

**MONITORING COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY  
IN THE FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST  
A 2001 Census Update**

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*April 2004*



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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a census-based assessment of community well being in the Foothills Model Forest. Using 2001 census data, it provides a five-year update of the previous assessment that was conducted by Parkins and Beckley (2001). During this five-year period from 1996 to 2001, several significant events have taken place in the Foothills region, including the closure of several coalmines. These events have had an observable impact on the social and economic profile of the region.

Consistent with the previous monitoring framework, the assessment is organized into six indicator domains (population and migration, employment, income distribution, poverty, human capital, and real estate). These domains provide an extensive overview of the social and economic trends over the past 20 years within the region. In addition to providing a brief rationale for the domain, several key indicators are reported in the form of figures and tables. The report also provides a detailed discussion of trends and issues that have emerged within the last five to ten years and some issues that may require more focused attention in the years ahead.

### **STUDY SITE**

This study reviews social and economic information for three jurisdictions within the Foothills Model Forest. The Foothills Model Forest is a 2.75 million-hectare area of land in west central Alberta. Despite its enormous size, the Model Forest contains only a few larger centres. The most prominent of these is Hinton. Hinton is located 285 km west of Edmonton and less than 40 km from the eastern boundary of Jasper National Park. Hinton is a diverse, resource-based community. Many of its 9,400 residents live in households that depend directly or indirectly on employment in the natural resource sectors such as forestry, oil and gas, and mining.

The second community in our analysis is Jasper. The Jasper town site is home to some 4,200 permanent residents, although the population swells significantly during the summer tourist season. Because of the huge influx of visitors in the summer, Jasper has a very young socio-demographic profile and a town infrastructure that is oriented around accommodation, food, and other amenities for park visitors.

The third jurisdiction included in this study is Yellowhead County (YHC). With a population of 9,900, YHC represents the rural region that surrounds Hinton and extends east well beyond the boundary of the Foothills Model Forest. It contains several smaller villages and settlements such as Marlboro, Brule, Mountain Park, and Robb. None of these places are incorporated and most have almost no services. Although the county extends well beyond the Model Forest boundary, it provides the 'best fit' for an analysis of rural residents in the region that is currently available from Statistics Canada.

For a more detailed account of the study area, refer to Parkins and Beckley (2001).

## **SOCIAL INDICATORS AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Social indicators can be defined as an integrated set of measures related to the social and economic well being of human populations living within a forest ecosystem. Social indicators are statistics that can be collected over time and used for policy and management (Force and Machlis 1997). The general goal is to establish baseline data that can be incorporated into decision-support systems and to use the data as a basis for future comparison across time and between regions.

Early work in the study of community sustainability focused on the goal of community 'stability.' From the late 1940s to mid-1980s community stability was given considerable attention when negative social impacts were observed in 'boomtowns' and forest-dependent communities suffering from extreme fluctuations in resource flows and market demand for natural resources (Kusel 1996, 2001). During this period ideal communities were thought to have stable industries supported by a constant supply of timber, employment and labour (Beckley et al. 2002). It was soon evident, however, that technology could replace labour without destabilizing the local forest industry (Beckley et al. 2002), and that desirable communities also required functioning social systems and ecosystems, as well as economies.

In response to this history with resource-based communities, the concept of sustainable forest communities has been incorporated into the concept of 'sustainable forest management.' Initially, forest managers were interested in identifying and monitoring community-level indicators that were controlled or managed by forest companies or provincial natural resource agencies. The resulting indicators measured ways in which the forest sector contributed to communities through jobs and recreation opportunities. The Canadian Standards Association guidelines (CSA 2002) are a good example of such an approach, recognizing public participation in forest management, and the economic and recreational benefits and drawbacks of forestry development as key to assessing community sustainability. Similarly, the Canadian Council of Forest Minister's (CCFM) national status report on sustainable forest management (CCFM 2000) identifies three forest-based measures of community sustainability: number of communities with a significant forestry component in the economic base, index of the diversity of the local industrial base, and diversity of forest uses at the community level.

In recent years, perspectives on sustainability from the social science literature have influenced this concern for identifying and monitoring relevant indicators of community sustainability. In general, the social science approach starts with the community and looks for key factors that contribute to well being. These factors may or may not be directly connected to forest sector activities. Signalling this significant shift in approach, the most recent version of the CCFM Criteria and Indicators (2003) has modified the indicators dealing with forest communities to express a more direct link to community well being and resilience. The CCFM indicators associated with forest communities include: economic diversity, education attainment, employment rate, and the incidence of low income. This recent set of indicators represents a significant policy shift toward community-centred measures of sustainability and may provide a basis for developing a more universal approach to the assessment of sustainable forest-based communities.

Consistent with this approach to measuring community sustainability within the CCFM (2003), the Foothills Model Forest Local Level Indicators (LLI) initiative has identified several community-level indicators associated with social and economic health, and community capacity. These include: employment statistics, income distribution, population and migration, economic diversity, education attainment, and real estate values. This report provides most of the information required by the LLI initiative for their next indicators update. Economic diversity statistics will be available later in the year.

## **SOCIAL INDICATORS FOR THE FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST**

This section provides a brief description of the ‘indicator domains’ that are presented in this report.

### **Population and Migration**

Poverty and unemployment may persist in forest-dependent communities, in part, because people are attracted to the prospect of good jobs in these remote rural communities. Those not finding steady work may remain, relying on social assistance while they wait for opportunities. Others may leave quickly, resulting in high population turnover. Both scenarios have implications for community sustainability and call for a study of population dynamics in resource-based communities.

### **Employment**

Indicators of employment and labour force participation provide an important source of understanding regarding the health of a community. Healthy communities are marked by high labour force participation and low unemployment, indicating a condition where a large proportion of residents can find gainful employment. In addition, healthy and productive communities are concerned with other aspects of employment such as working conditions, employment stability, and employment compatibility with available human capital.

### **Income Distribution**

An assessment of income distribution allows us to examine concentrations and deficiencies in employment income according to specific characteristics such as gender and race. Aggregate measures of income are often high in forest-industry dependent places due to high wages paid in unionized jobs in the forest industry. However, high averages may mask the fact that these places often have bi-modal income distributions with some families enjoying great prosperity, while others are merely getting by. It is important to look, not only at averages, but also at the distribution of income by category of earnings such as the proportion of population with higher incomes as compared to the proportion of population with lower incomes.

### **Poverty**

Many forest-industry dependent communities enjoy high average incomes, quality amenities, and related advantages over other rural communities and small towns. However, census averages, taken by themselves, do not describe what is going on at the margins of society. There is a large body of recent literature on the prevalence and persistence of poverty in resource-dependent communities in the United States. Various theoretical explanations are offered, but frequently discussion focuses on the vulnerability of these single-resource communities to macro-economic changes. Moreover, poverty may be a significant problem for population sub-groups that are not

able to break in to the high-wage, resource sector, labour market. We use low-income cut-offs as a proxy for poverty. With this measure, we can gain some sense of poverty in the Foothills Model Forest.

### **Human Capital**

Community sustainability is dependent upon the collective capacity of communities to adapt to changing global economic and social conditions. A community's capacity to adapt to change is largely a function of the aggregate skill set and education attainment of its population. Since it is difficult to quantitatively measure a community's collective entrepreneurial skills, or creative capacity, education attainment is used as a proxy measure for human capital. Traditionally education requirements in the forestry sector were very low, resulting in low education attainment for mill towns. Tourism communities often have higher education levels but for lower wages, suggesting underutilized capacity in the labour market. Human capital, as measured by education attainment, then is another critical social indicator for determining community sustainability.

### **Real Estate**

The rationale behind examining real estate values is that local real estate values are reasonably good indicators of the health of local economies. They tend to track local economic trends. For example, if a forest processing plant were in financial trouble, and in danger of closure, real estate values would decline. If, on the other hand, a new plant was being built, real estate prices may be temporarily inflated. If forest-dependent places are subject to boom and bust cycles, as the literature suggests, this fact should be reflected in real estate values.



## 2.0 POPULATION AND MIGRATION

### OBJECTIVE

To describe characteristics of the human population in the FMF region and document changes to this population over time. Specific features of the population examined by this indicator are population numbers and population change, age and sex distribution, as well as in- and out-migration.

### RATIONALE

Rapid and substantial population change can have a significant impact on communities, as population fluctuations can inhibit or enhance social organization within the community, impact economic activity and the provision of services in the region. Migration can also have a significant impact on natural resource dependent communities, as it can be responsible for rapid increases or decreases in the residential population and often follows shifts in market fluctuations. An understanding of the age distribution in a region can help communities prepare for changing needs for local services, particularly if the greatest proportion of the population is nearing retirement age. Refer to Parkins and Beckley (2001) for a more in-depth discussion of population demographics in resource communities.

### NOTES ON POPULATION AND MIGRATION MEASURES<sup>1</sup>

Some additional explanation of the migration and moving population measures is required in this section, as Statistics Canada uses specific criteria to define movers and migrants. Statistics Canada defines an internal migrant as a mover who, on Census Day, was residing in a different census subdivision 5 years previously. An external migrant refers to a mover living outside of Canada during this same period. Therefore, a person who moves from Edmonton or Jasper to Hinton is considered an internal migrant and someone moving from Geneva to Jasper is an external migrant. A person moving within the same subdivision (e.g. moving to a different part of Yellowhead County) is not counted as an internal migrant, but would be considered a mover. Data is not provided on out-migration.

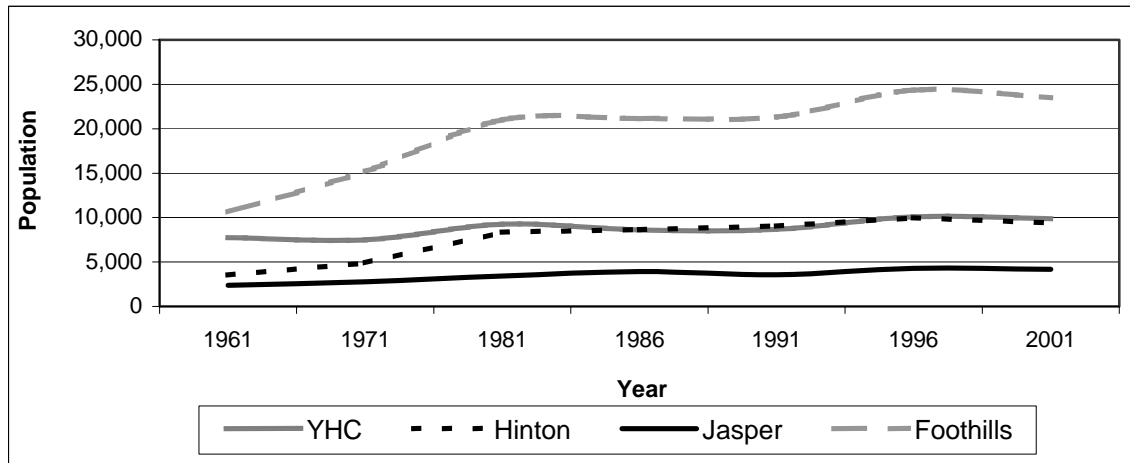
### MEASURING POPULATION AND MIGRATION

The population of the FMF region has been steadily increasing between 1961 and 2001, with the most rapid increase between 1961 and 1981 (Figure 2.1). In 2001 the population of the census divisions encompassing the FMF region was 23,466 persons. The population of the actual FMF region is expected to be slightly smaller than this number, as this census area is larger than the FMF region. Figure 2.1 demonstrates that in 2001, the population has dropped in all FMF jurisdictions by between 2% and 6%. The last time the population decreased in an FMF jurisdiction was in 1986, but 2001 was first time that population decline occurred in all jurisdictions simultaneously. Refer to Table 2.2 for data on population change between 1961 and 2001.

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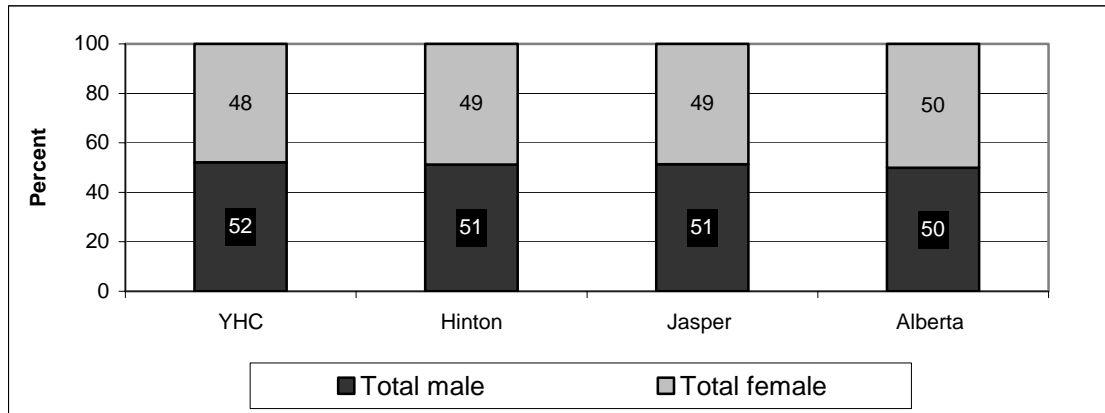
<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all Statistics Canada definitions are derived from the 2001 Census Dictionary: *Statistics Canada, 2001. 2001 Census Dictionary: Internet Version. [on-line] Ottawa: Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.ca/english/census2001/dict/index.htm>*

Figure 2.1. Population of Foothills Model Forest jurisdictions, 1961-2001



The distribution of population by sex, illustrated in Figure 2.2, shows that unlike the provincial average, FMF regions have slightly more males than females. This distribution, however, is not substantially different from other provincial jurisdictions (refer to Table 2.3).

Figure 2.2. Distribution of population by sex, 2001



Figures 2.3 to 2.6 depict the age distribution by sex for all FMF regions. In most FMF regions, males outnumber females in most age classes, with the exception of the 75+ cohort. These graphs also illustrates that the age distribution is similar for males and females throughout the FMF region.

Figure 2.3. Age distribution by sex, YHC, 2001

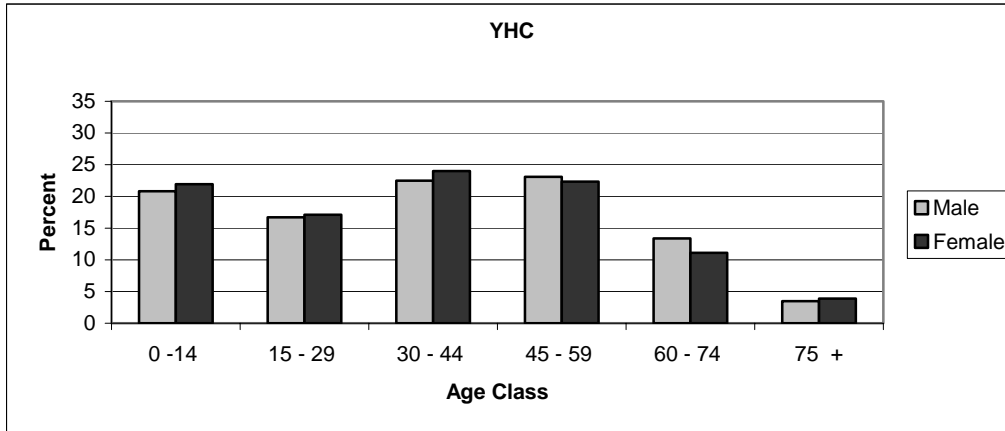


Figure 2.4. Age distribution by sex, Hinton, 2001

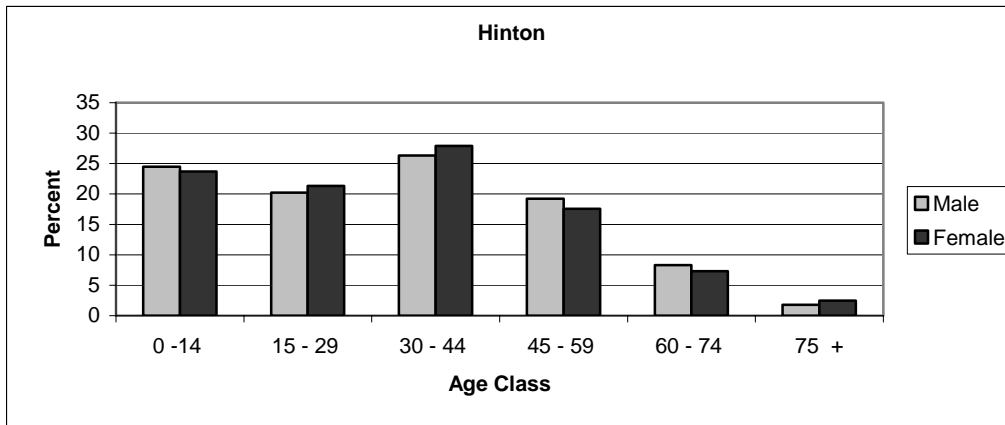


Figure 2.5. Age distribution by sex, Jasper, 2001

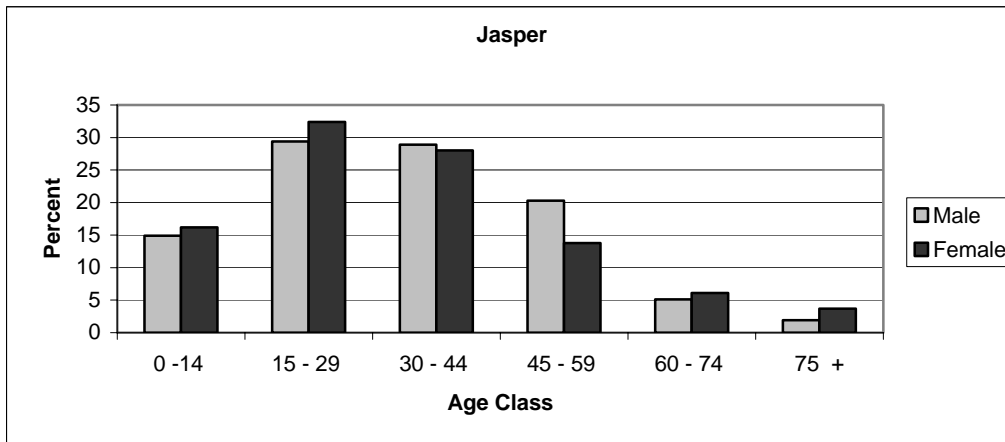
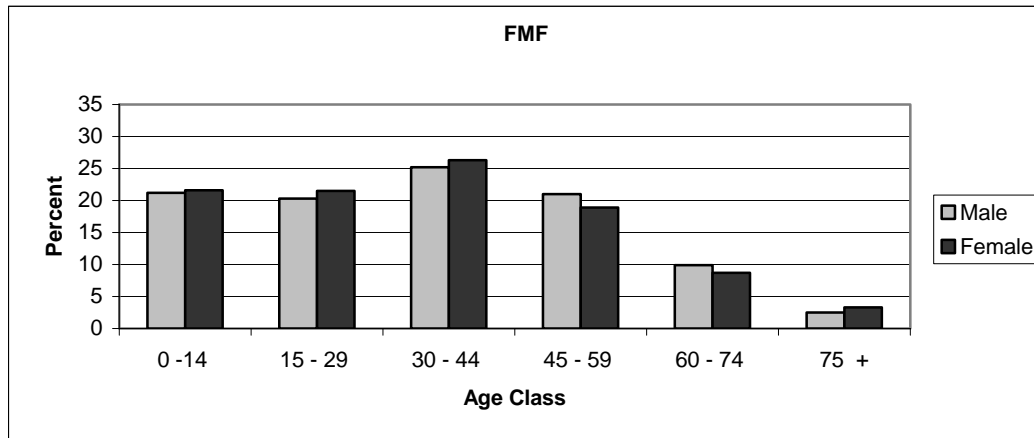
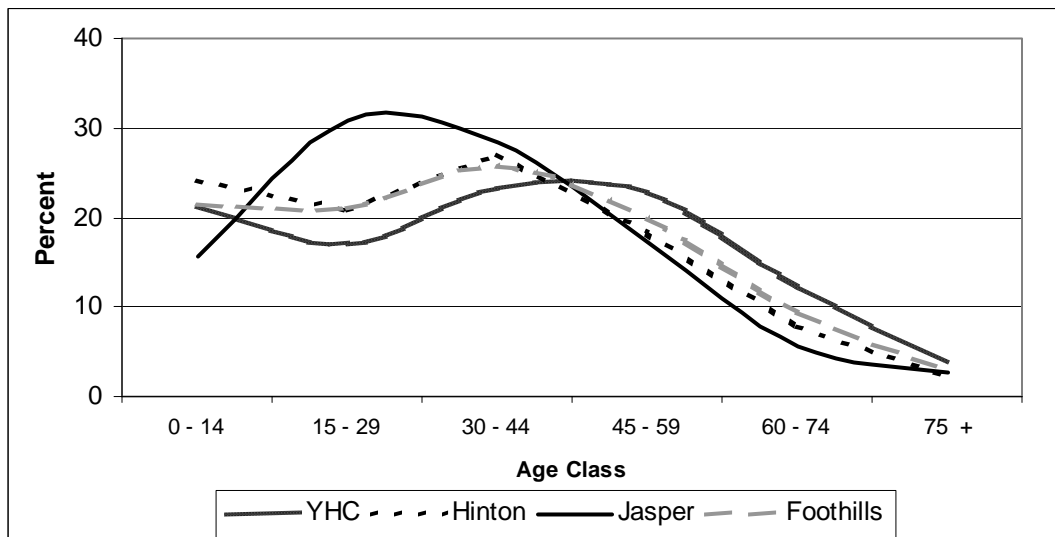


Figure 2.6. Age distribution by sex, FMF region, 2001



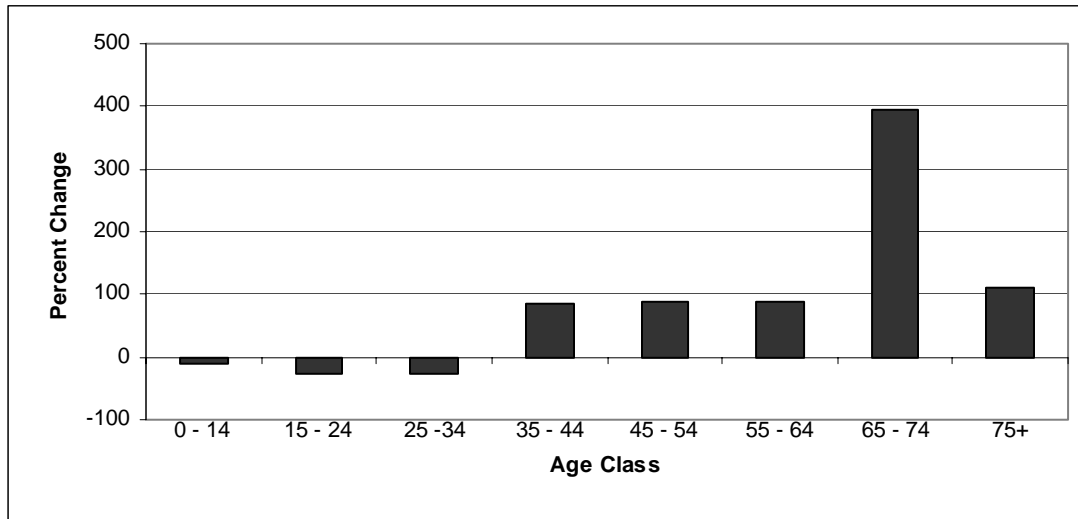
The data in Figures 2.7 suggest that the age distribution for the total population in the FMF region overall is concentrated in the 30-44 years of age cohort. The age distribution for YHC and Hinton are fairly similar, while the population in Jasper is considerably younger than these other regions. Nearly 30% of total population in Jasper, for example, is between the age of 15 to 29 years, compared to around 17% in the YHC jurisdiction and 20% in Hinton. The Jasper region, nevertheless, has the smallest proportion of young people aged 0-14 (17%) while Hinton has the largest (24%).

