

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 2/17/2023 3:53:00 PM
Subject: City of Vancouver 2021 Census – Education, Labour, Commuting, Language of school and work
Attachments: Memo to Mayor Council - City of Vancouver 2021 Census Education Labour Commuting Language of school and work.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Theresa O'Donnell and Sandra Singh. This memo summarizes the key indicators for the City in the 2021 Census of Population: formal education; labour force participation and employment; industries and occupations; mode of commute and language of school and work.

Highlights from this release:

- Vancouver has an educated population with 76% of Vancouverites aged 25-64 having post-secondary certificates and 53% having university degrees.
- The unemployment rate was 9% in May 2021, up from 5.6% in 2016. This movement higher is reflective of the impacts resulting from the Pandemic.
- The pandemic also resulted in more Vancouver residents working from home (34%) in 2021 and a decrease in the number of residents commuting to work (down 26%). The share of sustainable modes of transportation including public transit, walking or biking also declined from 50% in 2016 to 41% in 2021.
- Professional, scientific and technical services (15%), followed by health care and social assistance (12%) were the two largest industry sectors in which Vancouver residents worked in 2021.

Should you have any questions about this memo, please contact Theresa O'Donnell (Theresa.o'donnell@vancouver.ca) or Sandra Singh (Sandra.singh@vancouver.ca).

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

February 16, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Director of Operations, Mayor's Office
Aftab Erfan, Chief Equity Officer
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy and Projects, ACCS
Doug Smith, Deputy General Manager, PDS
Chris Robertson, Director, City-wide and Regional Planning, PDS

FROM: Theresa O'Donnell, General Manager, PDS
Sandra Singh, General Manager, ACCS

SUBJECT: City of Vancouver 2021 Census – Education, Labour, Commuting, Language of school and work

RTS #: N/A

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

This memo summarizes key indicators from the 2021 Census of Population and is based on data released on November 30, 2022. This release focuses on formal education; labour force participation and employment; industries and occupations; mode of commute and language of school and work. The memo includes a comparison of Vancouver data to other cities across the Metro Region and Canada. The 2021 Census is a key source of quantitative, population-level data and complements other tools used to identify indicators and trends in the City.

The 2021 Census was conducted by Statistics Canada in May 2021. Initial profiles and datasets were released throughout 2022 and Council received memos on February 28 ([population and dwelling counts](#)), May 10 ([age, sex at birth, gender, and type of dwelling](#)), August 5 ([households, family, and income](#)), October 14 ([housing](#)), October 17 ([Indigenous peoples and languages](#)) and December 12 (immigration, ethnocultural diversity and mobility).

HIGHLIGHTS

This page summarizes high-level statistics from the latest Census release. Appendix A provides more detail and context about how the data was collected and its limitations. Appendix B lists the 2021 Census releases and dates. Appendix C summarizes the COVID-19 public health measures that were in effect when the data was collected.

Formal education

- Seventy-six percent (76%) of Vancouverites aged 25-64 have a post-secondary certificate.
- Vancouver residents are more likely to hold university degrees (53% of people aged 25-64) than residents of Metro Vancouver overall (43%).

Labour

- The labour force participation rate held steady at 68% in May 2021. There was a 6.6 percentage point gap in participation between men+ and women+.
- Vancouver's unemployment rate was 9.0% in May 2021, an increase from 5.6% recorded in the 2016 Census. Labour Force Survey data shows that unemployment in Metro Vancouver has now returned to pre-pandemic levels (4% in November 2022).
- About 34% of employed Vancouver residents reported working from home (WFH) most of the time in May 2021, compared to 9% in May 2016. Important to note that WFH isn't an option for all employed Vancouver residents. Since the 2021 Census, other surveys are showing an overall decrease in WFH.
- The largest industry sectors employing Vancouver residents are professional, scientific and technical services (15%), followed by health care and social assistance (12%).
- Accommodation and food services industries had the largest decrease compared to the previous census, with 18% fewer Vancouver residents employed in this sector.

Commuting

- The number of Vancouver residents commuting to a workplace decreased by 26% in 2021 compared to the 2016 Census, reflecting the impacts of the pandemic.
- Sustainable modes of transportation including public transit, walking or biking accounted for 41% of all modes of commute in 2021, a decline from 2016 (50%). A majority of commuters (56%) in 2021 were automobile drivers or passengers. The pandemic may have temporarily disrupted trends toward increased use of sustainable modes of transportation.
- Most Vancouver residents who travelled to a usual workplace work within the city. Over half of them (60%) were able to travel to work within 30 minutes.

Language of school and work

- About 20% of children in Vancouver are in a Francophone or French Immersion school. Data on other languages is not available.
- Nearly 12% of workers regularly use a non-English language at their workplace.

NEXT STEPS

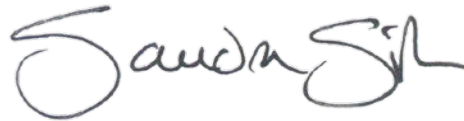
This memo concludes the initial series of Census information releases.

Staff have submitted requests for customized datasets, including neighbourhood-specific profiles, disaggregated population data, custom tabulations, and data accessed through partnerships. These datasets will inform further policy and program work and will be reflected in this work as it is reported to Council. Staff can also provide further briefings and updates upon request.

For any questions or further information, please contact Theresa O'Donnell or Sandra Singh, and responses will be provided through the weekly Council Q&As.



