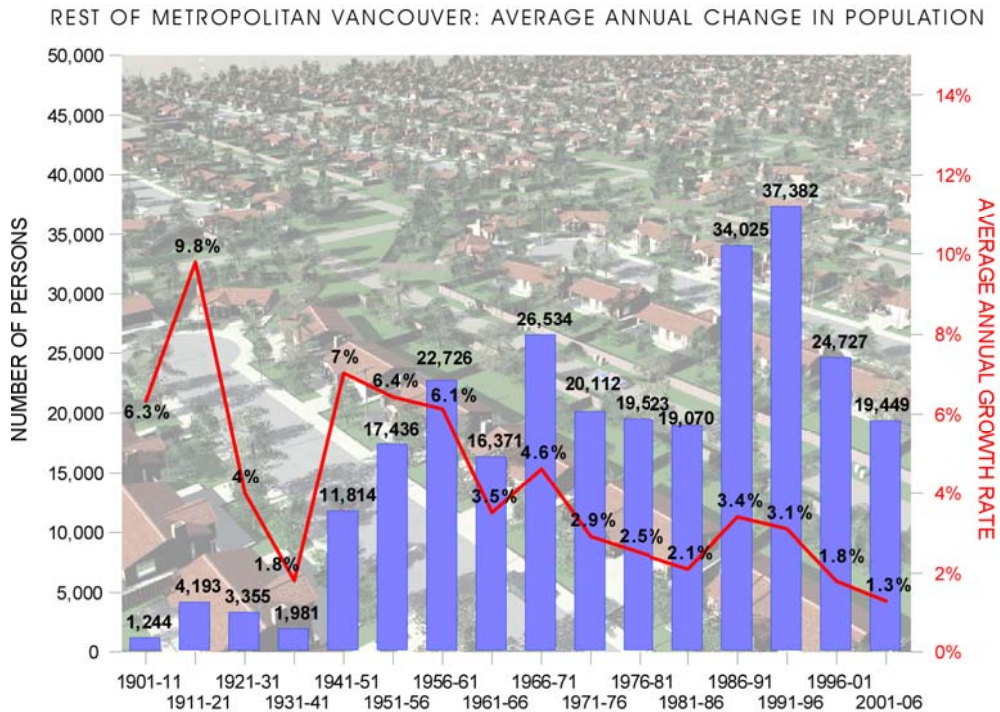
MUNICIPAL GROWTH RATES



The two graphs below show the average annual increments and growth rates (annual compound growth rates) for the city and the rest of the CMA, going back to the early 1900s. Even though the city's annual growth rate of 1.2% is one-third lower than the post-war peak in 1991-96, it is only slightly lower than the growth rate in 1996-01. The average growth of 6,474 people a year is relatively large historically – the equivalent of adding a West Point Grey local area every two years.



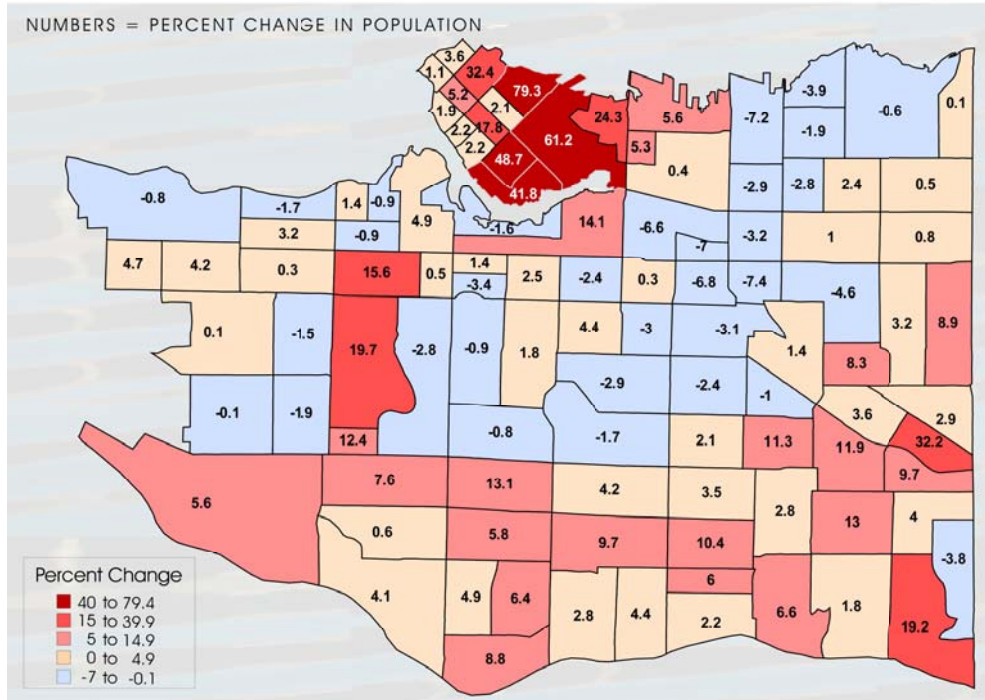
The situation is different in the rest of the CMA. Over the 2001-2006 period, the annual growth rate is 25% lower than in 1996-2001 and is the lowest recorded - lower than the previous "trough" in the 1930s. In terms of the number of people added each year, the average growth of 19,449 people is half of that of the peak reached in 1991-96 and is similar to growth levels in the late 1970s and early 1980s.