Figure 2.7. Percent of population by age class, FMF region, 2001



The population distribution in the FMF region has been steadily shifting to the right, in the direction of older age classes. The data in Figure 2.8 illustrate that in Hinton between 1981 and 2001 there has been a dramatic increase in population occupying the 35 to 75+ age classes, with the greatest increase (394%) in the 65 to 74 age class. The younger age classes (0-34) have actually decreased during this period.

Figure 2.8. Percent change in Hinton age groups between 1981 and 2001



The proportion of migrants in the population helps to determine what proportion of the population is made up of short-term residents and long-term residents and therefore gives an impression of the mobility or transience of the residents in the community. As Figure 2.9 illustrates, the total population of migrants in most FMF jurisdictions has dropped only slightly between 1996 and 2001, and has remained fairly stable in Jasper. The greatest fluctuation in the population of migrants occurred between 1981 and 1986. In Figure 2.10 we observe that similar to the provincial average, most FMF region residents are considered non-movers. The greatest percentage of movers (52%) is found in the Jasper jurisdiction and the least (32%) in the YHC jurisdiction. Jasper appears to be the most transient community in the FMF region, while the region as a whole has a similar proportion of movers as the province. A similar trend is observed for the proportion of migrants and non-migrants (Figure 2.11), where the FMF region as a whole has a similar proportion of migrants as the province, while Jasper has the greatest proportion.

Figure 2.9. Total migrants in Foothills Model Forest region, 1981-2001

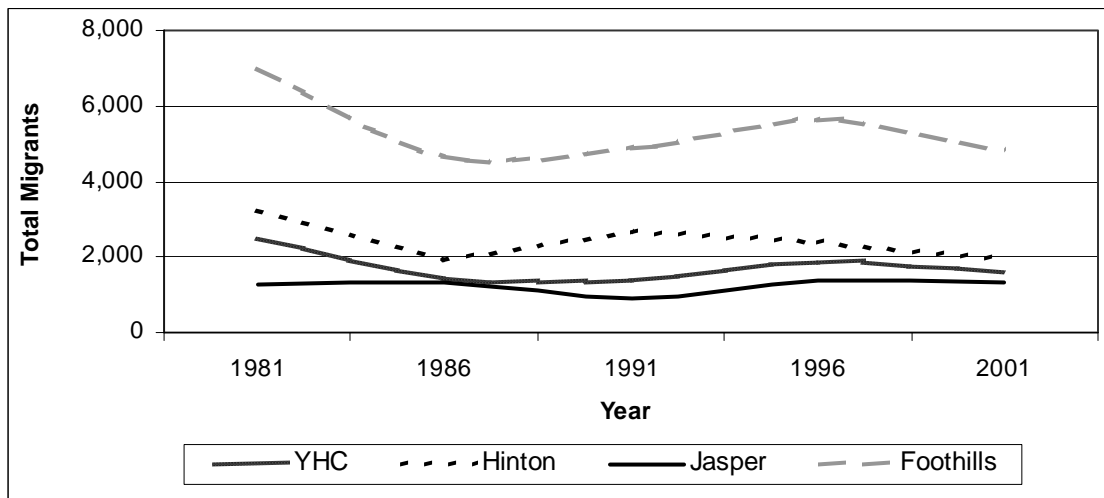


Figure 2.10. Percent movers and non-movers (5 years and over) in the Foothills Model Forest region, 2001

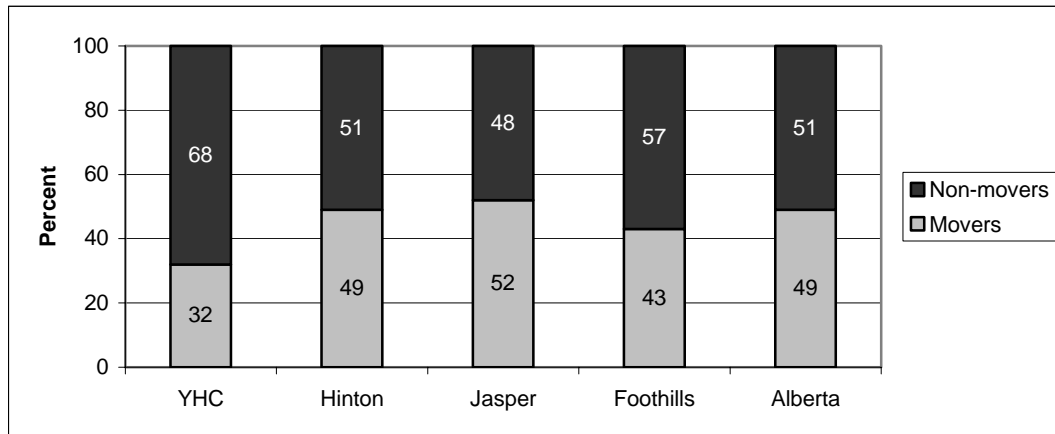
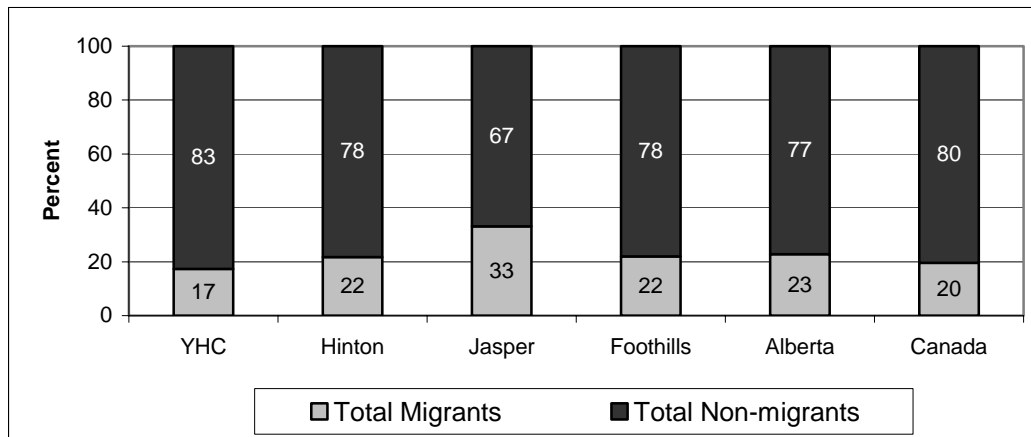


Figure 2.11. Percent migrants and non-migrants (5 years and over) in the Foothills Model Forest region, 2001



## CENSUS TABLES

Table 2.1. Population statistics: Canada, Alberta, and Census Subdivisions, 1961-2001

	2001	1996	1991	1986	1981	1971	1961
<b>Census Divisions</b>							
YHC	9,881	10,092 *	8,692	8,590	9,238	7,493	7,735
Hinton	9,405	9,961	9,046	8,629	8,342	4,911	3,529
Jasper	4,180	4,301	3,567*	3,927	3,422	2,791	2,360
Foothills	23,466	24,354	21,305	21,146	21,002	15,195	10,624
Grande Cache	3,828	4,441	3,842	3,646	4,523	2,525	2,525
Edson	7,585	7,399	7,323	7,323	5,835	3,818	3,198
Whitecourt	8,334	7,783	6,938	5,737	5,585	3,202	1,054
Edmonton	666,104	616,306	616,741	573,982	532,246	438,152	281,027
Alberta	2,974,807	2,696,826	2,545,553	2,365,825	2,237,724	1,627,874	1,331,944
Canada	30,007,094	28,846,761	27,296,859	24,083,495	24,083,495	21,568,311	18,238,247

\* Note: Census boundaries changed for YHC in 2001 and Jasper in 1996. Jasper 1991 population numbers and YHC 1996 numbers were changed to reflect this change in boundary

Table 2.2. Percent population change for Foothills Model Forest region and other census subdivisions, 1971-2001

<b>Census divisions</b>	<b>1996 to 2001</b>	<b>1991 to 1996</b>	<b>1986 to 1991</b>	<b>1981 to 1986</b>
YHC	-2.1	7.6	1.2	-7.0
Hinton	-5.6	10.1	4.8	3.4
Jasper	-2.8	20.6	-7.8	14.8
Foothills	-3.6	10.6	1.7	0.7
Grande Cache	-13.8	15.6	5.4	-19.4
Edson	2.5	1.0	0.0	25.5
Whitecourt	7.1	12.2	20.9	2.7
Edmonton	8.1	-0.1	7.4	7.8
Alberta	10.3	5.9	7.6	5.7
Canada	4.0	5.7	7.9	5.1

Table 2.2, continued. Percent population change for Foothills Model Forest region and other census subdivisions, 1971-2001

<b>Census divisions</b>	<b>1991 to 2001</b>	<b>1981 to 1991</b>	<b>1971 to 1981</b>	<b>1961 to 1971</b>
YHC	12.0	-5.9	23.0	-3.1
Hinton	3.8	8.4	69.9	39.2
Jasper	14.7	5.8	22.6	18.3
Foothills	9.2	1.0	38.2	43.0
Grande Cache	0.0	-15.1	79.1	100.0
Edson	3.5	25.5	52.8	19.4
Whitecourt	16.8	20.9	74.4	204.0
Edmonton	7.4	7.4	21.5	55.9
Alberta	14.4	7.6	37.5	22.2
Canada	9.0	7.9	11.7	18.3

Table 2.3. Percent population distribution by sex, 2001

	<b>YHC</b>	<b>Hinton</b>	<b>Jasper</b>	<b>Foothills</b>	<b>Grande Cache</b>	<b>Edmonton</b>	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Canada</b>
Total male	52	51	51	52	54	49	50	49
Total female	48	49	49	48	46	51	50	51

Table 2.4. Percent total population by age class, 2001

<b>Census divisions</b>	<b>Age Class</b>					
	<b>0 - 14 yrs</b>	<b>15 - 29 yrs</b>	<b>30 - 44 yrs</b>	<b>45 - 59 yrs</b>	<b>60 - 74 yrs</b>	<b>75 yrs+</b>
YHC	21.3	16.9	23.2	22.7	12.3	3.7
Hinton	24.1	20.7	27.1	18.4	7.8	2.1
Jasper	15.6	30.9	28.5	17.1	5.6	2.8
Foothills	21.4	20.9	25.7	20.0	9.3	2.9

Table 2.5. Male population by age class, 2001

Census divisions	Total male popn	Percent of total popn	Total population by age class					
			0 - 14 yrs	15 - 29 yrs	30 - 44 yrs	45 - 59 yrs	60 - 74 yrs	75 yrs +
YHC	5,150	52%	1,070	860	1,160	1,190	690	180
Hinton	4,820	51%	1,180	975	1,270	925	400	85
Jasper	2,145	51%	320	630	620	435	110	40
Foothills	12,115	52%	2,570	2,465	3,050	2,550	1,200	305
Grande Cache	2,055	54%	495	355	560	395	205	35
Edson	3,855	51%	885	935	960	665	305	105
Whitcourt	4,370	52%	1,110	1,070	1,300	655	190	40
Edmonton	327,560	49%	62,725	78,425	81,625	60,180	31,800	12,785
Alberta	1,486,585	50%	316,240	330,780	368,905	281,355	136,615	52,690
Canada	14,706,850	49%	2,930,990	2,969,935	3,547,970	2,973,720	1,627,185	657,040

Table 2.6. Female population by age class, 2001

Census divisions	Total female popn	Percent of total popn	Total population by age class					
			0 - 14 yrs	15 - 29 yrs	30 - 44 yrs	45 - 59 yrs	60 - 74 yrs	75 yrs +
YHC	4,730	48%	1,035	810	1,135	1,055	525	185
Hinton	4,585	49%	1,085	975	1,280	805	335	115
Jasper	2,035	49%	330	660	570	280	125	75
Foothills	11,350	48%	2,450	2,445	2,985	2,140	985	375
Grande Cache	1,775	46%	435	355	455	355	145	35
Edson	3,735	49%	835	835	945	605	330	180
Whitcourt	3,960	48%	1,120	965	1,105	555	155	60
Edmonton	338,545	51%	60,525	77,895	81,215	61,085	36,070	21,750
Alberta	1,488,220	50%	301,350	318,765	368,380	274,745	142,470	82,515
Canada	15,300,245	51%	2,794,545	2,937,400	3,650,390	3,039,805	1,789,440	1,088,670

Table 2.7. Percentage of total male population by age class, 2001

Census divisions	0 -14 yrs	15 - 29 yrs	30 - 44 yrs	45 - 59 yrs	60 - 74 yrs	75 yrs +
YHC	20.8	16.7	22.5	23.1	13.4	3.5
Hinton	24.5	20.2	26.3	19.2	8.3	1.8
Jasper	14.9	29.4	28.9	20.3	5.1	1.9
Foothills	21.2	20.3	25.2	21.0	9.9	2.5
Grande Cache	24.1	17.3	27.3	19.2	10.0	1.7
Edson	23.0	24.3	24.9	17.3	7.9	2.7
Whitcourt	25.4	24.5	29.7	15.0	4.3	0.9
Edmonton	19.1	23.9	24.9	18.4	9.7	3.9
Alberta	21.3	22.3	24.8	18.9	9.2	3.5
Canada	19.9	20.2	24.1	20.2	11.1	4.5



Table 2.8. Percentage of total female population by age class, 2001

<b>Census divisions</b>	0 -14 yrs	15 - 29 yrs	30 - 44 yrs	45 - 59 yrs	60 - 74 yrs	75 yrs +
YHC	21.9	17.1	24.0	22.3	11.1	3.9
Hinton	23.7	21.3	27.9	17.6	7.3	2.5
Jasper	16.2	32.4	28.0	13.8	6.1	3.7
Foothills	21.6	21.5	26.3	18.9	8.7	3.3
Grande Cache	24.5	20.0	25.6	20.0	8.2	2.0
Edson	22.4	22.4	25.3	16.2	8.8	4.8
Whitecourt	28.3	24.4	27.9	14.0	3.9	1.5
Edmonton	17.9	23.0	24.0	18.0	10.7	6.4
Alberta	20.2	21.4	24.8	18.5	9.6	5.5
Canada	18.3	19.2	23.9	19.9	11.7	7.1

Table 2.9. Population by age class, Hinton, 1961-2001

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total popn</b>	<b>Age class</b>							
		0 - 14	15 - 24	25 -34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 +
<i>Total population</i>									
2001	9,405	2,265	1,345	1,295	1,860	1,335	685	445	200
1996	9,961	2,630	1,485	1,765	1,885	1,115	610	355	130
1991	9,045	2,500	1,325	1,900	1,575	860	550	250	100
1986	8,625	2,470	1,455	1,930	1,255	780	480	185	60
1981	8,342	2,515	1,795	1,770	1,010	705	365	90	95
<i>Percent of total by age class</i>									
2001	100	22.4	13.5	10.2	18.6	17.7	11.5	7.6	2.1
1996	100	24.1	14.3	13.8	19.8	14.2	7.3	4.7	2.1
1991	100	27.6	14.6	21	17.4	9.5	6.1	2.8	1.1
1986	100	28.6	16.9	22.4	14.6	9	5.6	2.1	0.7
1981	100	30.1	21.5	21.2	12.1	8.5	4.4	1.1	1.1

Table 2.10. Mobility Status, 2001

	<b>Canada</b>	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Hinton</b>	<b>YHC</b>	<b>Jasper</b>
Total population 1 year + by mobility status 1 year ago	29,314,760	2,905,340	9,260	9,730	4,105
Non-movers	25,123,495	2,392,760	7,740	8,895	3,030
Movers	4,191,265	512,580	1,525	840	1,080
Non-migrants	2,388,905	308,060	900	445	520
Migrants	1,802,360	204,515	625	400	560
Internal migrants	1,507,735	177,875	605	395	520
Intraprovincial migrants	1,223,105	109,910	380	305	210
Interprovincial migrants	284,635	67,965	220	85	305
External migrants	294,625	26,640	25	0	40
Total population 5 years + by mobility status 5 years ago	27,932,590	2,753,825	8,690	9,285	3,950
Non-movers	16,222,260	1,399,580	4,405	6,305	1,880
Movers	11,710,330	1,354,245	4,285	2,980	2,070
Non-migrants	6,251,590	725,830	2,405	1,370	765
Total Migrants	5,458,735	628,415	1,885	1,610	1,310
Internal migrants	4,482,775	548,730	1,785	1,530	1,230
Intraprovincial migrants	3,577,105	306,500	1,030	1,110	395
Interprovincial migrants	905,670	242,230	755	425	840
External migrants	975,960	79,685	100	80	80

Table 2.11. Mobility Status, 1996

	Canada	Alberta	Hinton	YH94	Jasper
Total Population 1 year + by place of residence 1 year ago	28,155,225	2,631,840	9,810	9,245	4,200
Non-movers	22,108,675	2,135,735	7,615	8,240	2,910
Movers	4,322,225	496,105	2,200	1,005	1,295
Intraprovincial migrants	3,767,630	112,285	585	395	200
Interprovincial migrants	319,200	54,690	315	90	365
External migrants	235,395	18,730	0	15	65
Total population 5 years + by place of residence 5 years ago	26,604,135	2,474,855	9,090	8,745	4,030
Non-movers	15,079,415	1,244,925	3,915	5,830	1,930
Movers	11,524,725	1,229,930	5,175	2,910	2,095
Non-migrants	6,130,735	705,840	2,760	1,080	735
Migrants	5,393,985	524,090	2,410	1,830	1,360
Internal migrants	4,465,295	453,840	2,385	1,775	1,285
Intraprovincial migrants	3,575,025	291,200	1,470	1,345	510
Interprovincial migrants	890,270	162,640	910	430	775
External migrants	928,690	70,250	20	55	80

Table 2.12. Mobility Status, 1991

	Canada	Alberta	Hinton	YH94	Jasper
Total Population 1 year + by place of residence 1 year ago	26,430,895	2,454,685	8,925	8,515	3,300
Non-movers	22,108,675	1,929,955	6,915	7,595	2,470
Movers	4,322,225	524,730	2,020	915	835
Intraprovincial movers	3,767,630	439,360	1,550	750	620
Interprovincial migrants	319,200	63,015	415	150	190
External migrants	235,395	22,355	50	20	20
Total population 5 years + by place of residence 5 years ago	24,927,870	2,291,070	8,255	7,940	3,100
Non-movers	13,290,685	1,081,105	3,420	5,210	1,460
Movers	11,637,185	1,209,960	4,835	2,735	1,640
Non-migrants	5,776,215	668,220	2,215	1,335	760
Migrants	5,860,970	541,745	2,625	1,390	880
Internal migrants	4,947,645	466,860	2,500	1,355	830
Intraprovincial migrants	3,970,600	296,845	1,375	1,080	425
Interprovincial migrants	977,050	170,015	1,120	270	405
External migrants	913,320	74,890	125	45	50

Table 2.13. Mobility Status, 1986

	Canada	Alberta	Hinton	YH94	Jasper
Total population 5 years + by mobility status	23,189,245	2,133,860	7,735	7,525	3,670
Non-movers	13,053,240	1,039,285	3,325	4,825	1,440
Movers	10,136,005	1,094,575	4,410	2,695	2,230
Non-migrants	5,622,150	599,690	2,510	1,275	910
Migrants	4,513,855	494,890	1,900	1,425	1,325
From same census division	980,240	89,050	120	285	15
From same province	2,145,215	172,565	990	955	530
From different province	924,490	177,285	725	165	730
From outside Canada	463,905	55,985	65	20	40

Table 2.14. Mobility Status, 1981

	<b>Canada</b>	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Hinton</b>	<b>YH94</b>	<b>Jasper</b>
Population 5 years +	22,280,070	2,024,345	7,460	8,300	3,220
Non-movers	11,672,825	810,005	1,950	4,000	1,300
Movers	10,607,250	1,214,340	5,510	4,305	1,920
Non-migrants	5,538,795	522,365	2,270	1,805	660
Migrants	5,068,450	691,970	3,245	2,495	1,260
Total in-migrants	4,512,255	336,830	3,065	2,470	1,120
From same province	3,371,725		1,170	1,570	385
From same census division			100	290	10
From different census division			1,065	1,280	370
From different province	1,140,530	336,825	1,900	900	740
From outside Canada		75,485	175	30	140
Total out migrants	556,200	139,180	2,305	430	1,570
To same province			1,315	340	815
To same census division			165	115	10
To different census division			1,150	220	800
To different province		139,180	990	85	750
Net internal migration, 1976-1981		197,650	765	2,040	-450

## **3.0 EMPLOYMENT**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To illustrate employment conditions in the FMF region. Characteristics of employment assessed in this section include male and female unemployment and participation rates, labour force participation, and employment by sector as well as by occupation. Changes in employment conditions between census years are also determined with particular emphasis on changes between the 1996 and 2001 census years.