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APPENDIX A CITY OF VANCOUVER ANALYSIS OF 2021 CENSUS OF POPULATION NOVEMBER 30, 2022 RELEASE

Data collection methods and limitations

Data in this appendix is self-reported and collected from the long-form census, given to a 25% sample of private households. People in collective dwellings, such as shelters, healthcare or institutional residences, are not included, nor are people in precarious housing. In addition, the census data is limited to formalized education and employment status, arrangements, programs and credentials: there is no data on informal economies or other forms of learning. Topic-specific considerations and limitations are described in each section.

Data on employment is based on their status during the week of May 2 to 8, 2021. At this time, there were many public health measures in effect in British Columbia, including restrictions on gathering and travel; the initial vaccination campaign was just beginning to reduce transmission of COVID-19. Data therefore reflects mixed trends of closures and employment loss in some sectors, ongoing essential work that continued to require travel to a physical workplace, and a large increase in work from home for other sectors and industries. The provincial public health orders and guidelines in effect in May 2021 are reported in Appendix C.

Formal education

Levels of education

Education is an important way for many people to access economic opportunities, build knowledge and experience, and connect with communities. However, formal credentials are not the only indicator of education, understanding, or ability. The 2021 Census asks people to identify whether they have received various certificates, diplomas, or degrees. The Census data release then refers to people's "highest" level of education, but does not measure concepts like family or cultural knowledge, lived experience, or less formal practices of study. This hierarchical framing means that the data does not reflect different ways people practice lifelong learning and combine different sources of knowledge and experience.

According to the 2021 Census, 94% of Vancouver residents aged 25-64 have completed high school or equivalent. This is consistent with statistics from the BC Ministry of Education that 94% of Vancouver School Board students complete high school within six years.¹ School completion data also shows continued gaps in the school system enabling completion for some students, such as Indigenous students or those with specific accommodation needs.

Across Canada, more than two-thirds of people aged 25-64 have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree. As shown in Figure 1, this rate is 76% in the City of Vancouver, one of the highest rates among large cities in Canada. The rate is increasing over time.

¹ BC Ministry of Education, Completion rates from Vancouver School District in 2021/2022: <https://studentsuccess.gov.bc.ca/school-district/039/report/completion-rates>

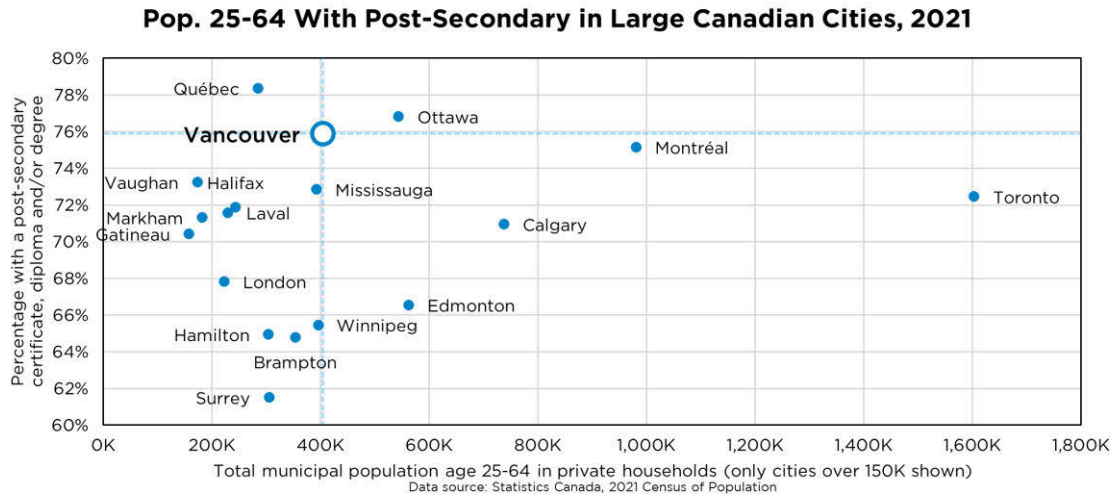


Figure 1 Population aged 25-64 with a post-secondary certificate in large Canadian cities, 2021

In addition to high levels of post-secondary education, the population of the City of Vancouver also skews towards university degrees rather than other types of certificates, as shown in Figure 2. A majority of Vancouver residents have at least a bachelor’s degree. Compared to the Metro region, Vancouver residents are nearly 20% more likely to have a bachelor’s degree as their “highest” credential, and almost 30% more likely to have a post-graduate degree, such as a master’s, doctorate or professional after-degree.