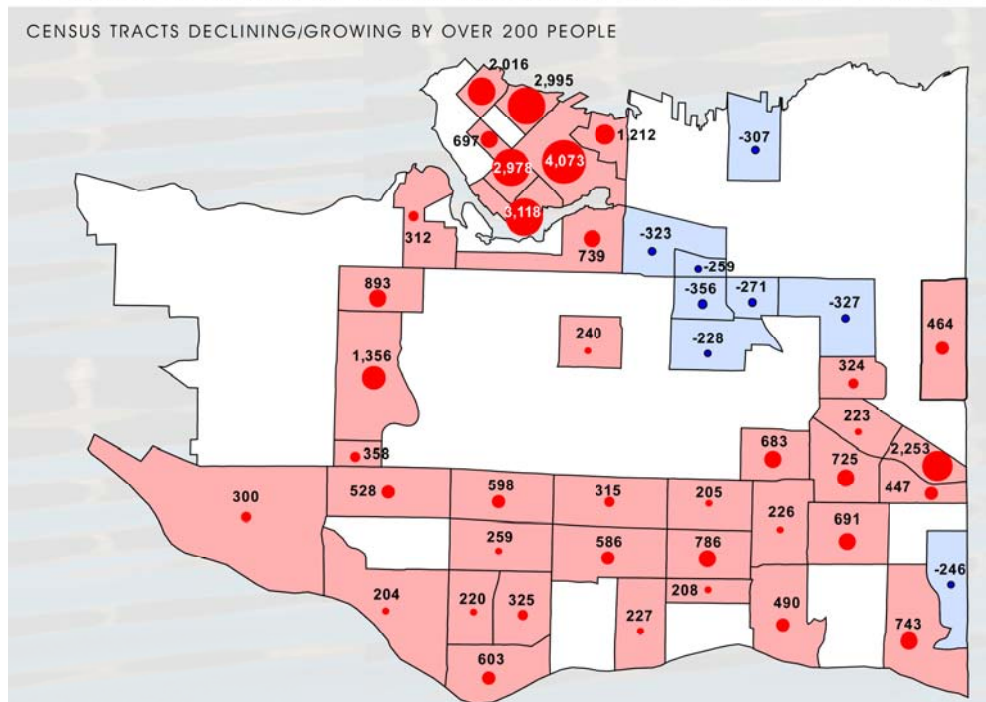
Change Within the City

As was seen in 1996-2001, the highest growth between 2001 and 2006 occurred in the Downtown peninsula, with an overall growth rate of 25%, over half the City's total growth. All Downtown census tracts increased in population - in total by around 17,880, accounting for almost 9% of BC's population increase and nearly 14% of metro Vancouver's growth. As in the last census period, other areas experiencing high rates of increase were those containing the Joyce-Vanness and Arbutus industrial area developments, joined this time by the redeveloped Champlain Mall and Arbutus Village projects. The population decreased in 31 census tracts, including parts of Mount Pleasant and Grandview Woodlands.

POPULATION CHANGE BY CENSUS TRACT, 2001-2006 - PERCENTAGE CHANGE



POPULATION CHANGE BY CENSUS TRACT, 2001-2006 - NUMBER OF PEOPLE



END NOTES

¹ “The 2006 Census counted 31,612,897 people in Canada during the national enumeration with reference day May 16, 2006. This count is lower than the published July 1, 2006 population estimate of 32,623,490 people. The difference between the two figures is not unexpected and is similar to that which was experienced in the 2001 Census. This note outlines why there are differences between census counts and population estimates.

The objective of a census is to provide detailed information at a single point in time on the demographic, social and economic conditions of the population. In this respect, one of its goals is to enumerate the entire population. Inevitably, however, some people are not counted, either because their household did not receive a census questionnaire (for example, if a structurally separate dwelling is not easily identifiable) or because they were not included in the questionnaire completed for the household (for example, the omission of a boarder or a lodger). Some people may also be missed because they have no usual residence and did not spend census night in any dwelling. In contrast, a small number of people may also be counted more than once (for example, a student living away from home may have been enumerated by his parents and by himself at his student address).

To determine how many individuals were missed or counted more than once, Statistics Canada conducts postcensal coverage studies of a representative sample of individuals. Results of these studies in combination with the census counts are used to produce current population estimates which take into account net undercoverage. In 2001, after these adjustments, the population estimate for Canada was 3.1% higher than the population enumerated in the census.”

Statistics Canada, Portrait *of the Canadian Population in 2006, 2006 Census*, 2007, page 41