### **RATIONALE**

Sustainable communities typically have high levels of labour force participation and low unemployment rates, indicating that residents are finding gainful employment. Some unemployment will inevitably exist even in communities with excellent employment conditions, reflecting a proportion of the population in employment transition or entry into the labour force. The difference in male and female employment conditions is also important to determine since natural resource-based communities in the past have been characterized by limited full-time employment opportunities for women (Marchak 1983).

There are significant social costs associated with poor employment conditions, including a higher incidence of poverty, lower tax revenues, increased unemployment benefit expenditures, lower returns on educational investments, as well as the individual and family level effects of demoralization and inter-personal strain (Abercrombie and Turner, 1988). For a more detailed discussion of the importance of employment conditions to community sustainability, refer to the earlier FMF indicator monitoring report (Parkins and Beckley 2001).

### **NOTES ON EMPLOYMENT MEASUREMENTS**

The unemployment rate is defined by Statistics Canada as the unemployed labour force of the population 15 years and over, measured in the week prior to enumeration, and is expressed as a percentage of the total labour force. These individuals have actively looked for work in the past four weeks, are temporarily laid-off and expect to return to their job, or will start a new job in four weeks or less. The labour force can be considered the combination of employed and unemployed persons. The participation rate is the percentage of the total population 15 years and over that is considered to be part of the total labour force and is measured in the week prior to enumeration. This indicator measures the participation and unemployment rate for the population of the IFPA region and calculates these rates by gender.

There are certain shortcomings with these measurements—documented in more detail in Parkins and Beckley (2001). In short, these measurements do not accurately assess underemployment, workers forced into early retirement, potential workers in training programs, or discouraged job seekers. The unemployment rate as reported by Statistics Canada in the national census also does not reflect monthly or annual fluctuations in unemployment, which is typically observed in tourism communities such as Jasper where employment is high in the summer tourist season but lower in the winter off-season.

Figure 3.1. Unemployment rate, 2001

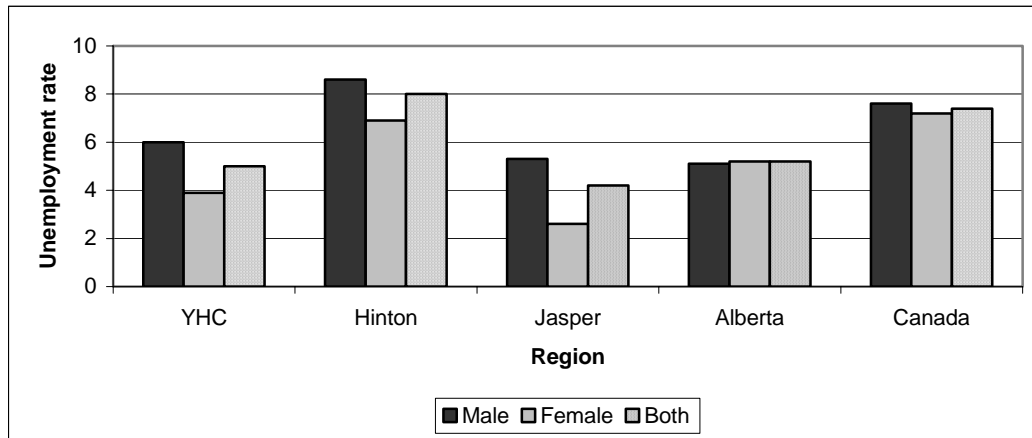
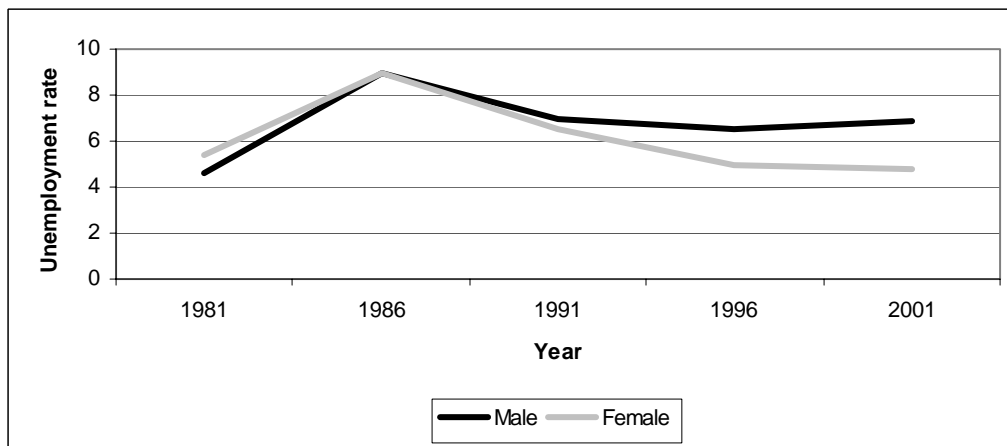


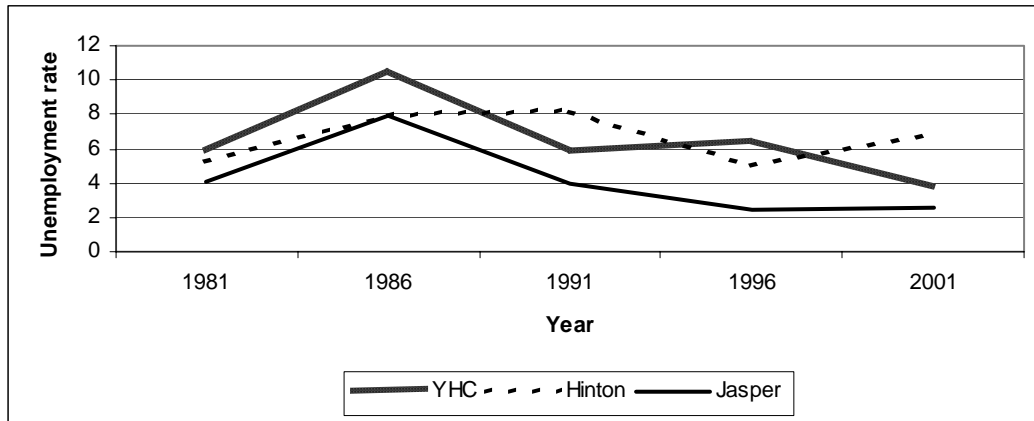
Figure 3.2. Foothills Model Forest region female and male unemployment rate, 1981-2001



### MEASURING EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

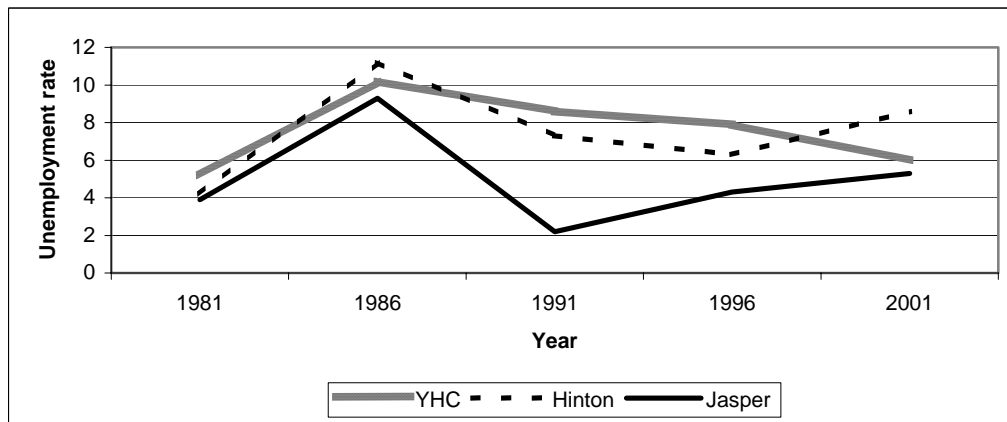
Figure 3.1. shows the unemployment rate in 2001 for males and females in various FMF jurisdictions as well as for Alberta and Canada. There is a significant difference in the unemployment rate for males in Hinton compared to other FMF regions, as well as to the national and provincial rates. According to the 2001 census, the rate for males in Hinton was 8.6%, while it was 5.3% for Jasper and 5.1% for Alberta. There is also a substantial difference in the unemployment rates for males and females in the FMF region. In Figure 3.2, as well as in Table 3.3, we observe that, unlike the provincial and national trend, there is a significant difference between unemployment rates for males and females in the FMF region. In Jasper in 2001, for example, the male rate exceeds the female rate by 2.7%.

Figure 3.3. Female unemployment rate, 1981-2001



If we examine how the male and female unemployment rates have changed over time we see that both rates have fluctuated between 1981 and 2001, with the direction of this fluctuation fairly similar for both sexes, as illustrated in Figures 3.3 and 3.4. The rate for males and females decreased in 2001 in the YHC jurisdiction and increased in Hinton, with this latter community having the highest unemployment rate of all the FMF jurisdictions. Figure 3.2 shows that, between 1991 and 2001 for the FMF region as a whole, the unemployment rate for males was consistently higher than the female rate, with the difference getting larger over time.

Figure 3.4 Male unemployment rate, 1981-2001



The unemployment rate illustrates only part of the overall employment conditions in the FMF region. The participation rate is also important to monitor as it represents the proportion of the population that is included in the total labour force. Figures 3.5 and 3.6 illustrate that while the participation rate has decreased slightly for males between 1991 and 2001 and has increased for females. The participation rate for females still remains significantly lower than for males in the FMF region. In 2001, the YHC jurisdiction had the lowest participation rate for both males (78.3%) and females (63.5%). If we compare the participation rate over the past twenty years, we see that for females it is significantly higher in the YHC and Hinton jurisdictions in 2001 compared to 1981, while it has not changed dramatically for males.

Figure 3.5. Female participation rate, 1981-2001

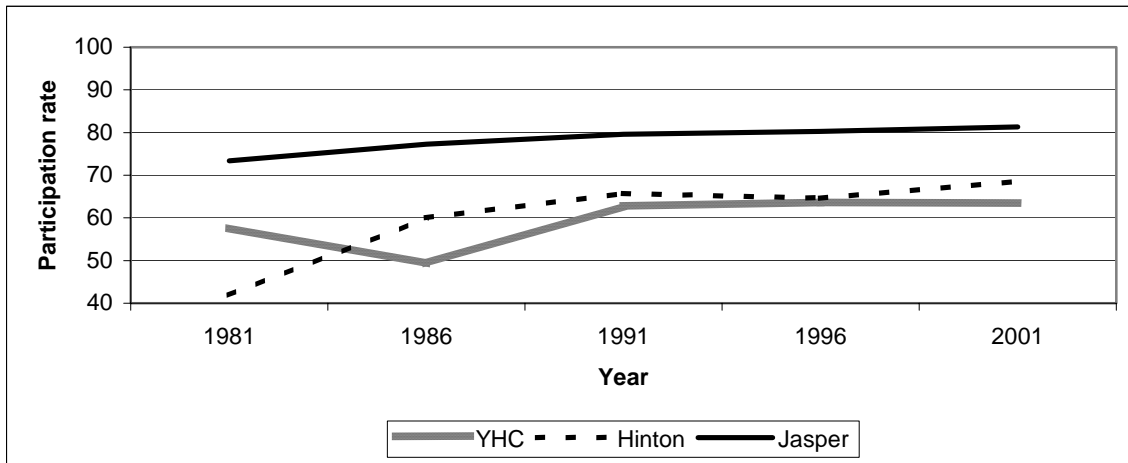
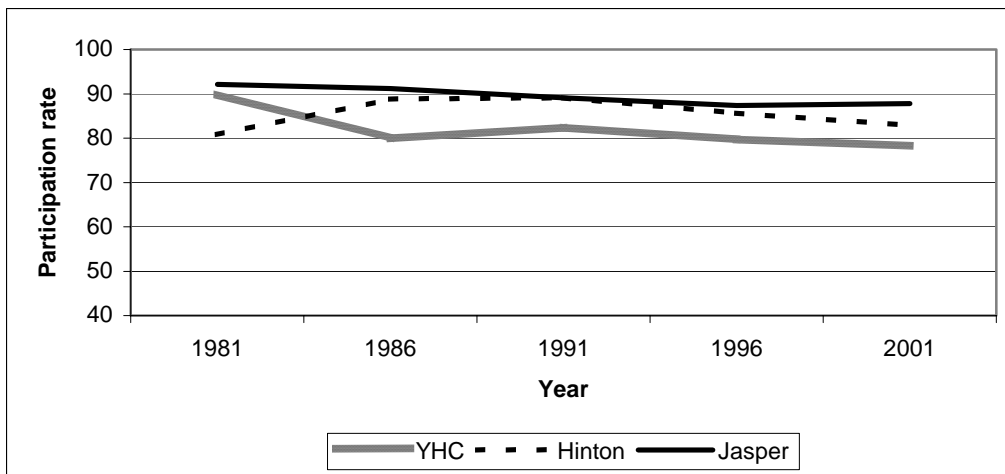


Figure 3.6. Male participation rate, 1981-2001



Figures 3.7 to 3.10 illustrate the overall change in employment, unemployment and labour force participation between 1996 and 2001 for the YHC jurisdiction. For both males and females there is very little change in labour force participation and the employment rate during this 5-year period. We also observe that the male employment rate in both 1996 and 2001 exceeds that of females by approximately 15%. Although the unemployment rate for females is lower than for males, a larger proportion of females are not in the labour force.

Figure 3.7. Female labour force activity, YHC, 1996

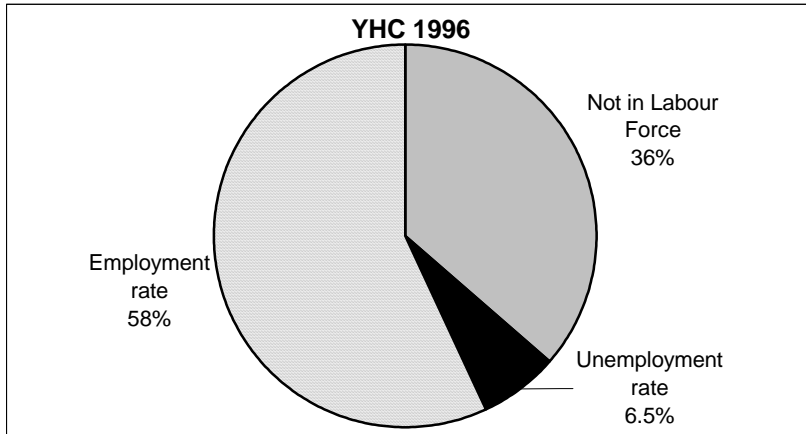


Figure 3.8. Female labour force activity, YHC, 2001

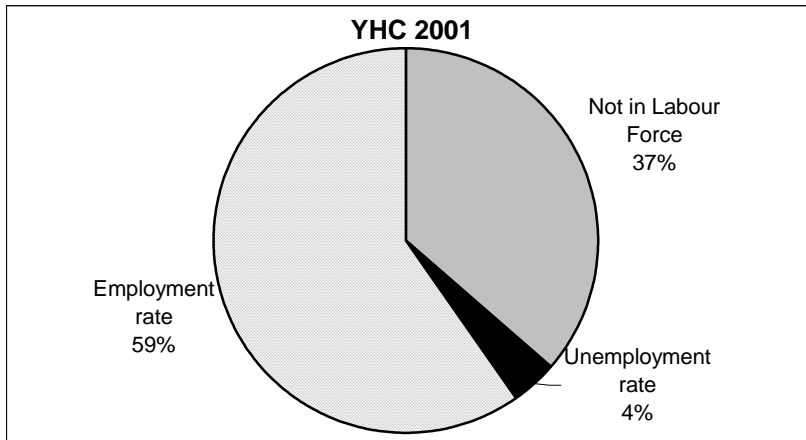


Figure 3.9. Male labour force activity, YHC, 1996

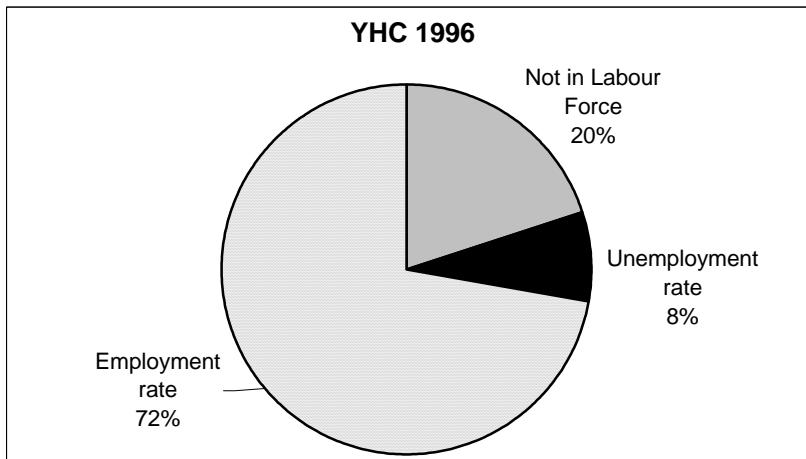
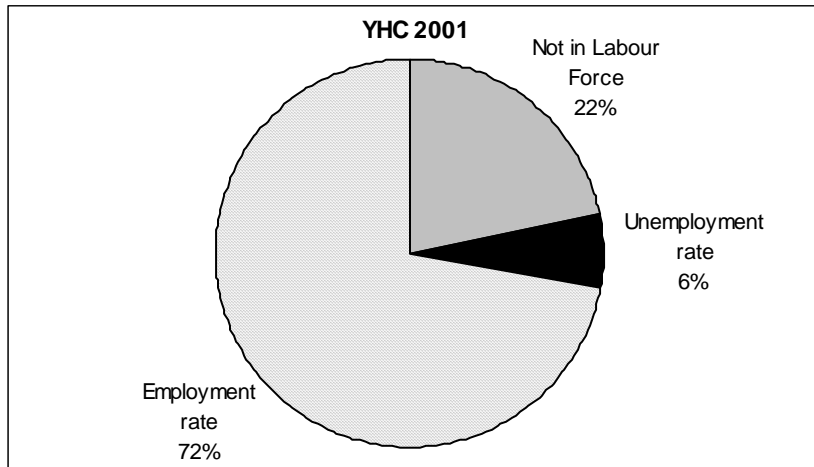




Figure 3.10. Male labour force activity, YHC, 2001



The distribution of workers by type of employment is illustrated in Figures 3.11 to 3.14. In Hinton 57% of male workers have full time employment, compared to 42% of female workers. In Jasper this difference is less prominent with 53% of male workers having full-time employment, compared to 48% of female workers. Compared to 1996, in 2001 there was a significant increase in full-time employment for females (refer to Tables 3.11 and 3.12).