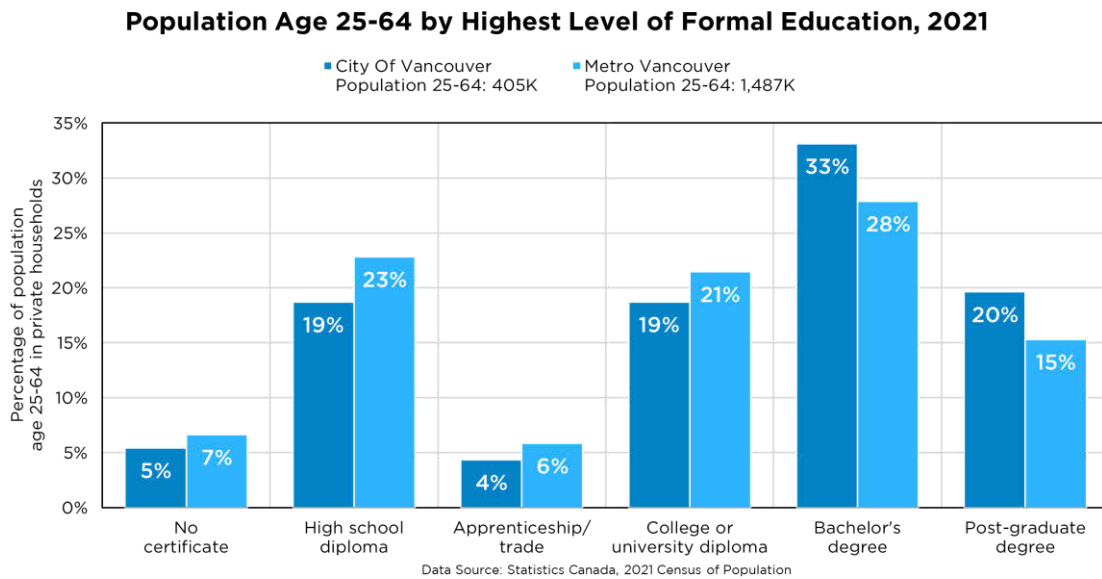


Figure 2 Population aged 25-64 by highest level of formal education in Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, 2021

Locations and fields of study

Although Vancouver residents have high levels of formal education, people who completed their studies outside of Canada may face barriers to having their certificates recognized. As shown in Figure 3, approximately one-third of Vancouverites with post-secondary degrees received their highest level of post-secondary education outside of Canada. This is higher than Canada overall, but lower than other parts of the Metro Vancouver region.

Population 25-64 with Post-Secondary by Location of Study, 2021

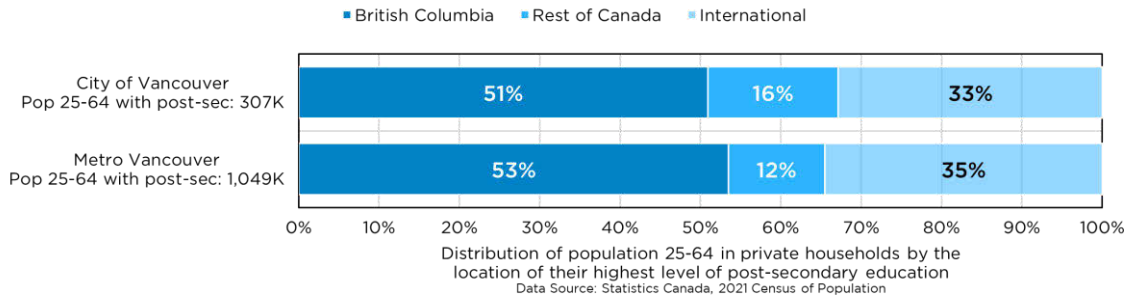


Figure 3 Population aged 25-64 by location of post-secondary education in Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, 2021

Statistics Canada also classifies the area of study for people’s highest level of formal post-secondary education. The most common fields of post-secondary study among people in Vancouver are those in business, management, or public administration. Compared to Metro Vancouver, Vancouver residents are more likely to have studied social sciences, communications, or fine arts; but less likely to have studied engineering, mechanical or construction trades. Figure 4 compares major fields of study.

Population 15+ by Post-Secondary Field of Study, 2021

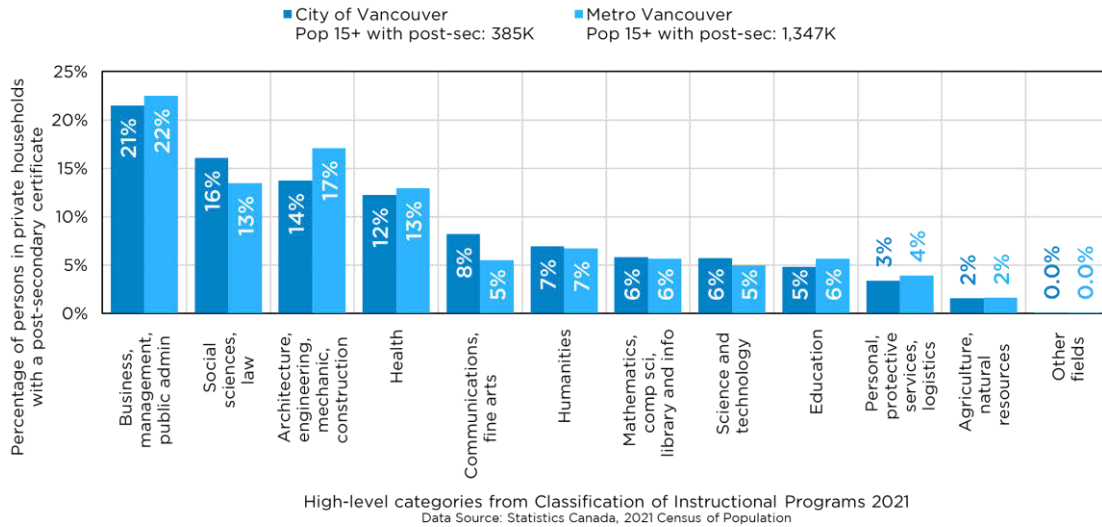


Figure 4 Population aged 15+ with post-secondary in Vancouver and Metro Vancouver by field of study, 2021

Labour

The 2021 Census asks for information on the labour market activities of the Canadian population aged 15 and older living in private households. The data release includes employment status and job industry according to National Occupational Classification (NOC) or North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Canada 2017. In this appendix, staff analyzed the data using NAICS to reflect a more detailed industry classification.