Figure 3.11. Male full-time and part-time employment, Hinton, 2001

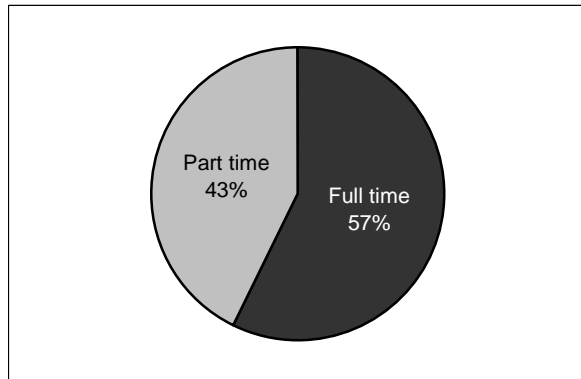


Figure 3.12. Female full-time and part-time employment, Hinton, 2001

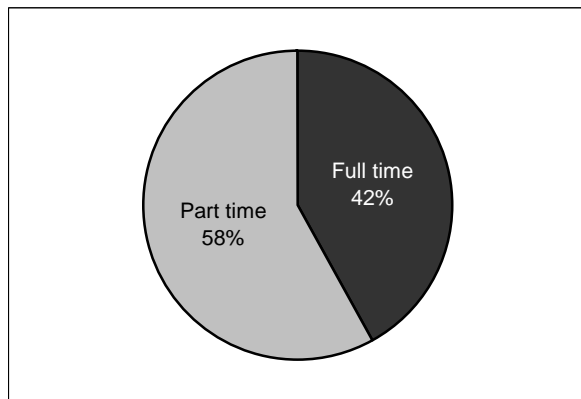


Figure 3.13. Male full-time and part-time employment, Jasper, 2001

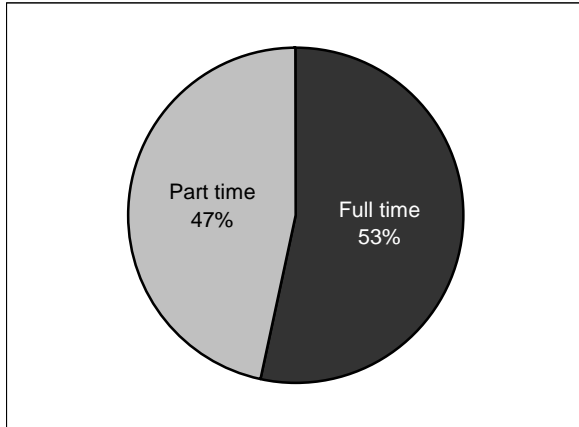
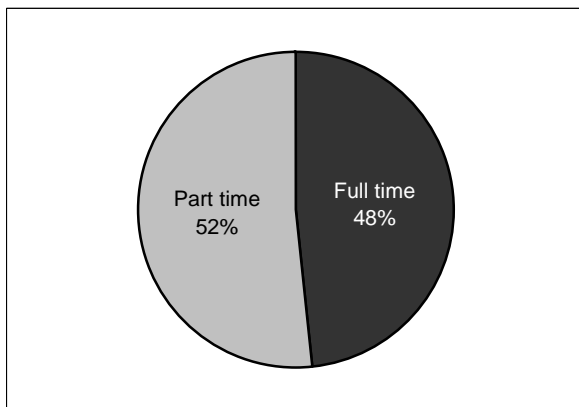


Figure 3.14. Female full-time and part-time employment, Jasper, 2001



The distribution of occupational classifications throughout the FMF region in 2001 is illustrated in Figures 3.15 to 3.18. These graphs represent merged occupational categories and do not reflect all of the categories used by Statistics Canada. A more detailed breakdown of these categories is provided in Table 3.4. In the YHC and Hinton jurisdictions, there is a significant difference in the distribution of occupations between male and female workers. Note that this breakdown does not reflect the number of employers per occupation, and therefore, a single employer could hire individuals spanning multiple occupational categories. In Figures 3.15 and 3.16 we observe that in the YHC and Hinton jurisdictions a greater proportion of male workers participate in the transport, equipment and trades occupations, while more females than males are involved in sales and service occupations. Unexpectedly, throughout the FMF region, there are a small proportion of workers in occupations typically associated with resource industries (primary industry and processing & manufacturing). Nevertheless, as described below, this should not suggest that individuals are not employed in these sectors; rather, these individuals have occupations that do not fall within these expected categories. In Jasper (Figure 3.17), the occupational breakdown reflects the high proportion of workers employed in the sales and services, and, for males, trades and transport occupations. When we look at the provincial distribution of occupations by sex (Figure 3.18) we see that it is somewhat similar to the Hinton and the YHC jurisdictions with more females than males in service occupations and more males than females in trades and transport occupations, and primary industry occupations. According to Tables 3.7 and 3.8, the occupational distribution for both male and female workers remained fairly stable between 1996 and 2001.

Figure 3.15. Participation in selected occupation by sex, YHC, 2001

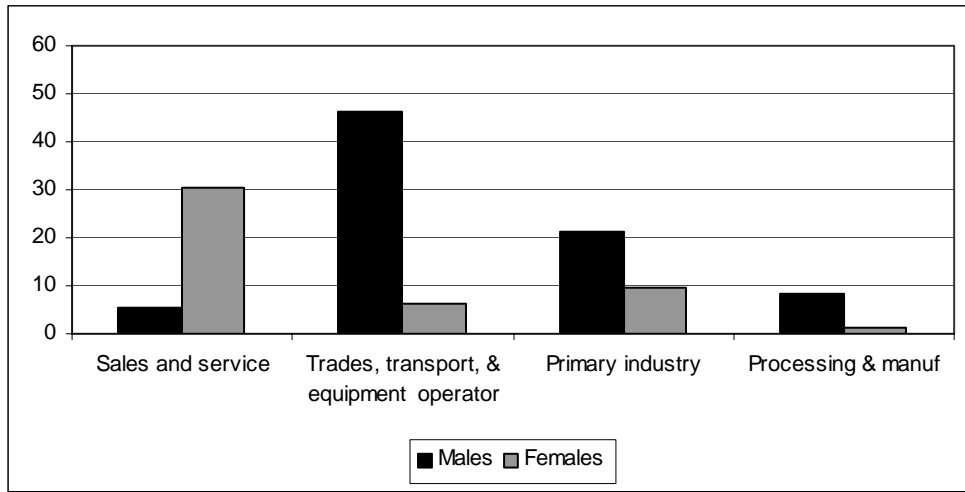


Figure 3.16. Participation in selected occupation by sex, Hinton, 2001

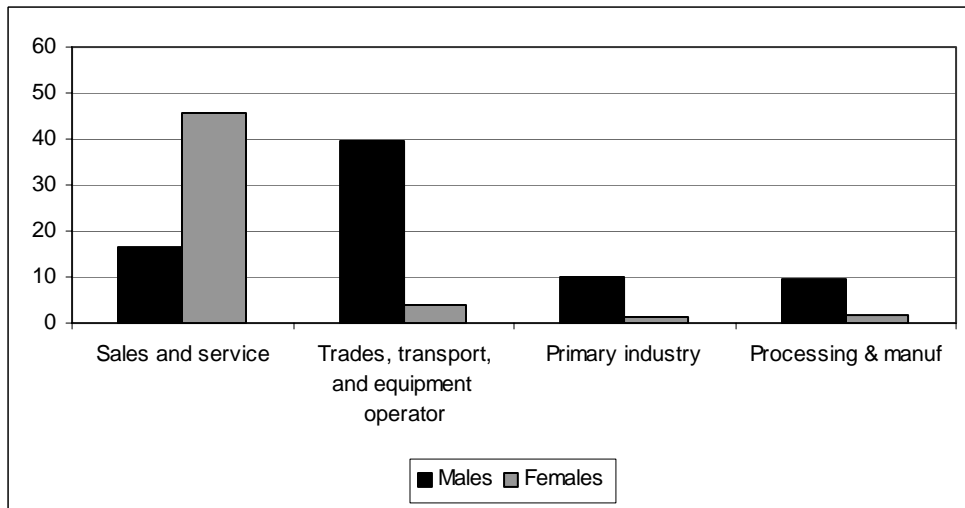


Figure 3.17. Participation in selected occupation by sex, Jasper, 2001

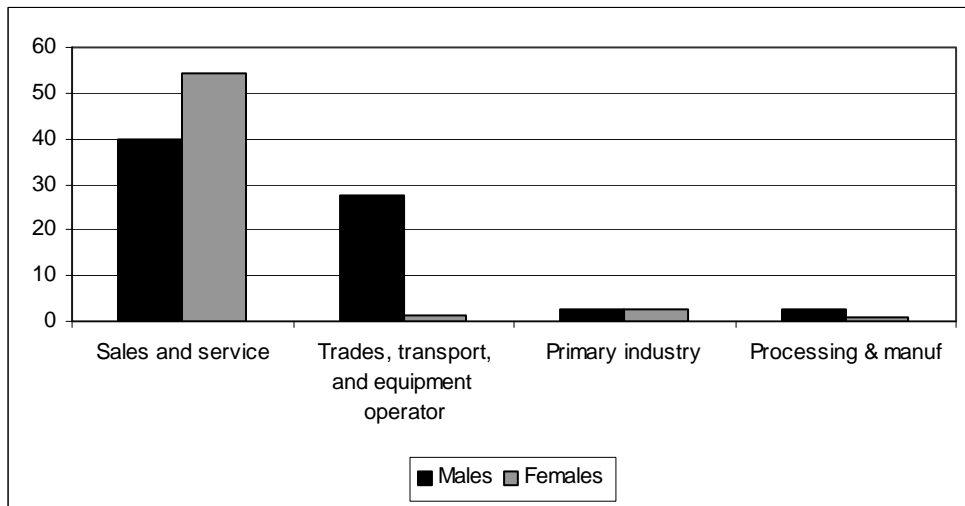
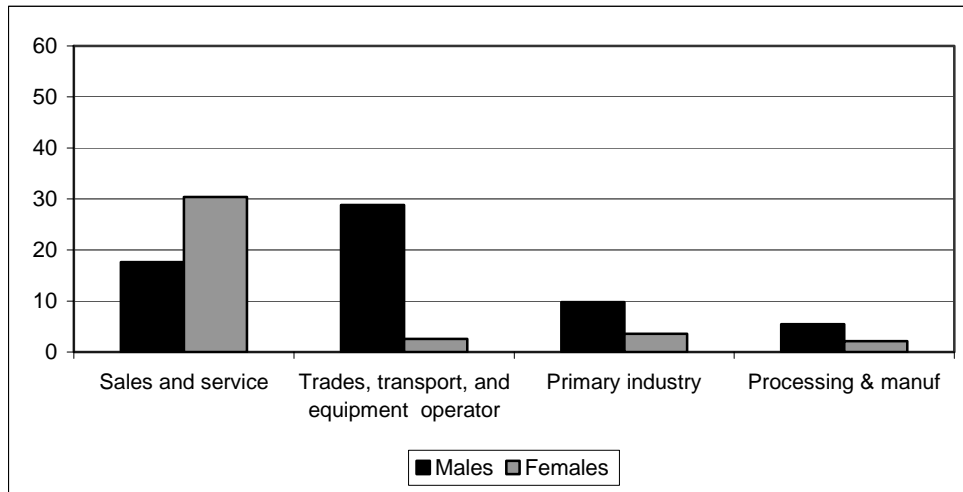


Figure 3.18. Participation in selected occupation by sex, Alberta, 2001



Finally, Figure 3.19 displays the distribution of population by industrial classification. Most workers in the YHC and Hinton jurisdictions are employed in resource sectors and sectors associated with resource extraction and processing. In Jasper, most employment is in the accommodation and food sector reflecting the tourism economy in this jurisdiction. Table 3.10 provides a complete breakdown of the FMF region labour force by industrial classification.

Figures 3.20 to 3.22 illustrate the change in the percent of population by occupation and sex between 1996 and 2001 in FMF regions. Only the occupations typically associated with resource extraction and processing is presented, and data from 1991 are not included, as the occupational categories are significantly different for this year, compared to later years. In general, occupational distribution has not changed significantly between 1996 and 2001. In the YHC, we observe a slight increase for males in the trades, transport, equipment operation and related occupations, and a slight increase in females occupying positions unique to primary industry. In Hinton, there is a slight decrease for males employed in trades, transport, equipment operation and related occupations, as well as processing, manufacturing and utilities. In this community there is also a slight increase in males employed in other occupations. In Jasper, the percent of population by occupation and sex has not changed significantly between 1996 and 2001, although there is a slight increase in males and females employed in processing, manufacturing and utilities.

Figure 3.19. Employment by industrial classification, 2001

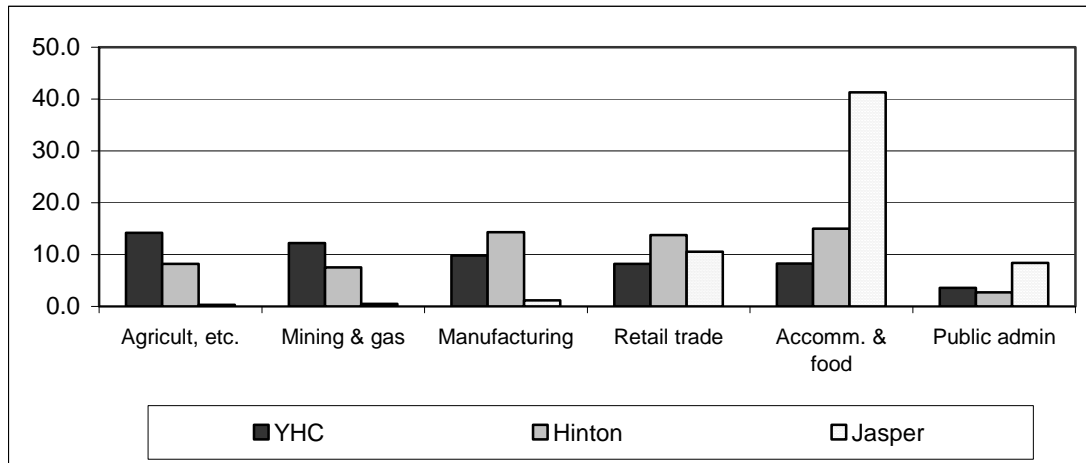


Figure 3.20. Percent population by occupation and sex, YHC, 1996 & 2001

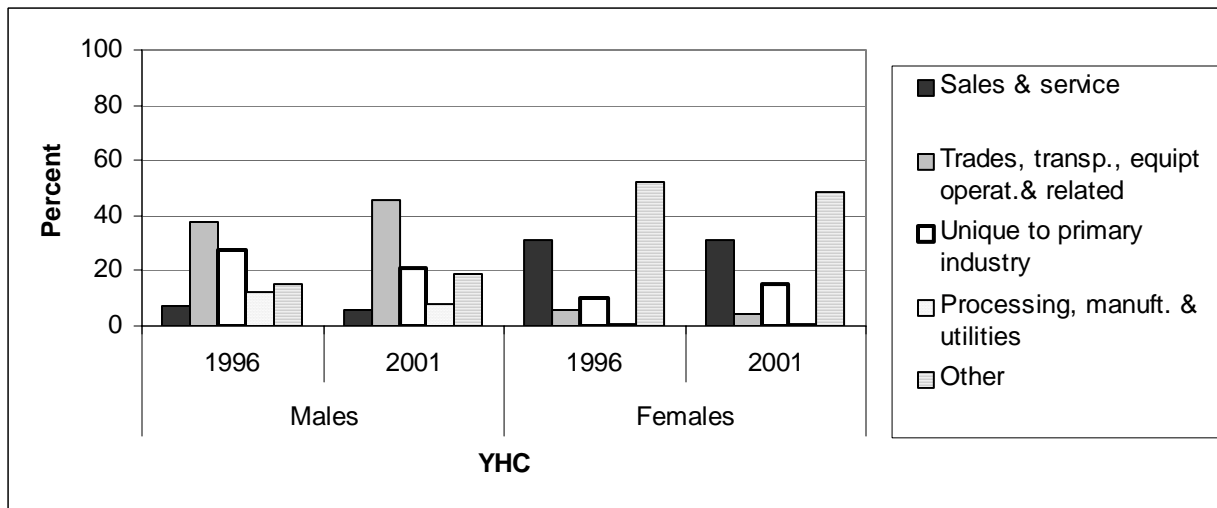


Figure 3.21. Percent population by occupation and sex, Hinton, 1996 & 2001

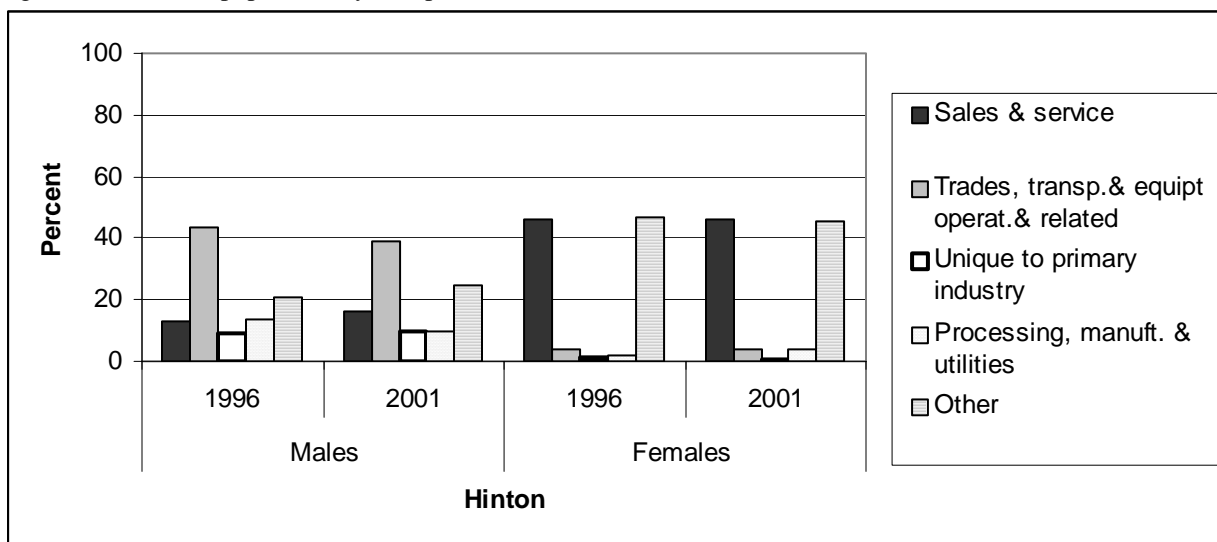
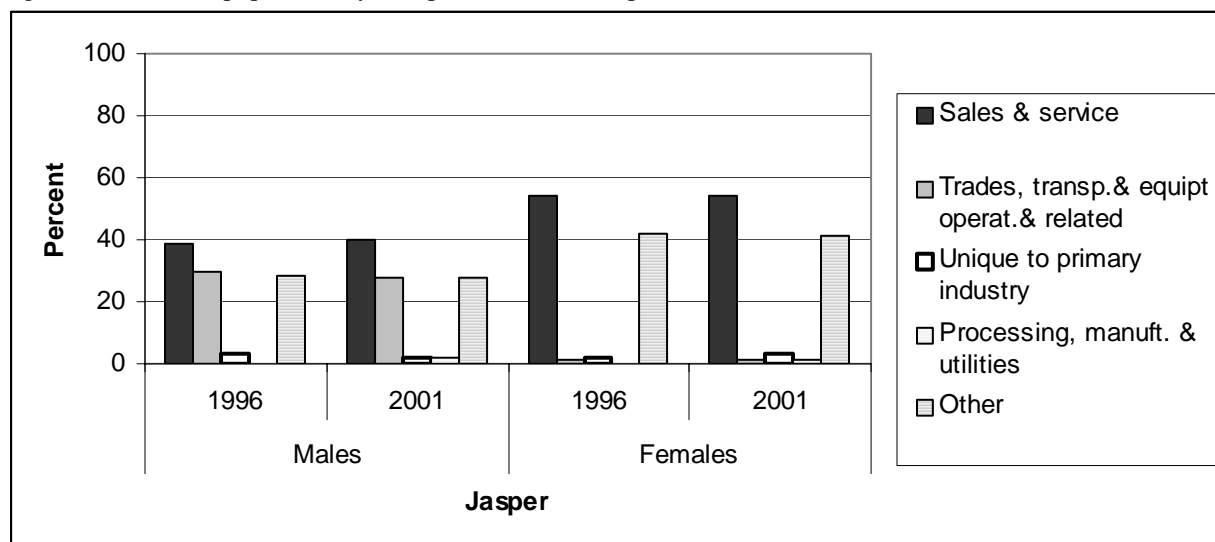


Figure 3.22. Percent population by occupation and sex, Jasper, 1996 & 2001



## CENSUS TABLES

Table 3.1. Labour force activity by sex, 2001

Census divisions	Total population 15 years+		In labour force		Employed		Unemployed	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
YHC	4,060	3,670	3,180	2,330	2,995	2,245	190	90
Hinton	3,630	3,460	3,010	2,375	2,745	2,215	260	165
Jasper	1,840	1,685	1,615	1,370	1,525	1,330	85	35
Foothills	9,530	8,815	7,805	6,075	7,265	5,790	535	290
Grande Cache	1,435	1,340	1,085	790	955	690	130	100
Edson	2,925	2,830	2,460	1,855	2,330	1,740	130	110
Whitecourt	3,240	2,815	2,910	2,145	2,715	1,965	200	180
Edmonton	260,880	273,120	199,465	176,135	187,595	165,465	11,870	10,665
Alberta	1,155,425	1,166,600	920,145	776,620	872,770	736,065	47,370	40,550
Canada	11,626,790	12,274,570	8,452,015	7,420,060	7,810,290	6,884,840	641,720	535,215