Participation rate

Participation rate refers to the percentage of population aged 15 and older who are in the labour force, whether they were employed or unemployed² in 2021. From 2016 to 2021, there was a 6% increase in the total population aged 15 and older, with the participation rate holding steady at 68%. The labour force participation rate has slowly increased since 2001. Sex- and gender-based gaps in the labour force participation were slightly reduced as well, but there is still a large gender gap. Figure 5 shows these trends.

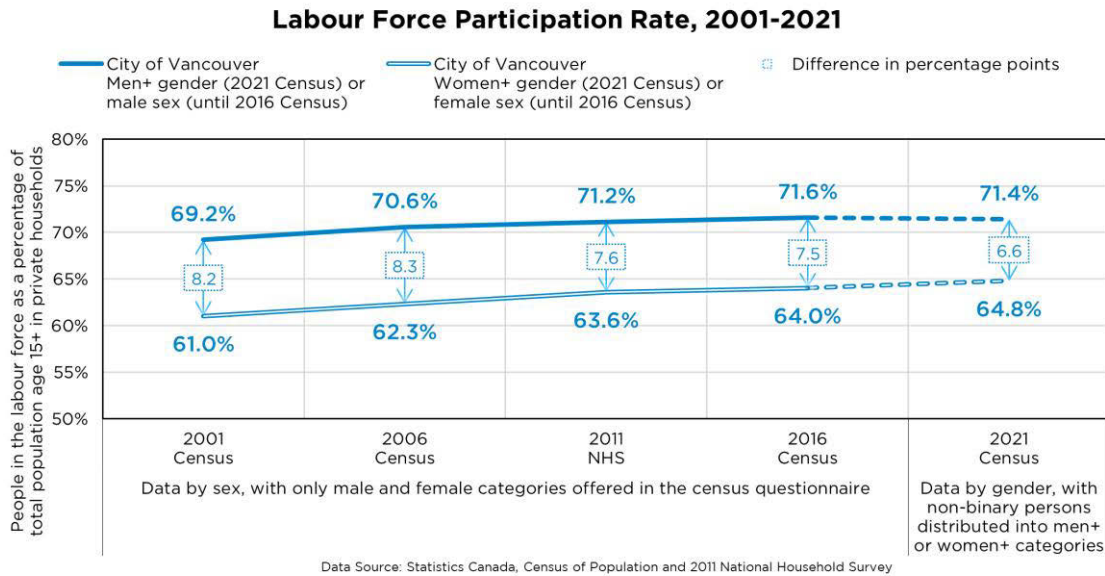


Figure 5 City of Vancouver labour force participation rate by gender (2021) or sex (2001-2016)

Unemployment rate

Figure 6 depicts the unemployment rate from 2001 to 2022 from both the census program and the monthly Labour Force Survey, which was conducted separately by Statistics Canada.³ The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health restrictions are reflected in a high level (9%) of unemployment. Higher unemployment rate reflects public health restrictions and orders that impacted employment in many sectors in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during the 2021 census reference period. Labour Force Survey data shows that Metro Vancouver has seen a recovery in employment after May 2021, with the unemployment rate falling to around 4% by November 2022.

² Unemployed population refers to persons were without paid work or without self-employment work, were available for work and either: (a) had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks; or (b) were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or (c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.

³ Labour Force Survey is a monthly survey by Statistics Canada which measures the current state of the Canadian labour market and is used, among other things, to calculate the national, provincial, territorial and regional employment and unemployment rates. More information can be found here: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/survey/household/3701>

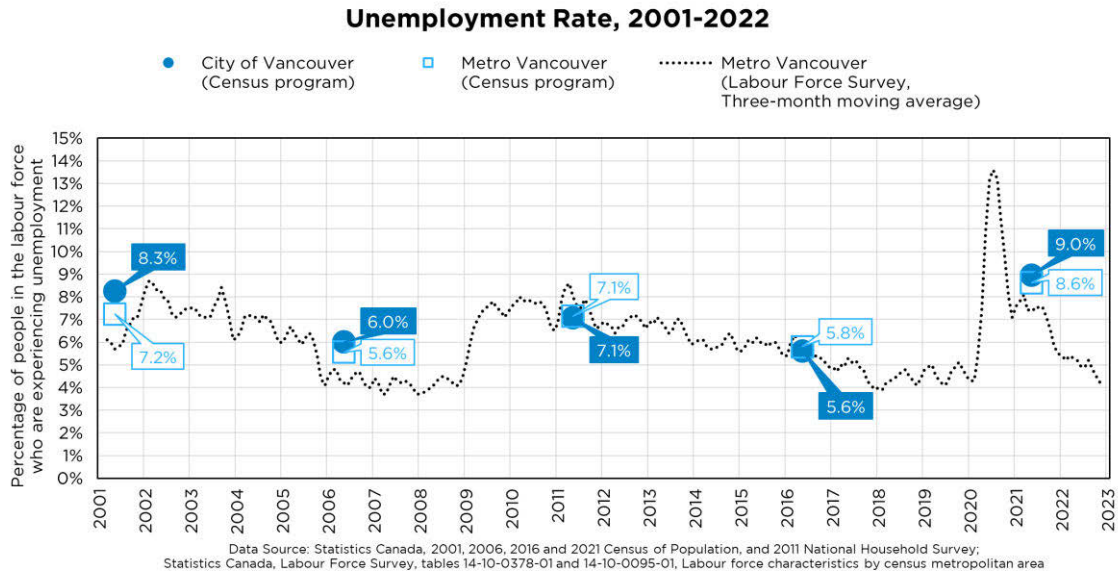


Figure 6 Unemployment rate in Metro Vancouver and Vancouver, 2001-2022

Data is not yet available to assess whether the recovery in employment has been equitable. Data from the 2016 Census and 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability showed disproportionate experiences of unemployment among persons with disabilities and groups like youth, immigrants, Indigenous, and racialized populations. Staff will analyze more disaggregated data from the 2021 Census when it becomes available.

Place of work status

Figure 7 shows the trend of working from home in the past 20 years. With the flexible work program offered by a number of companies, census data shows a large increase in working from home population—almost three times compared to the previous census period. Fewer people (82,000 less population than in 2016) were working at a usual location than in 2016. More recent data from the Statistics Canada Survey on Business Conditions shows that the rate of working from home has come down since May 2021, with 18% of workers in Vancouver working remotely most or all of the time in Q2 2022. Although this number is not directly comparable with the work from home rate for Vancouver residents in the 2021 Census, it shows that there was likely a reduction in work from home in later phases of the pandemic.

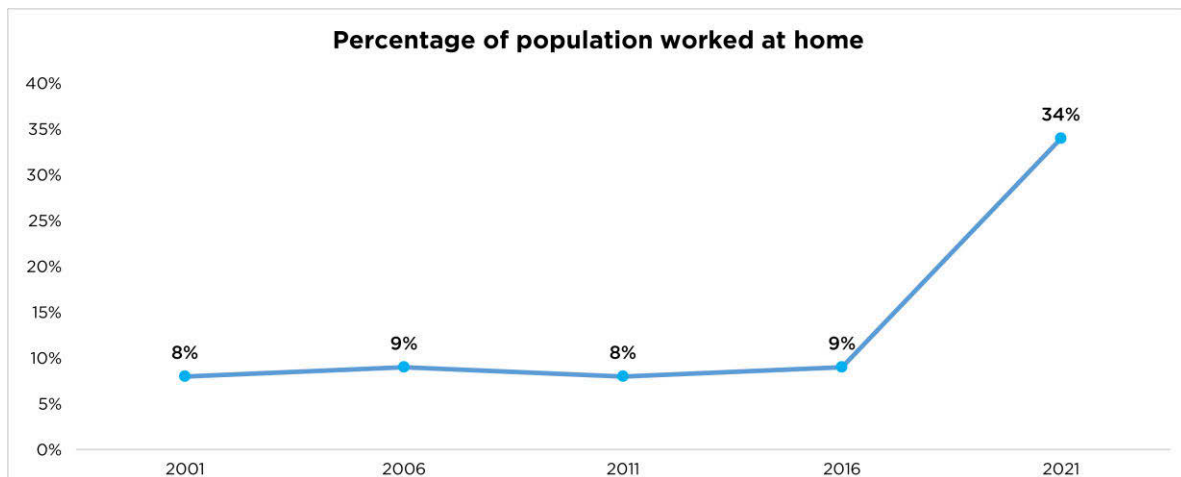


Figure 7 Percentage of employed population worked at home in May 2021
Data source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Even at the most acute stages of the pandemic, working from home was not an option for many people. For example, industries categorized as essential services may lack opportunities to work from home. Figure 8 demonstrates that many groups were less likely to be working from home in 2021 including: younger and older workers; those without university degrees; workers in specific sectors that provided essential services throughout the pandemic; and in aggregate, lower-income workers. Further disaggregation of the population and a more intersectional analysis will become available in the coming months.

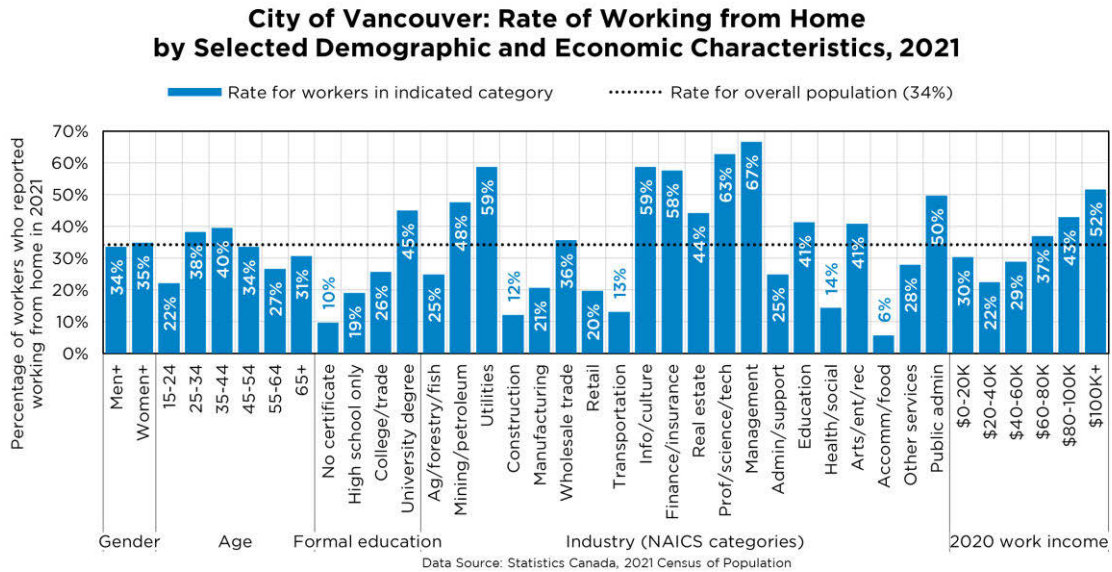


Figure 8 Rate of working from home by selected demographic and economic characteristics, 2021

Labour force industries by NAICS

Among all industries that Vancouver residents worked in, Professional, scientific and technical services had the largest increase of labour force (21%) from the previous census period. From 2001 to 2021, Professional, scientific and technical services was the largest industry sector for Vancouver residents; in 2021, fifteen percent (15%) of Vancouverites were employed in this industry. The option to work outside of the office provided the flexibility for staff to conduct work as usual during the pandemic: over half of the population working in the industry were able to work from home by May 2021. Health care and social assistance is the industry where we saw the second largest increase in labour force (18%) since 2016. During the time of census data collection, BC was launching the first vaccination program which also contributed to the growth of the health care industry. Figure 9 shows the distribution of work industry for Vancouver residents.