Table 3.2. Labour force activity by sex, 1996

Census divisions	Total population 15 years+		In labour force		Employed		Unemployed	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
YHC	3,795	3,265	3,025	2,075	2,785	1,940	240	135
Hinton	3,790	3,535	3,245	2,285	3,040	2,165	205	115
Jasper	1,860	1,725	1,625	1,385	1,555	1,345	70	35
Foothills	9,445	8,525	7,895	5,745	7,380	5,450	515	285
Grande Cache	1,660	1,490	1,360	905	1,360	830	70	75
Edson	2,720	2,670	2,055	1,745	2,055	1,535	145	210
Whitecourt	2,970	2,575	2,410	1,885	2,405	1,715	165	170
Edmonton	235,180	247,920	177,600	156,950	161,110	143,260	16,490	13,685
Alberta	1,021,435	1,033,585	810,015	676,965	750,840	628,865	59,170	48,100
Canada	11,022,455	11,606,470	8,007,955	6,804,745	7,191,125	6,127,615	816,830	677,130

Table 3.3. Unemployment and participation rate by sex, 1981-2001

Census Divisions	2001				1996				1991			
	unemplyt rate		part. rate		unemplyt rate		part. rate		unemplyt rate		part. rate	
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
YHC	6	3.9	78.3	63.5	7.9	6.5	79.7	63.6	8.6	6	82.4	62.8
Hinton	8.6	6.9	82.9	68.6	6.3	5	85.6	64.6	7.3	8.1	89.1	65.7
Jasper	5.3	2.6	87.8	81.3	4.3	2.5	87.4	80.3	2.2	4	89.1	79.6
Foothills	6.9	4.8	81.9	69.0	6.5	5	83.7	67.3	7	6.5	86.4	67
Grande Cache	12	12.7	75.6	59	4.9	8.3	85.6	60.7	9.5	10.8	89.4	66.8
Edson	5.3	5.9	84.1	65.5	6.6	12	80.7	65.4	8	13.2	86.9	64
Whitcourt	6.9	8.4	89.8	76.2	6.4	9	86.5	73.2	7.8	10.2	91.3	71.4
Edmonton	6	6.1	76.5	64.5	9.3	8.7	75.5	63.3	9.5	8.9	79.7	65.2
Alberta	5.1	5.2	79.6	66.6	7.3	7.1	79.3	65.5	7.5	8.2	81.8	66.2
Canada	7.6	7.2	72.7	60.5	10.2	10	72.7	58.6	10.1	10.2	76.4	59.9

Table 3.3. Continued. Unemployment and participation rate by sex, 1981-2001

Census Divisions	1986				1981			
	unemplyt rate		part. rate		unemplyt rate		part. rate	
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
YHC	10.2	10.6	79.9	49.3	5.2	5.9	89.9	57.6
Hinton	11.2	7.9	88.8	60	4.2	5.3	80.8	41.9
Jasper	9.3	7.9	91.2	77.3	3.9	4.1	92.1	73.4
Foothills	9	9	85.5	58.7	4.6	5.4	88.4	54.9
Grande Cache	11.7	8.2	86.7	66.4	2.9	9.9	88.3	57.5
Edson	10.6	12.7	84.8	59.7	4.4	5.7	92.2	54.5
Whitcourt	15.8	14.4	92.1	66.7	6.5	4.1	92.4	61.6
Edmonton	12.1	9.7	81.4	64.6	3.9	4.3	85	63.1
Alberta	9.8	9.6	82.7	62.5	3.3	4.3	84.7	58.2
Canada	9.6	11.2	77.5	55.9	6.5	8.7	78.2	51.8

Table 3.4. Standard occupations by sex, 2001

Standard Occupations	YHC		Hinton		Jasper		Grande Cache		Edson		Whitcourt	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
All occupations	3,170	2,310	3,005	2,360	1,615	1,360	1,075	760	2,445	1,840	2,900	2,120
Management Business, finance & admin	270	210	280	140	210	205	90	85	245	175	360	190
Natural & appl. sciences & related	55	670	80	535	50	215	20	135	75	380	145	590
Health	155	35	235	55	80	10	80	0	165	30	300	75
Social science, eductn., govt, service & religion	10	90	30	170	10	65	0	30	40	120	35	80
Art, culture, recreation and sport	60	165	85	170	55	40	45	75	50	230	55	120
Sales and service	40	30	30	45	50	20	30	15	20	20	10	50
Trades, transport & equipt. operators & related	175	705	490	1,080	645	740	175	390	335	720	300	830
Occupations unique to primary industry	1,465	140	1,185	90	445	20	490	25	1,035	95	1,080	95
Processing, manuft. & utilities	680	225	300	35	40	35	75	0	220	25	360	55
	265	30	290	40	40	10	65	0	255	40	260	30

Table 3.5. Standard occupations by sex, 1996

	<b>YH 94</b>		<b>Hinton</b>		<b>Jasper</b>		<b>Grande Cache</b>		<b>Edson</b>		<b>Whitecourt</b>	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
All occupations	3,025	2,040	3,205	2,260	1,625	1,385	1420	885	2180	1695	2550	1850
Management	215	135	215	130	230	175	100	70	210	100	250	90
Business, finance & admin	115	610	145	570	95	230	55	200	125	435	115	585
Natural & appl. sciences & related	130	10	190	25	35	10	65	15	125	10	165	35
Health	10	85	15	110	30	60	20	85	25	105	10	70
Social science, educn., govt, service & religion	25	100	95	140	35	80	60	105	40	125	40	165
Art, culture, recreation and sport	20	30	20	50	35	20	10	20	25	20	20	20
Sales and service	215	635	410	1,040	625	755	190	330	275	805	370	725
Trades, transport & equipt. operators & related	1,150	95	1,385	90	480	20	570	40	750	40	680	65
Occupations unique to primary industry	835	310	290	15	55	30	240	10	245	20	310	10
Processing, manuf. & utilities	370	15	445	85	0	0	115	10	360	35	580	85

Table 3.6. Standard occupations by sex, 1991

	<b>YH 94</b>		<b>Hinton</b>		<b>Jasper</b>		<b>Grande Cache</b>		<b>Edson</b>		<b>Whitecourt</b>	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
All occupations	2,780	1,835	3,060	2,020	1,350	1,115	1,245	820	2,315	1,640	2,360	1,575
Managerial & administrative fields	220	125	245	125	85	115	95	35	180	110	195	125
natural sciences, engineering & math	45	10	175	15	10	0	25	0	150	10	165	15
Social sciences & related fields	20	10	20	65	0	10	15	10	10	30	15	50
Religion	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0
Teaching & related fields	15	85	50	115	15	40	20	45	40	130	10	60
Medicine & health	0	110	10	85	0	35	20	50	25	125	15	80
artistic, literacy, recreation & related fields	10	10	15	10	25	20	10	15	20	15	0	0
Clerical & related fields	40	530	95	710	65	320	35	280	65	515	110	480
Sales	135	170	220	185	90	165	50	80	115	185	130	140
Services	90	365	180	495	420	330	110	255	215	450	130	490
Farming, horticultural, & animal husbandry	485	260	20	25	30	15	15	0	20	15	0	10
Fishing, trapping & related fields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forestry & logging	120	10	115	10	10	0	60	0	120	0	145	0
Mining, & quarrying (includes oil & gas)	155	10	165	10	15	0	130	0	140	15	260	0
Processing	90	25	250	10	10	10	110	0	115	0	260	60
Machining & related fields	120	0	115	25	10	10	40	0	80	0	75	0
Product fabrication, assembly & repair	225	15	290	0	50	0	110	10	265	10	190	0
Construction trades	570	45	570	10	150	15	155	0	300	10	235	10
Transport equipment operator	190	30	200	55	305	25	75	10	180	10	185	0
Material hauling & related fields	35	15	120	25	0	0	45	0	50	0	65	10
Other crafts equipment operating	85	0	85	20	15	0	80	0	140	15	55	20
Occupations not classified here	100	0	115	10	35	0	40	10	65	0	95	15



Table 3.7 Percent of population by standard occupations and sex, 2001

	YHC		Hinton		Jasper		Grande Cache		Edson		Whitecourt	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
All occupations	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Management	9	9	9	6	13	15	8	11	10	10	12	9
Business, finance & admin	2	29	3	23	3	16	2	18	3	21	5	28
Natural & appl. sciences & related	5	2	8	2	5	1	7	0	7	2	10	4
Health	0	4	1	7	1	5	0	4	2	7	1	4
Social science, eductn, government, service & religion	2	7	3	7	3	3	4	10	2	13	2	6
Art, culture, recreation and sport	1	1	1	2	3	1	3	2	1	1	0	2
Sales and service	6	31	16	46	40	54	16	51	14	39	10	39
Trades, transport & equipt operators & related	46	6	39	4	28	1	46	3	42	5	37	4
Occupations unique to primary industry	21	10	10	1	2	3	7	0	9	1	12	3
Processing, manuft. & utilities	8	1	10	2	2	1	6	0	10	2	9	1

Table 3.8. Percent of population by standard occupations and sex, 1996

	YH 94		Hinton		Jasper		Grande Cache		Edson		Whitecourt	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
All occupations	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Management	7.1	6.6	6.7	5.8	14.2	12.6	7.0	7.9	9.6	5.9	9.8	4.9
Business, finance & admin	3.8	29.9	4.5	25.2	5.8	16.6	3.9	22.6	5.7	25.7	4.5	31.6
Natural & appl. sciences & related	4.3	0.5	5.9	1.1	2.2	0.7	4.6	1.7	5.7	0.6	6.5	1.9
Health	0.3	4.2	0.5	4.9	1.8	4.3	1.4	9.6	1.1	6.2	0.4	3.8
Social science, eductn., govt, service & religion	0.8	4.9	3.0	6.2	2.2	5.8	4.2	11.9	1.8	7.4	1.6	8.9
Art, culture, recreation and sport	0.7	1.5	0.6	2.2	2.2	1.4	0.7	2.3	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.1
Sales and service	7.1	31.1	12.8	46.0	38.5	54.5	13.4	37.3	12.6	47.5	14.5	39.2
Trades, transport & equipt. operators & related	38.0	4.7	43.2	4.0	29.5	1.4	40.1	4.5	34.4	2.4	26.7	3.5
Occupations unique to primary industry	27.6	15.2	9.0	0.7	3.4	2.2	16.9	1.1	11.2	1.2	12.2	0.5
Processing, manuft. & utilities	12.2	0.7	13.9	3.8	0.0	0.0	8.1	1.1	16.5	2.1	22.7	4.6

Table 3.9. Percent of population by standard occupations and sex, 1991

	YH 94		Hinton		Jasper		Grande Cache		Edson		Whitecourt	
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
All occupations	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Managerial & administrative fields	7.9	6.8	8	6.2	6.3	10.3	7.6	4.3	7.8	6.7	8.3	7.9
natural sciences, engineering & math	1.6	0.5	5.7	0.7	0.7	0	2	0	6.5	0.6	7	1
Social sciences & related fields	0.7	0.5	0.7	3.2	0	0.9	1.2	1.2	0.4	1.8	0.6	3.2
Religion	0.4	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0	0.4	0
Teaching & related fields	0.5	4.6	1.6	5.7	1.1	3.6	1.6	5.5	1.7	7.9	0.4	3.8
Medicine & health	0	6	0.3	4.2	0	3.1	1.6	6.1	1.1	7.6	0.6	5.1
artistic, literacy, recreation & related fields	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.9	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.9	0.9	0	0
Clerical & related fields	1.4	28.9	3.1	35.1	4.8	28.7	2.8	34.1	2.8	31.4	4.7	30.5
Sales	4.9	9.3	7.2	9.2	6.7	14.8	4	9.8	5	11.3	5.5	8.9
Services	3.2	19.9	5.9	24.5	31.1	29.6	8.8	31.1	9.3	27.4	5.5	31.1
Farming, horticultural, & animal husbandry	17.4	14.2	0.7	1.2	2.2	1.3	1.2	0	0.9	0.9	0	0.6
Fishing, trapping & related fields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forestry & logging	4.3	0.5	3.8	0.5	0.7	0	4.8	0	5.2	0	6.1	0
Mining, & quarrying (includes oil & gas)	5.6	0.5	5.4	0.5	1.1	0	10.4	0	6	0.9	11	0
Processing	3.2	1.4	8.2	0.5	0.7	0.9	8.8	0	5	0	11	3.8
Machining & related fields	4.3	0	3.8	1.2	0.7	0.9	3.2	0	3.5	0	3.2	0
Product fabrication, assembly & repair	8.1	0.8	9.5	0	3.7	0	8.8	1.2	11.4	0.6	8.1	0
Construction trades	20.5	2.5	18.6	0.5	11.1	1.3	12.4	0	13	0.6	10	0.6
Transport equipment operator	6.8	1.6	6.5	2.7	22.6	2.2	6	1.2	7.8	0.6	7.8	0
Material hauling & related fields	1.3	0.8	3.9	1.2	0	0	3.6	0	2.2	0	2.8	0.6
Other crafts equipment operating	3.1	0	2.8	1	1.1	0	6.4	0	6	0.9	2.3	1.3
Occupations not classified here	3.6	0	3.8	0.5	2.6	0	3.2	1.2	2.8	0	4	1

Table 3.10. Total labour force by industrial classification (1997 North American Industry Classification System), 2001

	YHC	Hinton	Jasper	Grande Cache	Edson	Whitecourt	Edmonton	Alberta	Canada
All industries	5,485	5,370	2,980	1,840	4,285	5,020	370,920	1,681,980	15,576,565
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	780	440	10	65	150	220	1,870	84,570	567,665
Mining & oil & gas extraction	670	405	15	155	585	725	6,640	85,975	169,975
Utilities	40	15	0	110	55	45	2,670	13,565	118,790
Construction	535	315	85	130	300	485	26,350	130,015	879,245
Manufacturing	540	770	35	135	310	680	31,915	134,925	2,174,290
Wholesale trade	110	145	10	30	135	115	18,925	75,700	686,530
Retail trade	450	740	315	195	590	615	42,975	183,035	1,754,885
Transportation & warehousing	460	240	285	90	320	265	18,270	92,440	774,220
Information & cultural industries	20	25	45	50	40	20	10,010	39,175	417,285
Finance & insurance	60	75	45	25	60	95	12,890	53,655	635,630
Real estate & rental & leasing	85	70	50	20	70	125	7,025	30,675	259,355
Professional, scientific & technical services	195	155	40	40	85	175	27,415	118,990	982,300
Management of companies & enterprises	0	0	10	0	0	0	335	1,855	15,325
Administrative & support, waste management & remediation services	115	140	85	65	80	130	17,095	63,805	605,915
Educational services	270	260	45	80	260	215	27,105	109,040	1,021,020
Health care & social assistance	270	370	130	70	365	200	38,525	150,005	1,511,355
Arts, entertainment & recreation	45	45	175	20	55	35	7,775	32,305	303,860
Accommodation & food services	455	805	1,230	275	455	555	30,040	122,200	1,046,040
Other services (except public administration)	180	215	110	70	230	155	20,100	82,580	748,395
Public administration	195	145	250	195	140	160	22,995	77,455	904,480

Table 3.11. Full and part-time employment and income, 2001

Census divisions	Number of full time employed		Average full time employment income (\$)		Number of part time employed		Average part time employment income	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
YH 94	1,870	1,010	44,612	28,673	1,340	1,320	24,321	15,115
Hinton	1,720	1,060	57,621	28,678	1,290	1,475	20,935	12,247
Jasper	855	680	45,414	27,354	750	725	20,426	15,693
Foothills	4,445	2,750	49,216	28,235	3,380	3,520	21,894	14,352
Grande Cache	550	335	51,936	28,322	570	550	20,851	12,342
Edson	1,480	800	52,945	29,685	995	1,145	22,040	13,833
Whitecourt	1,670	910	57,602	29,181	1,240	1,240	25,067	18,262
Edmonton	118,825	85,225	47,396	33,011	82,395	95,695	19,176	14,909
Alberta	565,705	370,475	51,133	33,437	359,940	428,040	20,108	15,194
Canada	5,093,705	3,591,520	49,224	34,892	3,376,780	3,924,510	19,207	15,625

Table 3.12. Full and part-time employment and income, 1996

Census divisions	Number of full time employed		Average full time employment income (\$)		Number of part time employed		Average part time employment income	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
YH 94	1,540	765	39,936	23,181	1,460	1,310	23,317	9,694
Hinton	2,200	880	50,557	25,214	1,060	1,570	24,282	9,756
Jasper	950	515	40,103	28,519	715	950	19,893	12,021
Foothills Grande	4,690	2,160	44,951	25,298	3,235	3,830	22,877	10,297
Cache	940	355	53,613	28,689	490	640	24,327	9,988
Edson	1,365	660	45,125	22,272	890	1,020	21,199	9,336
Whitecourt	1,545	785	52,021	24,752	1,090	1,195	26,032	11,070
Edmonton	97,760	69,995	41,043	28,795	77,535	85,690	17,567	12,107
Alberta	468,950	293,110	42,725	28,091	332,770	380,840	19,055	11,942
Canada	4,514,850	2,998,940	42,488	30,130	3,329,880	3,712,545	18,672	12,727

Table 3.13. Full and part-time employment and income, 1991

Census divisions	Number of full time employed		Average full time employment income (\$)		Number of part time employed		Average part time employment income	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
YH 94	1,640	630	30,908	18,971	1,145	1,110	20,851	10,613
Hinton	1,905	840	45,964	22,603	1,165	1,320	23,599	10,981
Jasper	740	525	35,911	21,068	625	625	20,100	10,622
Foothills Grande	4,285	1,995	38,458	21,048	2,935	3,055	21,780	10,775
Cache	875	325	48,032	24,800	405	525	22,187	11,165
Edson	1,420	720	40,849	22,045	920	1,065	19,554	8,821
Whitecourt	1,535	565	42,271	23,209	850	1,125	23,434	8,718
Edmonton	108,220	74,485	37,662	25,868	78,590	88,815	17,284	11,381
Alberta	471,950	288,395	38,389	25,037	307,835	358,360	17,720	11,045
Canada	4,699,890	3,018,885	38,648	26,033	3,207,005	3,545,250	17,952	11,244

Table 3.14. Full and part-time employment and income, 1986

Census divisions	Number of full time employed		Average full time employment income (\$)		Number of part time employed		Average part time employment income	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
YH 94	1,270	370	34,035	21,884	1,195	970	21,642	8,027
Hinton	1,725	660	45,626	25,427	1,150	1,200	26,504	9,453
Jasper	795	280	36,131	24,837	745	920	15,143	10,550
Foothills Grande	3,795	1,310	39,713	25,490	3,090	3,090	21,863	9,314
Cache	545	195	44,876	27,172	560	545	26,900	9,493
Edson	1,165	540	44,547	24,304	1,045	1,060	22,166	9,100
Whitecourt	990	415	41,915	22,523	870	875	20,242	9,126
Edmonton	97,170	65,230	40,695	27,011	80,580	85,290	16,769	10,837
Alberta	416,505	226,810	40,699	26,430	310,705	336,730	17,792	10,590
Canada	4,249,365	2,331,515	38,435	25,194	3,033,575	3,240,035	16,979	10,095

Table 3.15. Average Employment and Income, 1981

<b>Census Divisions</b>	<b>Number of full time employed</b>		<b>Average full time &amp; part-time employment income</b>	
	males	females	males	females
YH 94	2,835	1,460	29,649	12,089
Hinton	2,785	1,780	34,551	13,170
Jasper	1,390	1,035	28,285	13,998
Foothills	7,010	4,275	31,296	12,987
Edson	1,980	1,260	32,503	12,595
Grande Cache	1,495	865	23,288	13,794
Whitecourt	1,950	1,365	31,206	11,842
Edmonton	181,985	140,385	31,328	16,376
Alberta	730,470	510,235	31,565	15,225
Canada	7,207,610	5,065,640	28,370	14801

## 4.0 INCOME DISTRIBUTION

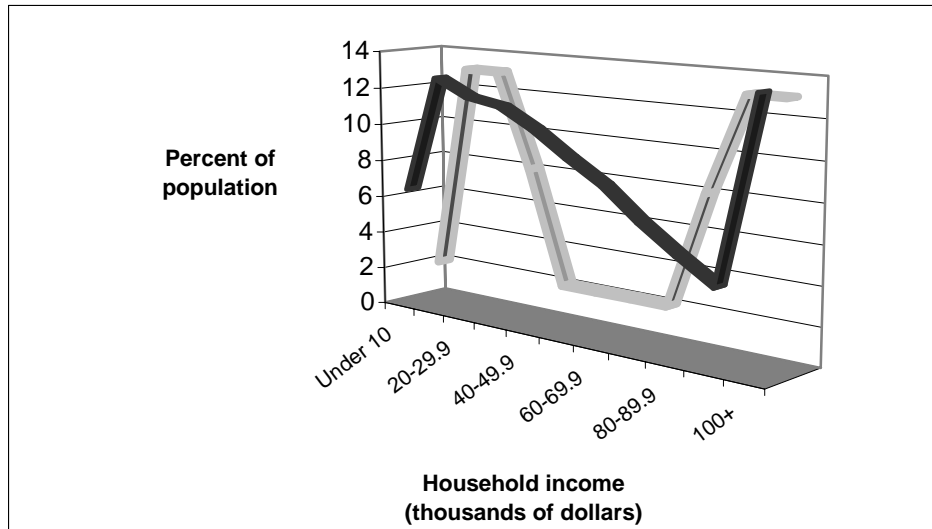
### OBJECTIVE

To examine average income and income distribution at the household and individual level, and for full-time and part-time employment.