Work industry for Vancouver residents by NAICS

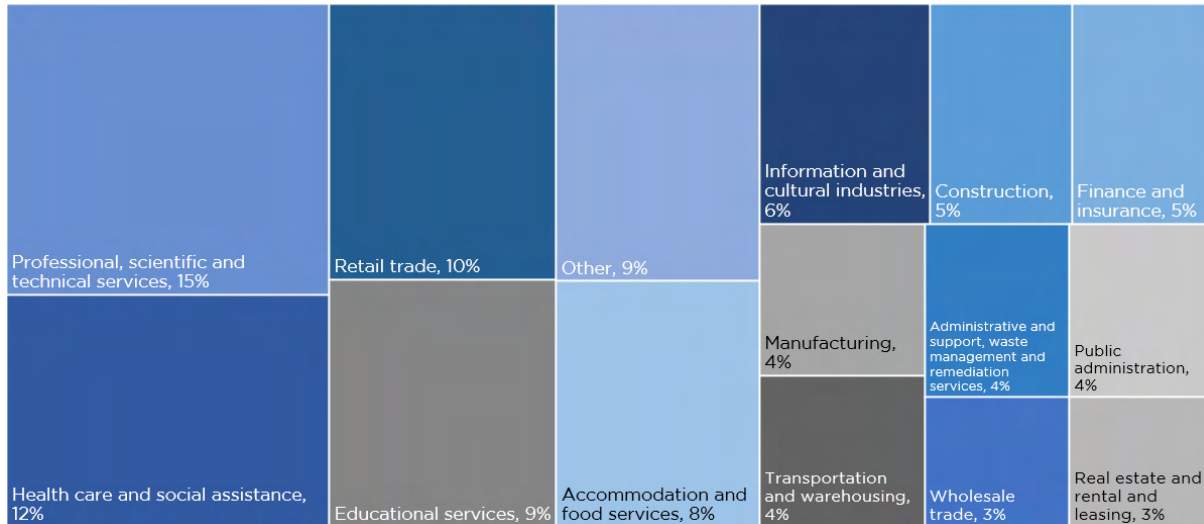


Figure 9 Work industry for Vancouver residents in 2021 by NAICS
 Data source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

On the contrary, the Accommodation and food services industry shows a large decrease (-18%) of employed population. This industry had been growing from 2001 to 2016, then dropped significantly between 2016 and 2021. The decline is reflective of the many restrictions and orders placed on the Accommodation and food services industry, including a ban on indoor dining in April 2021. In addition, the Accommodation and food service industry lacks the option to work from home; only 5% of the employed population in the industry worked from home in 2021.

Staff will continue to analyze the trend of job spaces and employment status in Vancouver when additional data is available. Future analysis will inform planning and policy for employment and economic development within the city.

Commuting

The 2021 Census of Population asked Canadians about their commuting habits in May 2021. The data is collected from people aged 15 years and older in occupied private dwellings, who were employed and reported having a workplace that they travelled to in May 2021.

Commuting patterns have both economic and environmental impacts. We have seen a 26% decrease in commuters among Vancouver residents compared to the previous census period. This can be explained by a combination of factors, including flexibility to work from home, closures in sectors such as food services, fear of crowded spaces leading people to avoid public transit, reduced transit service, and other impacts from public health measures introduced to slow the spread of COVID-19. Other data shows a recovery in overall levels of mobility, and continued recovery of public transit ridership, with TransLink reporting ridership at 80% of pre-pandemic levels by late 2022 within the region.⁴

⁴ TransLink Ridership Update Report to Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, January 9, 2023. https://www.translink.ca/-/media/translink/documents/about-translink/governance-and-board/council-minutes-and-reports/2023/january/agenda_mayors_council_public_meeting_jan_2023.pdf

Still, many people continued to travel to their place of work in 2021. Figure 10 shows the overall commute flows into and out of the City of Vancouver. Over 130,000 people were living in Vancouver and going to a physical workspace within the city. There was a net inflow of workers from most other municipalities within Metro Vancouver, except for Richmond and Electoral Area A (UBC/UEL).

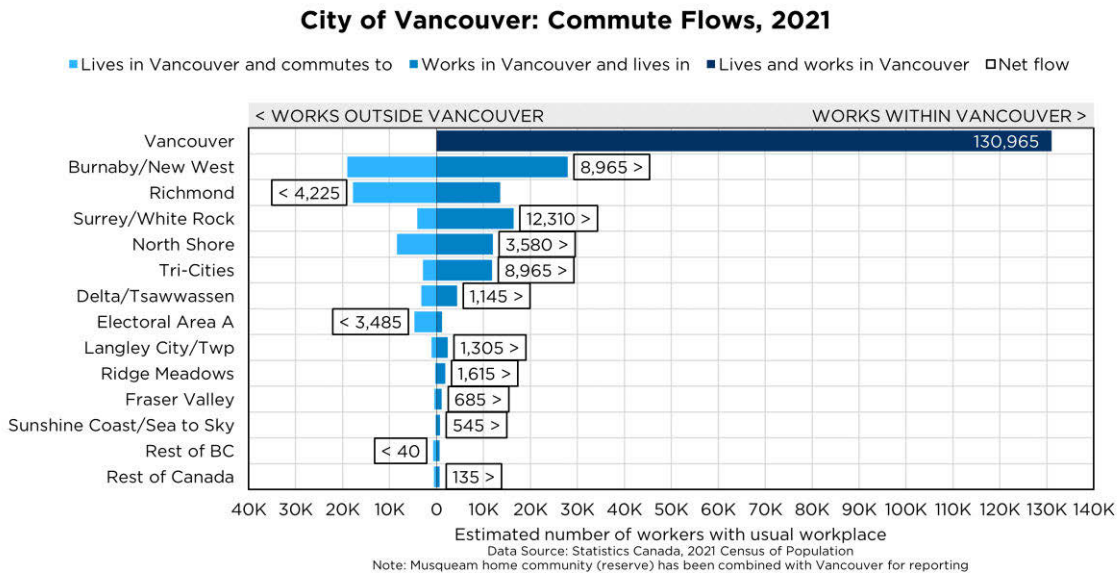


Figure 10 Commute flows in and out of Vancouver for usual place of work, 2021

Commuting time and destination

Among working residents who travelled to their work place in Vancouver, 60% were able to commute to work within 30 minutes and 20% could reach their place of work within 15 minutes. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of Vancouver residents were able to live and work within the same city. In comparison, 46% of Metro Vancouver residents live and work in the same municipality.

Main mode of commuting to work

Driving a vehicle was the most common way of commuting to work in 2021. Figure 11 shows the commute to work by mode. Approximately 131,400 Vancouverites commuted by car in May 2021, either as a driver or passenger. Despite a slight increase in automobile passengers, 23,160 or 15% fewer Vancouverites commuted with car compared to the previous census.

Looking at the share of different modes of transportation, 2021 Census shows an increase in the share of commuters with car (56%) compared to 2016 (49%). Sustainable modes of transportation including public transit, walking or biking accounted for 41% in 2021, compared to 50% in 2016.

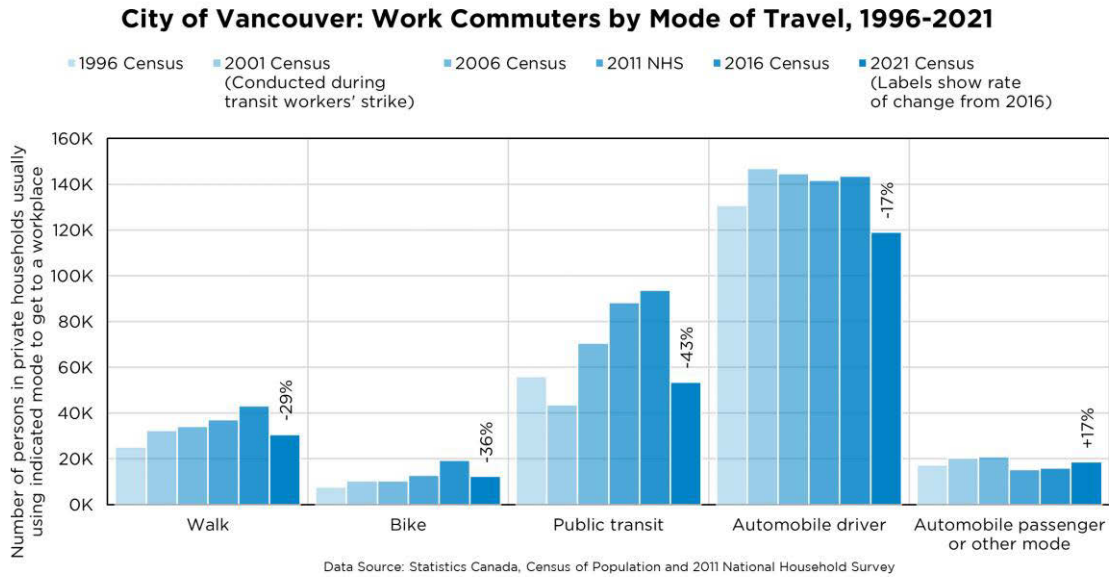


Figure 11 Mode of commute to work for employed population living in Vancouver, 1996-2021

Language of school and work

As described in previous memos, Vancouver is one of the most linguistically diverse cities in Canada, with 44% of residents using a non-English language at home at least some of the time. The current release of census data adds information on education in Canada’s official languages, and on official and non-official languages used at work.

Among children and youth in Vancouver aged 5 to 18, about 20% are enrolled in a Francophone or French Immersion program. Data on other languages is not available, but data from the BC Ministry of Education shows that 44% of Vancouver School District students enrolled in the 2022/2023 school year have a home language other than English, and 17% are in English Language Learning programs.⁵

Although the majority of work done by Vancouver residents takes place in English, nearly 12% of workers usually or regularly use a non-English language in their workplace. Three percent (3%) of Vancouver residents, or over 13,500 people, do not usually or regularly use English in their workplace. Table 1 provides a full breakdown of English use at work.