### RATIONALE

The distribution of wealth within a community can provide insight into social equality, which can be considered an indicator of community well being (Beckley and Burkosky 1999). When income is fairly equally distributed between community members, it suggests that community members are benefiting from the economy to a similar extent. Median household income on its own is not sufficient for assessing this relationship, because, for example, a few households with extremely high incomes relative to the rest of the population could influence the median, giving a false picture of community wealth. Instead, income distribution is best understood by looking the shape of the distribution curve. Figure 4.1 represents the distribution of household income in Canada, represented by the dark curve, and a typical bimodal distribution, represented by the grey curve. The grey curve illustrates that a bimodal distribution has two high points with a trough in the middle. This Figure suggests that the distribution of income for Canada is fairly similar to a bimodal distribution, with the two high points at \$19,999 and \$100,000+.

Figure 4.1. Distribution of household income, Canada, 2001



The trough in the middle of the distribution has been termed the income gap, where the relatively small proportion of middle-income households appears as a 'gap' between the relatively large proportion of the population having low and high incomes. For a more detailed discussion of income distribution in resource dependent communities refer to Parkins and Beckley (2001).

## NOTES ON INCOME MEASUREMENTS

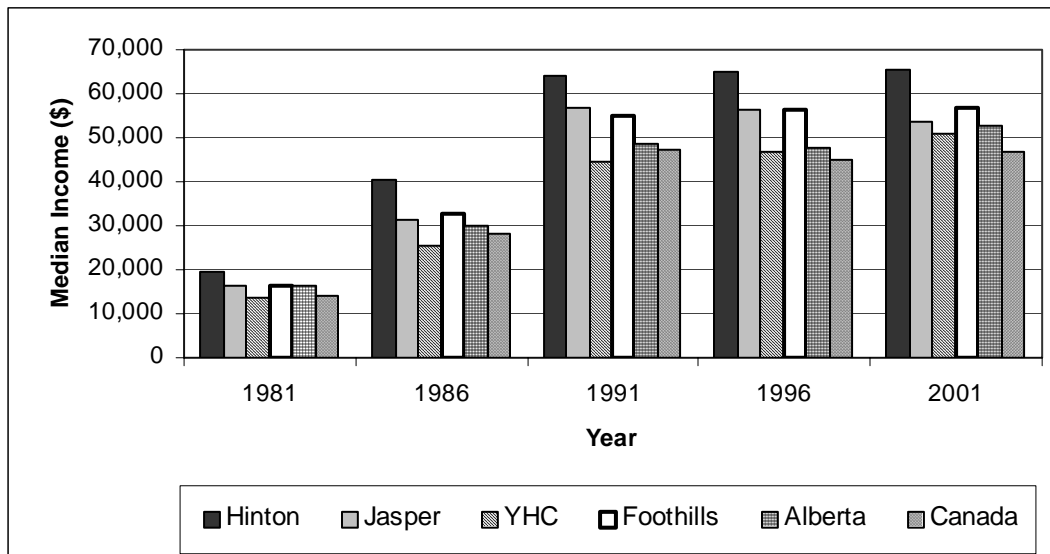
There are a few points to note when examining Figures and Tables comparing income statistics over multiple census years. When income is compared across years, dollar values prior to 2001 are converted to 2001 dollars. In some cases, the income categories from one census year to another are different, and income categories of later years are therefore adjusted accordingly to match the classifications used in early years.

Median, rather than average income for private households has been selected for analysis in this section. Median income is a more informative measure of income as it divides the income distribution into two halves, with half above the median and half below.

## MEASURING INCOME DISTRIBUTION

As expected, median income in 2001 across FMF regions, as well as Alberta and Canada, is substantially higher than in 1981. Figure 4.2 demonstrates that the increase in median household income was less dramatic between 1991 and 2001, with very little growth during this period. In all years, Hinton has the highest median income, and the gap between median income for this jurisdiction and the nation as a whole becomes wider after 1981. Jasper has the lowest median income and, unlike YHC and Hinton, experienced a slight drop in median income between 1996 and 2001.

Figure 4.2. Median household income, 1981-2001



\* All values are in 2001 dollars

The distribution of individual income in FMF jurisdictions and the province is illustrated in Figures 4.3 to 4.6. At the individual level, we observe a significant difference in income for males and females in 2001, with a greater proportion of males earning a high income (above \$50,000 year). This trend is observed throughout the FMF region and Alberta. Of particular note is the high proportion of females in the lower income categories (under \$10,000). The difference in male and female income is the most dramatic in Hinton. In Figure 4.6 we see that the income distribution by sex for the FMF region is fairly similar in 2001 compared to 1996. In 2001,

however, there was a drop in the proportion of males earning above \$50,000, while there is little difference in the income distribution for females during this period.

A comparison of individual income for part-time and full-time work for males and females (refer to Tables 4.5 and 4.6) in 2001 reveals that average employment income for males significantly exceeds that of females. The data show that the difference in average income is greater in Hinton than in other jurisdictions. In this community, for example, the average full-time employment income for females was \$28,678 compared to \$57,621 for males.

Figure 4.3. Individual income distribution for Hinton, 2001

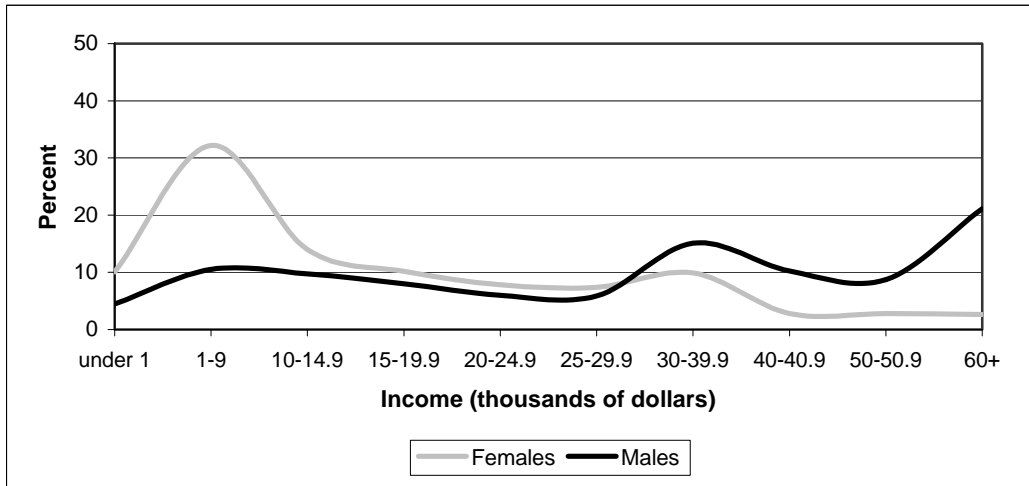


Figure 4.4. Individual income distribution for the Foothills Model Forest region , 2001

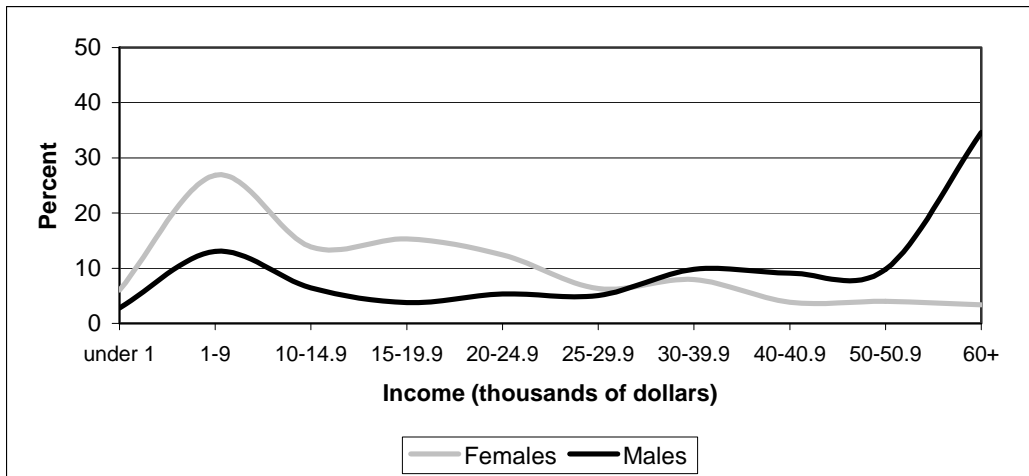




Figure 4.5. Individual income distribution for Alberta, 2001

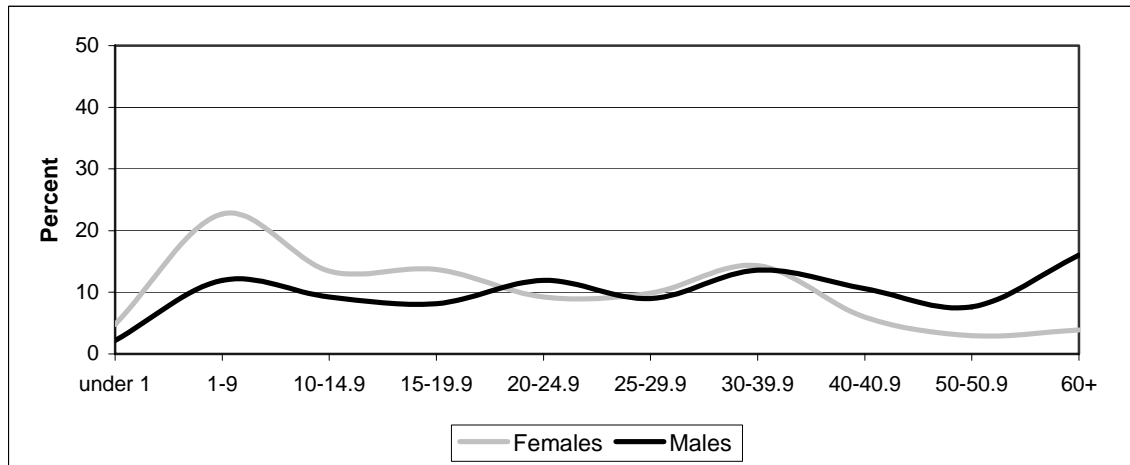
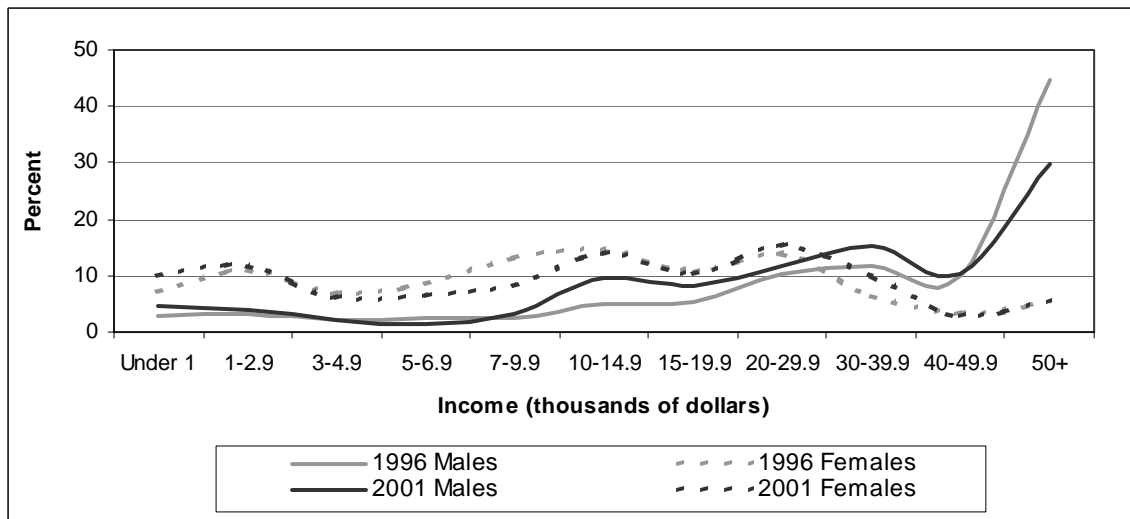


Figure 4.6. Individual income distribution for Foothills Model Forest region, 1991-2001



As discussed earlier, the household income distribution for Canada in 2001 can be described as bimodal. According to Figure 4.1, the income distribution for the FMF regions is slightly different than the national trend, as most curves have three, rather than two, distinct high points. These high points are represented by the \$10,000-\$29,999, \$69,999 to \$79,999, and \$100,000 or more income categories. Household income distribution has changed significantly from 1996, especially for Hinton and the YHC jurisdictions. In Figure 4.8 we see that between 1996 and 2001 there has been an increase in the number of Hinton households earning \$10,000-\$19,999, a significant drop in households earning between \$40,000 to \$69,999, and a significant increase in households earning over \$70,000. In the YHC jurisdiction the difference in household income distribution for 2001 compared to 1996 is more striking (Figure 4.9). In 1996 there was far more variation in household income, whereas in 2001 income appears to be slightly more evenly distributed with a larger proportion of households in higher income categories.

Figure 4.7. Household income distribution for Foothills Model Forest region and Canada, 2001

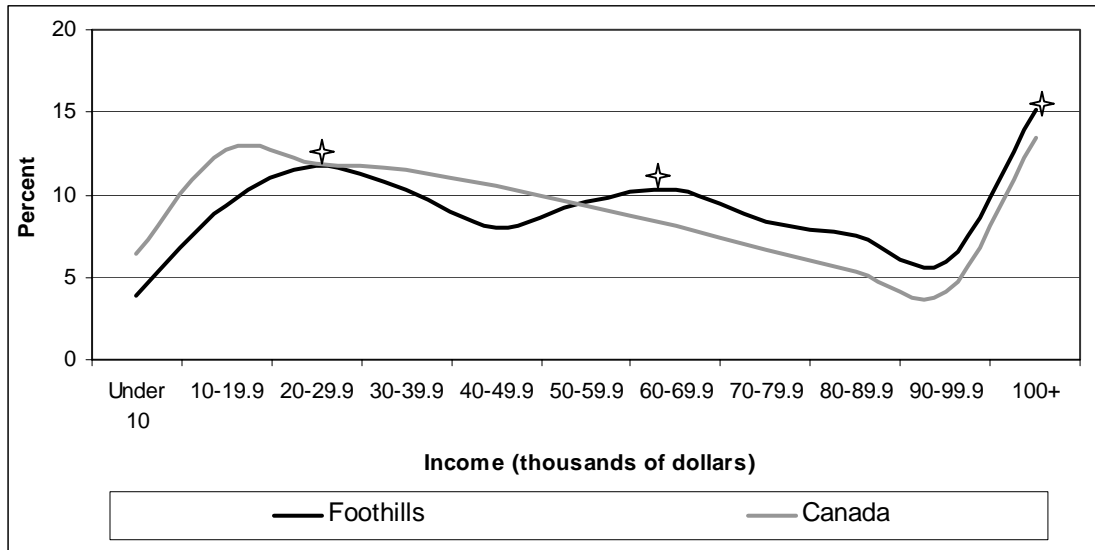


Figure 4.8. Household income distribution, Hinton, 1996 and 2001

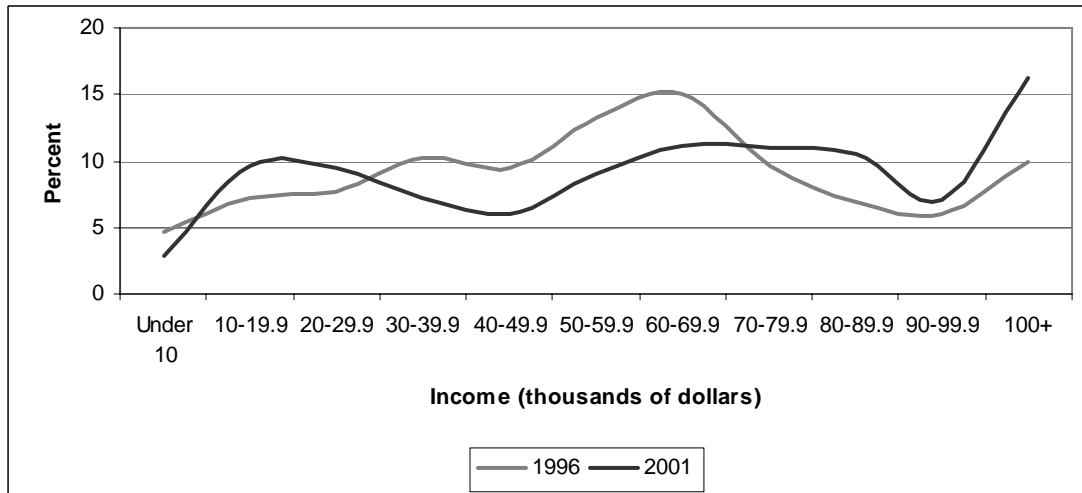
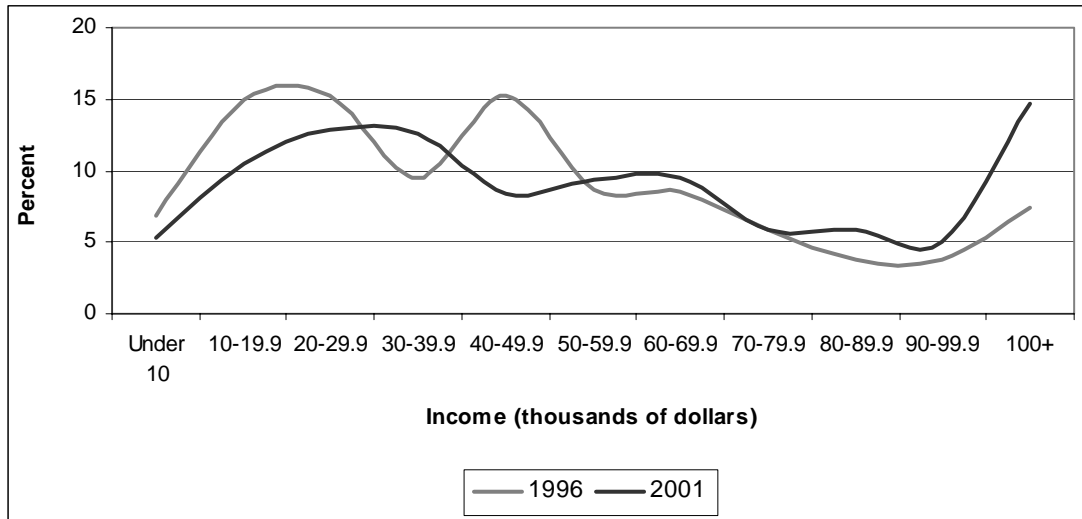


Figure 4.9. Household income distribution, YHC, 1996 and 2001



**CENSUS TABLES**

Table 4.1. Median household income (\$), 1981-2001\*

<b>Census divisions</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1981</b>
YHC	51,041	46,708	44,688	25,335	13,709
Hinton	65,269	64,991	64,241	40,364	19,420
Jasper	53,485	56,408	56,871	31,167	16,331
Foothills	56,598	56,189	55,115	32,721	16,587
Grande Cache	52,501	69,637	66,504	39,608	19,828
Edson	54,235	46,400	54,285	31,467	17,180
Whitecourt	63,899	63,447	59,143	31,171	16,936
Edmonton	46,698	43,182	45,943	28,780	16,114
Alberta	52,524	47,825	48,823	30,014	16,187
Canada	46,752	45,034	47,206	28,022	14,049

\*Adjusted to 2001 dollars

Table 4.2. Population by income distribution and sex, 2001

	<b>YHC</b>		<b>Hinton</b>		<b>Jasper</b>		<b>Foothills</b>		<b>Alberta</b>		<b>Canada</b>	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
<b>Total popn 15 yr+ with income</b>	4,000	3,575	3,565	3,390	1,840	1,675	9,405	8,640	1,129,505	1,137,010	11,189,035	11,534,015
<b>Income categories</b>												
Under \$1,000	180	360	100	205	40	80	320	645	51,130	78,395	457,375	569,915
\$1,000 - 2,999	150	420	150	195	60	115	360	730	41,600	67,520	413,105	639,565
\$3,000 - 4,999	85	215	80	285	35	75	200	575	32,295	56,770	324,715	541,035
\$5,000 - 6,999	55	225	85	215	60	85	200	525	31,290	59,340	368,095	645,230
\$7,000 - 9,999	130	290	150	215	65	105	345	610	42,675	83,930	510,660	953,285
\$10,000 -11,999	145	190	95	230	65	90	305	510	37,710	63,265	415,515	676,810
\$12,000 -14,999	245	310	135	240	105	135	485	685	51,690	94,735	593,555	1,077,440
\$15,000 -19,999	320	365	135	520	150	230	605	1,115	87,590	135,825	922,510	1,322,440
\$20,000 -24,999	240	280	190	420	220	155	650	855	80,515	102,185	863,500	1,014,725
\$25,000 -29,999	235	265	180	215	165	165	580	645	73,655	84,230	818,070	869,125
\$30,000 -34,999	330	205	225	170	110	160	665	535	85,055	79,570	864,665	802,390
\$35,000 -39,999	275	150	125	100	140	80	540	330	71,955	55,410	723,030	584,455
\$40,000 -44,999	140	75	170	80	90	60	400	215	74,770	44,670	707,220	467,665
\$45,000 -49,999	270	25	155	50	105	40	530	115	55,420	29,935	529,680	317,465
\$50,000 - 59,999	350	100	350	135	140	50	840	285	91,115	44,205	886,090	452,725
\$60,000+	845	95	1,235	115	295	65	2,375	275	221,040	57,020	1,791,255	599,735

Table 4.3. Households by income distribution, 2001

	<b>YHC</b>	<b>Hinton</b>	<b>Jasper</b>	<b>Foothills</b>	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Canada</b>
Total private households	3,615	3,375	1,620	8,610	1,104,100	11,562,975
Under \$10,000	190	95	45	330	52,670	743,875
\$10,000 - 19,999	380	325	95	800	112,845	1,469,015
\$20,000 - 29,999	465	320	225	1,010	119,740	1,370,415
\$30,000 - 39,999	455	245	190	890	119,390	1,335,115
\$40,000 - 49,999	305	205	175	685	116,255	1,220,500
\$50,000 - 59,999	340	305	180	825	106,170	1,076,220
\$60,000 - 69,999	345	375	165	885	98,270	944,225
\$70,000 - 79,999	210	370	140	720	81,715	764,495
\$80,000 - 89,999	210	355	85	650	66,740	611,070
\$90,000 - 99,999	180	240	90	510	51,865	470,735
\$100,000 +	530	550	225	1,305	178,445	1,557,315
Average household income	\$58,922	\$65,516	\$62,700	\$62,218	\$64,199	\$58,360
Median household income	\$51,041	\$65,269	\$53,485	\$57,078	\$52,524	\$46,752

Table 4.4. Percent of population by income range and sex, 2001

<b>Income range</b>	<b>YHC</b>	<b>Hinton</b>	<b>Jasper</b>	<b>Foothills</b>	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Canada</b>
Under \$10,000	5	3	3	4	5	6
\$10,000 - 19,999	11	10	6	9	10	13
\$20,000 - 29,999	13	9	14	12	11	12
\$30,000 - 39,999	13	7	12	10	11	12
\$40,000 - 49,999	8	6	11	8	11	11
\$50,000 - 59,999	9	9	11	10	10	9
\$60,000 - 69,999	10	11	10	10	9	8
\$70,000 - 79,999	6	11	9	8	7	7
\$80,000 - 89,999	6	11	5	8	6	5
\$90,000 - 99,999	5	7	6	6	5	4
\$100,000+	15	16	14	15	16	13

Table 4.5. Full-time and part-time employment numbers and average income, 2001

Census divisions	Number of full time employed		Average full time employment income (\$)		Number of part time employed		Average part time employment income (\$)	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
YHC	1,870	1,010	44,612	28,673	1,340	1,320	24,321	15,115
Hinton	1,720	1,060	57,621	28,678	1,290	1,475	20,935	12,247
Jasper	855	680	45,414	27,354	750	725	20,426	15,693
Foothills	4,445	2,750	49,216	28,235	3,380	3,520	21,894	14,352
Grande Cache	550	335	51,936	28,322	570	550	20,851	12,342
Edson	1,480	800	52,945	29,685	995	1,145	22,040	13,833
Whitecourt	1,670	910	57,602	29,181	1,240	1,240	25,067	18,262
Edmonton	118,825	85,225	47,396	33,011	82,395	95,695	19,176	14,909
Alberta	565,705	370,475	51,133	33,437	359,940	428,040	20,108	15,194
Canada	5,093,705	3,591,520	49,224	34,892	3,376,780	3,924,510	19,207	15,625

Table 4.6. Full-time and part-time employment numbers and average income, 1996

Census divisions	Number of full time employed		Average full time employment income (\$)		Number of part time employment income		Average part time employment income (\$)	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
Hinton	2,200	880	50,557	25,214	1,060	1,570	24,282	9,756
Yellowhead	1,540	765	39,936	23,181	1,460	1,310	23,317	9,694
Jasper	950	515	40,103	28,519	715	950	19,893	12,021
Foothills	4,690	2,160	42,510	25,010	3,235	3,830	23,101	10,143
Edson	1,365	660	45,125	22,272	860	1,020	21,199	9,336
Grande Cache	940	355	53,613	28,689	490	640	24,327	9,988
Whitecourt	1,545	785	52,021	24,752	1,090	1,195	17,567	11,070
Edmonton	97,760	69,995	41,043	28,795	77,535	85,690	17,567	12,107
Alberta	468,950	293,110	42,725	28,091	332,770	380,840	19,055	11,942
Canada	4,514,850	2,998,940	42,488	30,130	3,329,880	3,712,545	18,672	12,727

Table 4.7. Full-time and part-time employment numbers and average income, 1986

Census divisions	Number of full time employed		Average full time employment income (\$)		Number of part time employment income		Average part time employment income (\$)	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
Hinton	1,725	660	45,626	25,427	1,150	1,200	26,504	9,453
Yellowhead	1,270	370	34,035	21,884	1,195	970	21,642	8,027
Jasper	795	280	36,131	24,837	745	920	15,143	10,550
Foothills	3,795	1,310	39,713	25,490	3,090	3,090	21,863	9,314
Edson	1,165	540	44,547	24,304	1,045	1,060	22,166	9,100
Grande Cache	545	195	44,876	27,172	560	545	26,900	9,493
Whitecourt	990	415	41,915	22,523	870	875	20,242	9,126
Edmonton	97,170	65,230	40,695	27,011	80,580	85,290	16,769	10,837
Alberta	416,505	226,810	40,699	26,430	310,705	336,730	17,792	10,590
Canada	4,249,365	2,331,515	38,435	25,194	3,033,575	3,240,035	16,979	10,095

Table 4.8. Employment numbers and average income, 2001 &amp; 1996\*

Census divisions	Number of employed		Average employment income (\$)		Number of employed		Average employment income (\$)	
	2001		2001		1996		1996	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
YHC	3,240	2,445	39,646	20,173	3,105	2,140	34,880	16,178
Hinton	3,055	2,650	45,645	18,817	3,295	2,495	46,674	17,296
Jasper	1,635	1,415	35,440	21,274	1,675	1,490	34,984	19,730
Foothills	7,930	6,510	40,244	20,088	8,075	6,125	38,846	17,735
Grande Cache	1,130	910	40,069	18,015	1,460	1,060	48,011	18,898
Edson	2,490	2,000	44,271	20,073	2,260	1,725	40,131	16,080
Whitecourt	2,920	2,200	46,454	22,482	2,670	2,055	46,000	18,353
Edmonton	205,635	186,535	37,355	23,013	179,340	161,125	33,940	21,638
Alberta	944,125	824,315	40,797	23,218	820,740	698,455	36,350	20,875
Canada	8,664,545	7,751,235	38,347	24,390	8,051,900	6,944,210	35,747	22,581

\*Converted to 2001 dollars

Table 4.9. Employment numbers and average income, 1991 &amp; 1981\*

Census divisions	Number of employed		Average employment income (\$)		Number of employed		Average employment income (\$)	
	1991		1991		1981		1981	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
YHC	1,640	630	37,399	22,955	5,500	2,832	57,519	23,453
Hinton	1,905	840	55,616	27,350	5,403	3,453	67,029	25,550
Jasper	740	525	43,452	25,492	2,697	2,008	54,873	27,156
Foothills	4,285	1,995	45,489	25,266	13,599	8,294	60,714	25,195
Grande Cache	875	325	58,119	30,008	2,900	1,678	45,179	26,760
Edson	1,420	720	49,427	26,674	3,841	2,444	63,056	24,434
Whitecourt	1,535	565	51,148	28,083	3,783	2,648	60,540	22,973
Edmonton	108,220	74,485	45,571	31,300	353,051	272,347	60,776	31,769
Alberta	471,950	288,395	46,451	30,295	1,417,112	989,856	61,236	29,537
Canada	4,699,890	3,018,885	46,764	31,500	13,982,763	9,827,342	55,038	28,714

\*Converted to 2001 dollars

## 5.0 POVERTY

### OBJECTIVE

To examine the incidence of low income for economic families and unattached individuals in the FMF region. This indicator also includes a brief description of census family characteristics throughout the FMF region.

### RATIONALE

This indicator uses the incidence of low income as a proxy for poverty. Statistics Canada has defined low-income cut-offs (LICOs) that consider family expenditures relative to family income. These cut-offs are used to identify those who spend 70% or more of their income on food, clothing and shelter. Table 5.1 presents these cut-offs and demonstrates that they vary according to the size of the economic family (refer to the section below on poverty measures for the definition of an economic family) and the size of the region in which that family lives. Hinton, Jasper and YHC, for example, are considered small urban regions. In Figure 5.1, the low-income cut-off range is visually represented using a graph of household income distribution for Jasper and Hinton. Statistics Canada emphasizes that these cut-offs should not be confused with *direct* measures of poverty, although they maintain that families below the LICO are “substantially worse off than the average” (Statistics Canada 2000). The National Council of Welfare considers the LICOs as a suitable definition of the poverty line and uses this measure, among others, to assess poverty in Canada (see National Council of Welfare 2003).

Recognizing that low-income families are worse off than the average economic family, we assume that low-income families struggle to meet their basic needs and are not able to benefit from the generation of wealth in the community. For this reason, the incidence of low income is a measure of relative poverty, which represents a lower standard of living relative to other individuals in a region, rather than absolute poverty, which is the inability to meet basic physical requirements.

Table 5.1. Low income cut-offs, 2000

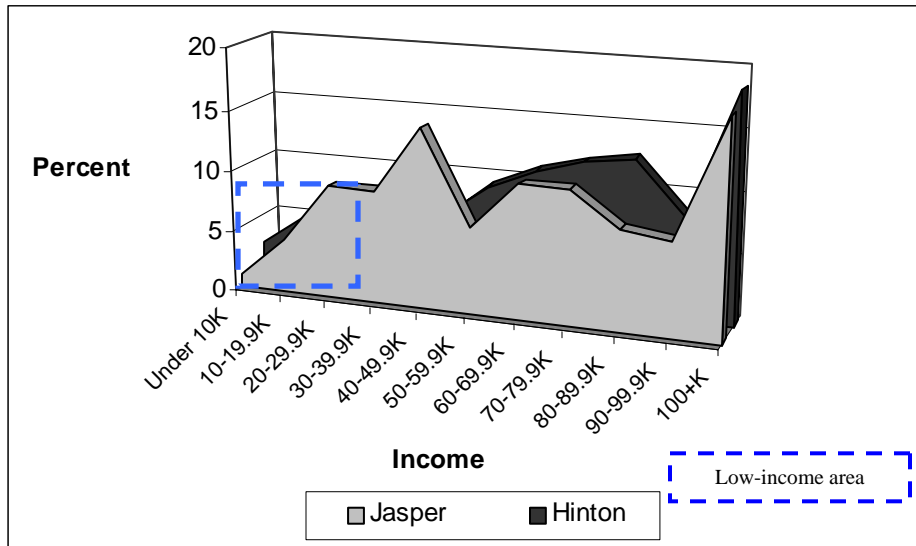
Size of economic family	Low income cut-offs				
	Population of 500,000+	Population of 100,000-499,999	Population of 30,000-99,999	Small Urban Region*	Rural (farm and non-farm)
1	\$18,371	\$15,757	\$15,648	\$14,561	\$12,696
2	\$22,964	\$19,697	\$19,561	\$18,201	\$15,870
3	\$28,560	\$24,497	\$24,326	\$22,635	\$19,738
4	\$34,572	\$29,653	\$29,448	\$27,401	\$23,892
5	\$38,646	\$33,148	\$32,917	\$30,629	\$26,708
6	\$42,719	\$36,642	\$36,387	\$33,857	\$29,524
7+	\$46,793	\$40,137	\$39,857	\$37,085	\$32,340

Source: Statistics Canada, 2003

\*A small urban region would include Hinton, Jasper or YHC.

Parkins and Beckley (2001) provide an overview of the research on the relationship between rural poverty in the United States and natural resource dependent communities. They highlight that more research is needed to explore this relationship in Canada.

Figure 5.1. Family income distribution for Hinton and Jasper, 2001



#### NOTE OF POVERTY MEASURES

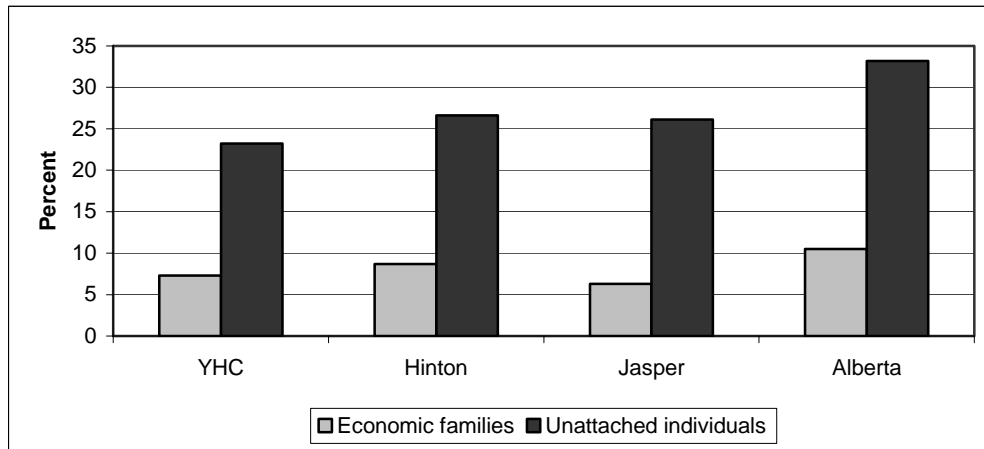
Incidence of low-income is assessed for economic families and unattached individuals. The incidence of low income represents the proportion of economic families and unattached individuals that fall below LICOs. According to Statistics Canada, an economic family is a group of two or more individuals who reside in the same dwelling, and are related to each other through family ties, or through marriage or common-law status. Unattached individuals are household members 15 years of age and over who do not belong to an economic family, and includes persons living alone.

#### MEASURING POVERTY IN THE FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST REGION

As Figure 5.2 demonstrates, the proportion of the FMF population classified as low income is significantly lower than the provincial average. There is also a large difference in the proportion of economic families and unattached individuals in the low-income category, with significantly more unattached individuals than economic families considered low income. In Alberta overall, around 10% of economic families and approximately 33% of unattached individuals are in the low income category, compared to about 8% of economic families and 26% of unattached individuals in Hinton. Of all FMF regions, Hinton has the highest incidence of low income for both economic families and unattached individuals. This is a significant finding as Hinton also has the highest household median income of all FMF jurisdictions. Although it may appear that Hinton has a great deal of wealth, poverty is likely still a significant issue in this community.



Figure 5.2. Proportion of population classified as low income, 2001



The FMF region has consistently maintained an incidence of low income for economic families below the provincial and national averages. Figure 5.3 represents the trend in incidence of low income between 1981 and 2001 for economic families in selected jurisdictions. In this figure, we see that Jasper has consistently had the lowest incidence of low income. The most dramatic drop in incidence of low income for economic families has been in the YHC where from 1981 to 1986 this jurisdiction had a higher incidence than the provincial and national average, but starting in 1986 the incidence of low income began to drop significantly (from 16.1% in 1986 to 7.3% in 2001). Figure 5.3 also shows that the incidence of low income dropped in all jurisdictions between 1996 and 2001, with the exception of Jasper and Hinton, where the incidence increased slightly.

For unattached individuals, a slightly different trend emerges. Figure 5.4 illustrates that like economic families, the incidence of low income for unattached individuals is higher in Canada and Alberta than in the FMF jurisdictions. In Hinton, as well as for the FMF region as whole, the incidence of low income for individuals rose between 1991 and 2001 and is continuing to rise in Hinton, while has been dropping or stabilizing in most other jurisdictions. Since 1991, Jasper has had a higher incidence of low income for unattached individuals than other FMF jurisdictions. In this community there was a sharp increase in the incidence of low income between 1991 and 1996, followed by a sharp decline from 1996 to 2001. By 2001, the incidence of low income for unattached individuals was fairly similar for all FMF jurisdictions (around 25%).

Figure 5.3. Proportion of economic families classified as low income, 1981-2001

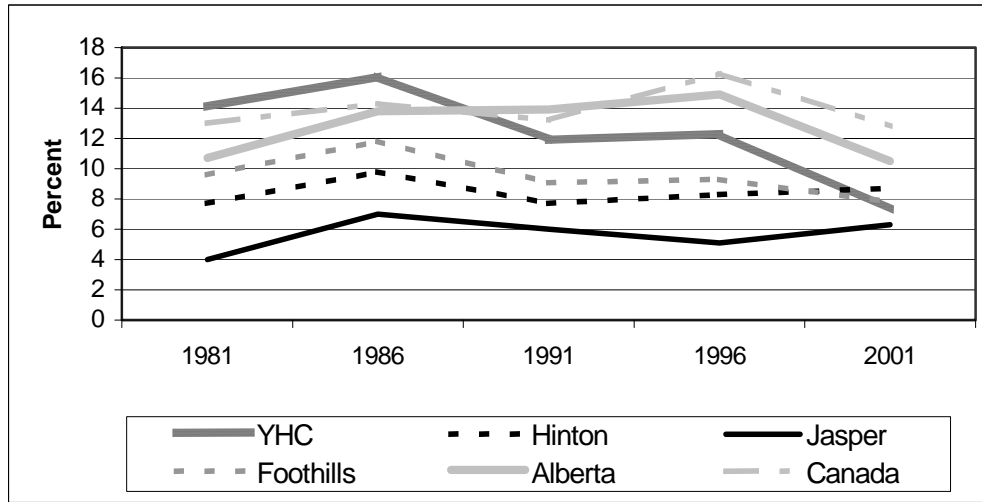
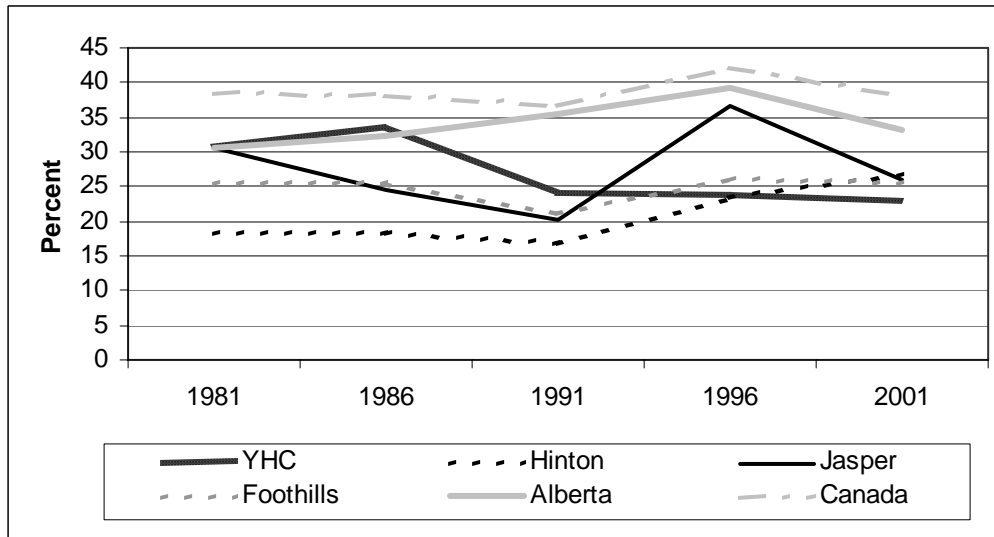


Figure 5.4. Proportion of unattached individuals classified as low income, 1981-2001



By comparing these two Figures we can observe how the incidence of low income has fluctuated for economic families compared to unattached individuals between 1981 and 2001. Compared to unattached individuals, there have been fewer fluctuations in the incidence of low income for economic families. Furthermore, the YHC has experienced the greatest variation in the incidence of low income for economic families, while Jasper has experienced the greatest fluctuation for unattached individuals.

Family type is an important consideration in poverty assessments, as single parent families are more at risk of being in a low-income situation than two-parent families. The National Council of Welfare considers family-type measures to be “the most important overall determinant of the risk of poverty” (National Council of Welfare, 1999). According to their assessment of national poverty in 1999, for example, single-parent mothers with children had the highest pre-tax poverty rate (Ibid). Census family characteristics for the FMF region are presented in Figures 5.5 to 5.7. Figure 5.5 illustrates that most families in the FMF region are two-parent families, and

in this region there is a smaller proportion of single parent families compared to the province as a whole. Figure 5.6 illustrates the proportion of male versus female single parent families in the FMF region, with female single parent families significantly outnumbering male single parent families. Finally, Figure 5.7 illustrates unattached individuals as a proportion of the population, showing that Jasper has the highest proportion of unattached individuals (27%) compared to other FMF regions and the province.