⁵ BC Ministry of Education, BC Schools – Student Headcount by Grade: <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/bc-schools-student-headcount-by-grade/> and BC Ministry of Education, Student Headcount by Home Language: <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/student-headcount-by-home-language/>

Estimates for City of Vancouver population 15+ in private households who worked since January 1, 2020		Usual language at work		
		Usually uses English only	Usually uses English and other language(s)	Usually uses other language(s) only
Other languages used regularly at work	Does not regularly use other languages	370,310	5,335	12,485
	Also regularly uses English	N/A	N/A	6,265
	Also regularly uses English and other language(s)	N/A	N/A	1,275
	Also regularly uses other language(s)	21,430	1,090	1,085

Data source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Table 1 City of Vancouver population by languages usually and regularly used at work, 2021

Figure 12 below shows the non-English languages most commonly used at work among Vancouver residents (Cantonese, Mandarin and French respectively).

Top Ten Non-English Languages Used at Work, 2021

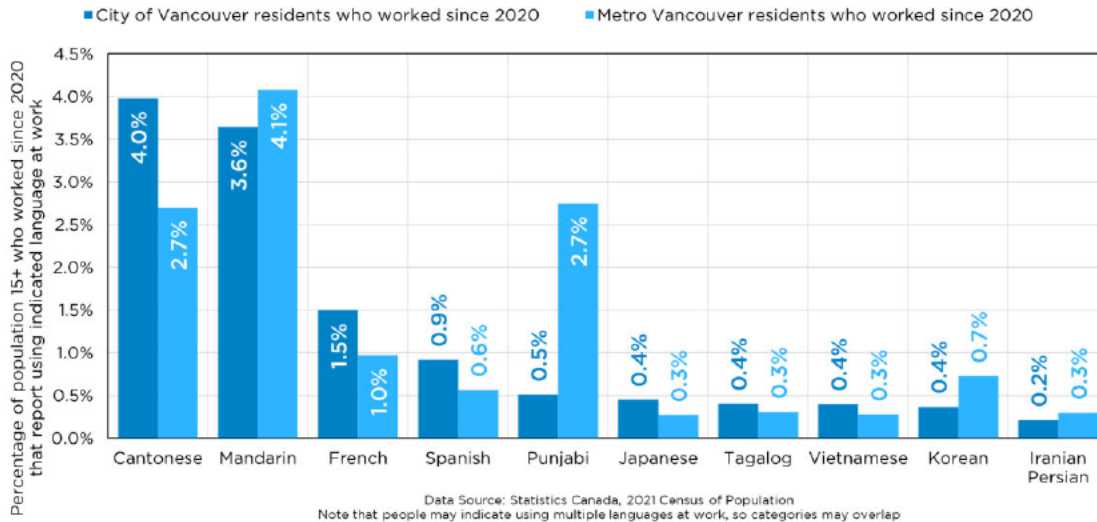


Figure 12 Top ten non-English languages used at work in Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, 2021

APPENDIX B
2021 CENSUS OF POPULATION INITIAL DATA RELEASE DATES

Release Date	Topic	Theme
February 9, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and dwelling counts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's growing population and where they are living
April 27, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Sex at birth and gender • Type of dwelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's shifting demographic profile
July 13, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families, households, and marital status • Canadian military experience • Income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portrait of Canada's families and households • Contemporary portrait of Canadian Veterans • Income profile of Canadians
August 17, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linguistic diversity and use of English and French in Canada
September 21, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Peoples • Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations Peoples, Métis and Inuit in Canada • Canada's housing portrait
October 26, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration, place of birth, and citizenship • Ethnocultural and religious diversity • Mobility and migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portrait of citizenship and immigration in Canada • Ethnocultural and religious composition of the population • Mobility and migration
November 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Labour • Language of work • Commuting • Instruction in the official minority language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education in Canada • The changing dynamics of the Canadian labour force and how people get to work • Instruction in the official minority language

Additional information on census data is available on Statistics Canada's Census of Population website at <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm>.

APPENDIX C
PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS AND GUIDELINES
IN EFFECT IN MAY 2021

The 2021 Census of Population was conducted in May 2021. At this time, significant public health restrictions and advisories were in effect in British Columbia to limit the spread of COVID-19 pending the broad population-wide vaccination campaign. COVID-19 vaccines were still in limited supply and mainly being deployed to specific target populations.

The table below summarizes the public guidance that was posted on the BC Government's [web page](#) on May 11, 2021, the reference date for the 2021 Census.

The pandemic and these measures have a substantial impact on 2021 Census data, especially relating to employment and commuting to work. Census data must be understood in the context it was collected, and additional data sources will be essential to understand dynamics through the different stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Area	Provincial health restrictions, orders, and advice
Social gathering	No indoor social gatherings of any size
	Outdoor gatherings limited to 10 people
Group activities	No indoor events
	No indoor religious gatherings or worship services
	Adult group sports prohibited except small numbers for drills and training
	Youth sports must practice physical distancing
Businesses	Indoor group exercise is prohibited, regardless of intensity; gyms and recreation centres limited to individual workouts and training
	Restaurants, pubs, bars and food courts are closed for indoor dining; patio dining and take-out are available
Workplaces	Strong recommendation to work from home wherever possible
	Workplaces with COVID-19 exposures ordered to close
Travel	Non-essential travel between regions in BC prohibited (e.g. outside Lower Mainland)
	BC Ferries to screen passengers for essential travel only
	Advisories at provincial borders to only travel if essential
	Canada-U.S. border closed to all non-essential travel
	Most international travellers prohibited from entering Canada, and all people arriving must self-isolate for 14 days
Masks	Masks required in many indoor public settings and all retail stores
	Masks mandatory for students in grades 4 through 12