Figure 5.5. Census family characteristics, 2001

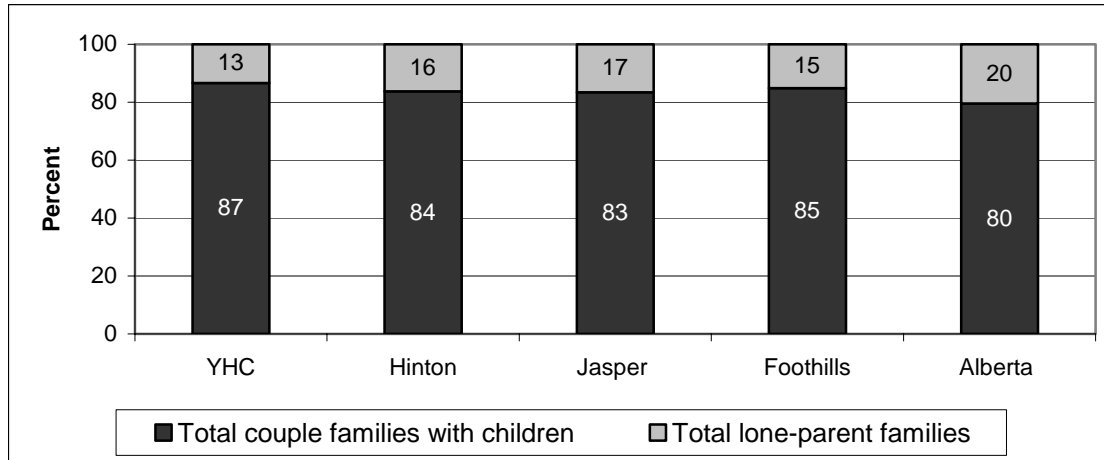


Figure 5.6. Proportion of single parent families by sex for FMF region, 2001

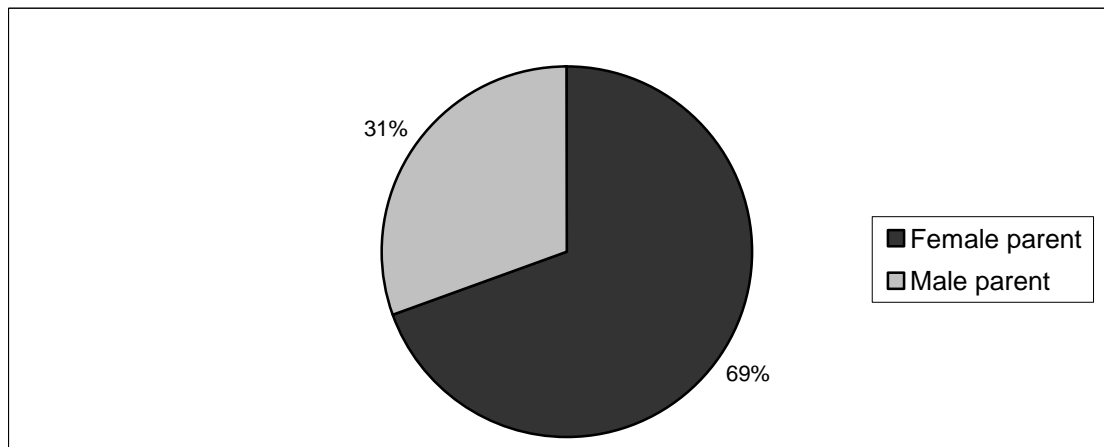
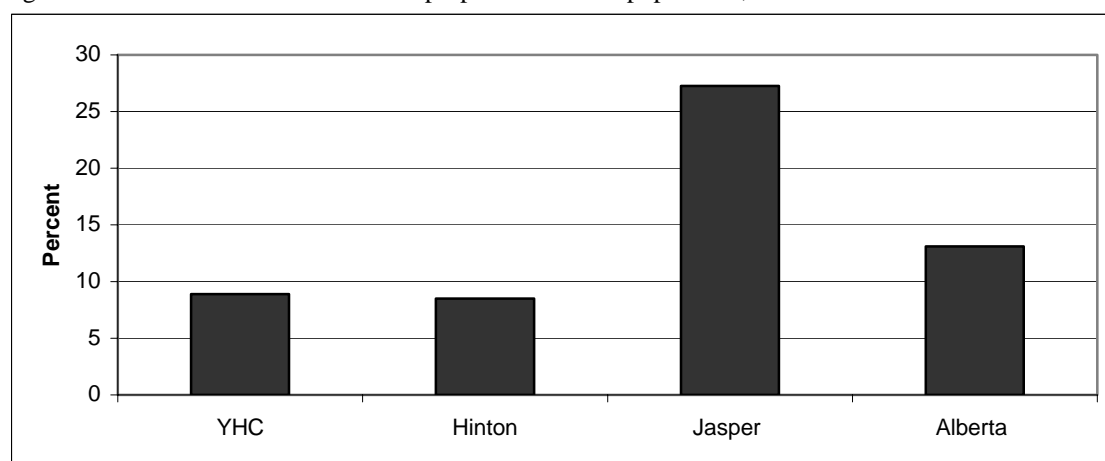


Figure 5.7. Unattached individuals as a proportion of total population, 2001



## CENSUS TABLES

Table 5.1. Percent of population classified as low income, 1981-2001

Census divisions	2001		1996		1991		1986		1981	
	economic families	unattached individuals	economic families	unattached individuals	economic families	unattached individuals	economic families	unattached individuals	economic families	unattached individuals
YHC	7.3	23.2	12.3	23.8	11.9	24.1	16.1	33.7	14.1	30.8
Hinton	8.7	26.6	8.3	23.4	7.7	16.6	9.8	18.1	7.7	18.1
Jasper	6.3	26.1	5.1	36.5	6	20.3	7	24.5	4	30.5
Foothills	7.8	25.5	9.3	25.9	9.07	20.92	11.81	25.46	9.6	25.38
Grande Cache	8.5	44.2	10.3	19.4	5.4	25.5	7.2	7.8	9.9	20.2
Edson	9.0	31.3	15.4	30	11.4	20.9	10.9	27.6	7.2	28.2
Whitecourt	10.9	23.3	11.1	27.9	8.9	19.8	16.6	26.6	10.2	28.4
Edmonton	15.4	41.2	21.3	46.8	19.3	41.2	16.5	38.3	11.9	32.2
Alberta	10.5	33.2	14.9	39.2	13.9	35.5	13.8	32.2	10.7	30.5
Canada	12.8	38.0	16.3	42.2	13.2	36.5	14.3	38	13	38.5

Table 5.2. Incidence of low income by family and individual, 2001

	<b>YHC</b>	<b>Hinton</b>	<b>Jasper</b>	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Canada</b>
<b>Total no. of economic families</b>	2,865	2,695	920	795,680	8,182,280
<b>No. of low income economic families</b>	210	235	60	83,635	1,048,725
<b>Incidence of low-income economic families (%)</b>	7	9	6	11	13
<b>Total no. of unattached individuals</b>	880	800	1,140	389,695	3,892,095
<b>No. of low income unattached individuals</b>	205	215	300	129,490	1,477,595
<b>Incidence of low income unattached individuals (%)</b>	23	27	26	33	38
<b>Total population in private households</b>	920	1,005	495	395,650	4,720,490
<b>Incidence of low-income private households (%)</b>	9	11	13	14	16

Table 5.3. Incidence of low income by family and individual, 1996

	<b>YH 94</b>	<b>Hinton</b>	<b>Jasper</b>	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Canada</b>
<b>Total no. of economic families</b>	2,615	2,795	930	715,390	7,784,865
<b>No. of low income economic families</b>	320	230	45	106,605	1,267,205
<b>Incidence of low-income economic families (%)</b>	12.3	8.3	5.1	14.9	16.3
<b>Total no. of unattached individuals</b>	770	840	1,060	331,050	3,594,510
<b>No. of low income unattached individuals</b>	185	195	385	129,790	1,511,570
<b>Incidence of low income unattached individuals (%)</b>	23.8	23.4	36.5	39.2	42.2
<b>Total population in private households</b>	9,320	9,935	3,925	2,612,235	28,011,350
<b>Persons in low income family units</b>	1,265	955	525	157,985	5,514,190
<b>Incidence of low income (%) private households</b>	13.6	9.6	13.4	26	19.7

Table 5.4. Incidence of low income by family and individual, 1986

	YH 94	Hinton	ID 12*	Alberta	Canada
<b>Total no. of economic families</b>	2,180	2,325	875	622,025	6,761,520
<b>No. of low income economic families</b>	355	230	60	85,670	965,465
<b>Incidence of low-income economic families (%)</b>	16.1	9.8	7	13.8	14.3
<b>Total no. of unattached individuals</b>	635	685	900	270,765	2,684,455
<b>No. of low income unattached individuals</b>	215	125	220	87,135	1,020,940
<b>Incidence of low income unattached individuals (%)</b>	33.7	18.1	24.5	32.2	38
<b>Total population in private households</b>	8130	8545	3460	2,288,210	24,496,670
<b>Persons in low income family units</b>	1635	865	390	376,970	4,161,840
<b>Incidence of low income (%)</b>	20.1	10.1	11.2	16.5	17

\*ID 12 region includes Jasper National Park

Table 5.5. Incidence of low income by family and individual, 1981

	YH 94	Hinton	ID 12*	Alberta	Canada
<b>Total no. of economic families</b>	2,305	2,170	780	571,675	6,345,690
<b>No. of low income economic families</b>	325	165	30	61,350	825,680
<b>Incidence of low income (%)</b>	14.1	7.7	4	10.7	13
<b>Total no. of unattached individuals</b>	790	640	825	258,580	2,355,290
<b>No. of low income unattached individuals</b>	245	115	250	78,945	906,960
<b>Incidence of low income (%)</b>	30.8	18.1	30.5	30.5	38.5

\*ID 12 region includes Jasper National Park

Table 5.6. Census family characteristics, 2001

	YHC	Hinton	Jasper	Foothills	Grande Cache	Edson	Whitecourt	Edmonton	Alberta	Canada
Total couple families with children*	86.6	83.7	83.5	84.9	80.4	80.5	81.5	74.6	79.5	77.9
Total lone-parent families	13.4	16.3	16.5	15.1	19.6	19.5	18.5	25.4	20.5	22.1

Total families includes married & common law families

Table 5.7. Single-parent families by sex, 2001

	YHC	Hinton	Jasper	Foothills	Grande Cache	Edson	Whitecourt	Edmonton	Alberta	Canada
Female parent	68.6	74.2	54.5	68.9	55.2	71.2	77.3	82.1	79.8	81.3
Male parent	29.4	25.8	45.5	30.4	44.8	30.5	22.7	17.9	20.2	18.7

Table 5.8. Unattached individuals as a proportion of total population, 2001

	YHC	Hinton	Jasper	Foothills	Grande Cache	Edson	Whitecourt	Edmonton	Alberta	Canada
Unattached individuals	8.9	8.5	27.3	12.0	7.8	12.3	11.3	16.8	13.1	13.0

## **6.0 HUMAN CAPITAL**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To assess levels of human capital in the FMF region and compare these levels over time and across jurisdictions. Human capital measurements are focused on education attainment and school enrolment.

### **RATIONALE**

Human capital refers to the individual-level assets such as education, training, knowledge and creativity, which affect an individual's ability to access employment and make a contribution to their community. Higher levels of human capital contribute to the skill base of the community and enhance local economic performance. Communities with higher levels of human capital are thought to be in a better position to adapt to social or economic changes (Parkins, Stedman and Beckley 2003). Parkins and Beckley (2001) provide a more detailed review of the literature on human capital development in rural resource communities.

One of the most widely used measures of human capital is education, typically assessed by examining education attainment and school enrolment. The lowest level of education attainment is considered to be less than a grade 9 education, while a university education is considered the highest. The attainment of a degree is considered a higher level of educational achievement than total years in an educational program. Nevertheless, with the increasing importance of the trades in economic and community function, we emphasize that trades training is also a very valuable level of education attainment.

### **NOTE ON HUMAN CAPITAL MEASUREMENTS**

Education attainment is understood to represent the highest level of completed education. Statistics Canada uses several categories of education attainment, many of which have been grouped in the following analysis to allow for easier interpretation. Education attainment data for all categories of education in 2001 can be found in Table ##. Four categories of education are used in the graphs and charts presented below: less than grade 9, grade 9 to 13 (includes individuals having a secondary school diploma), some trades or other non-university education, and some university education (includes people with post-secondary degrees). Education attainment is assessed for individuals 15 years of age and over.

Statistics Canada measures school enrolment for the population between 15 and 24 years of age. These numbers, therefore, do not include individuals over the age of 24 pursuing educational opportunities. Full time school and part-time attendance is counted for the period between September 2000 and May 15, 2001, and only for courses that count toward a certificate, diploma or degree.

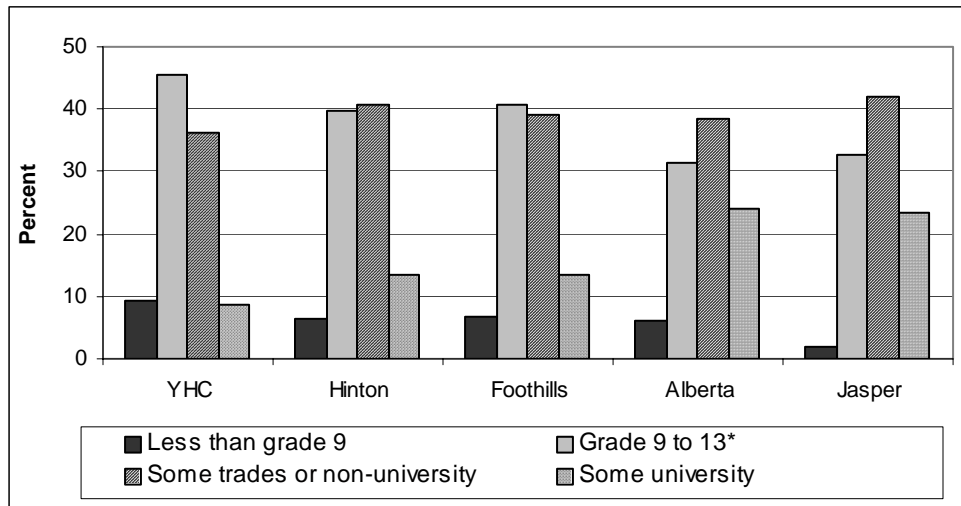
### **MEASURING HUMAN CAPITAL IN THE FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST REGION**

In Figure 6.1, we observe that in the FMF region in 2001, the greatest proportion of individuals have as their highest level of education either the completion graded 9 to 13, or trades and other non-university education. Education attainment is the lowest in the YHC jurisdiction and the highest in Jasper. In the YHC jurisdiction, over 90% of the population has not attended

university, and around 65% does not have any trades training. Education attainment for the population living in Jasper is significantly different compared to other FMF jurisdictions, but is similar to the province as a whole, with over 20% of individuals having some university education as their highest level of education. In general, the FMF region has lower education attainment than the provincial average.

Figures 6.2 to 6.4 illustrate how education attainment in the entire FMF region has changed between 1981 and 2001. In general education attainment is increasing in this region. Compared to 1981 a larger proportion of the population in 2001 reported trades or non-university education as their highest level of education, while the number of individuals with grade 13 or less as their highest level has decreased significantly. University education has not increased, however, as individuals reporting some university as their highest level has remained fairly stable between 1981 and 2001, at around 11% to 15% of the population.

Figure 6.1. Education attainment, 2001



\*Includes individuals with a secondary school graduation certificate

Figure 6.2. Education attainment, Foothills Model Forest region, 1981

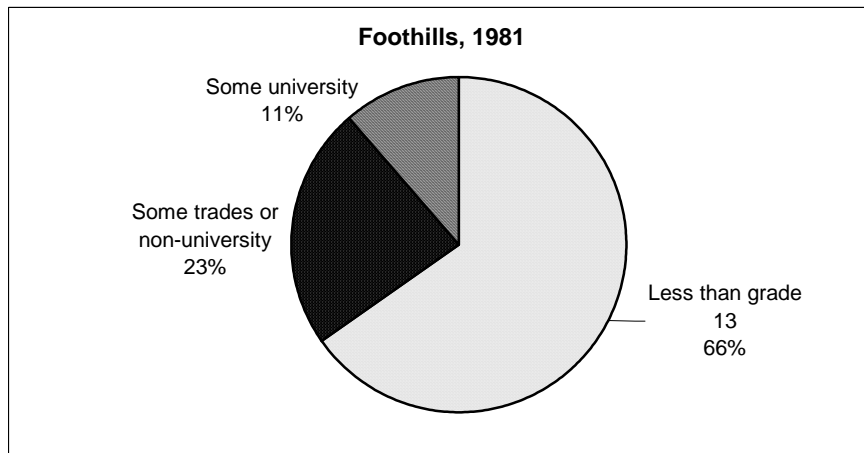
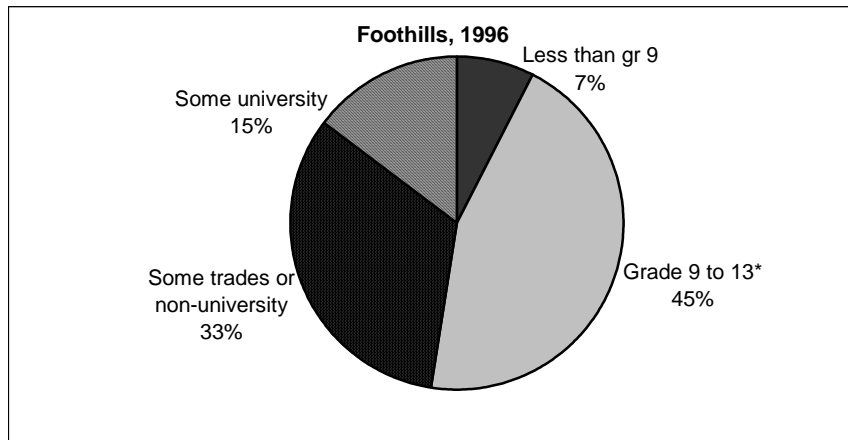


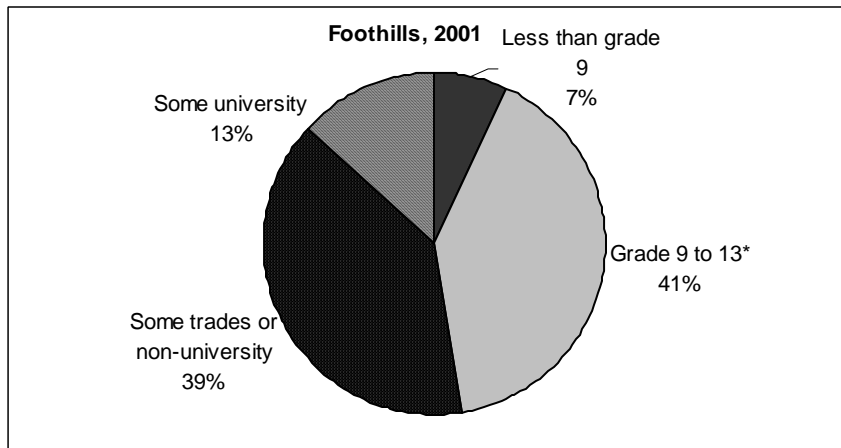


Figure 6.3. Education attainment, Foothills Model Forest region, 1996



*\*Includes individuals with a secondary school graduation certificate*

Figure 6.4. Education attainment, Foothills Model Forest region, 2001



*\*Includes individuals with a secondary school graduation certificate*

In Figures 6.5 and 6.6 we observe that most of the population between 15 and 24 years of age is enrolled in full-time rather than part-time programs. School attendance has dropped slightly between 1991 and 2001 in most FMF regions, with the exception of Hinton where it has increased. In Hinton attendance increased 5% between 1996 and 2001. Full-time attendance has dropped the most significantly in Jasper, with a 12% decrease between 1991 and 2001. Part-time attendance has remained fairly stable in most jurisdictions with the largest drop in the YHC jurisdiction between 1996 and 2001.

Figure 6.6. Full-time school attendance, 1991-2001

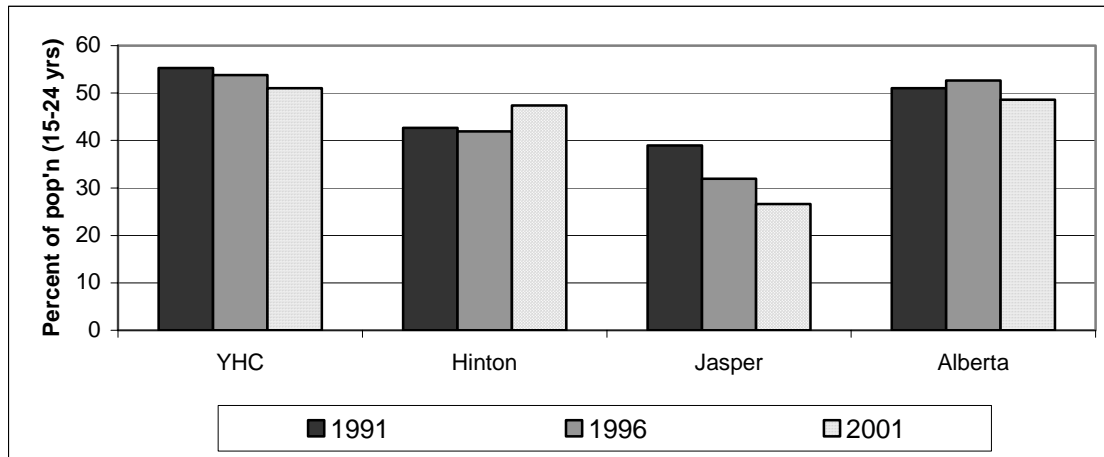
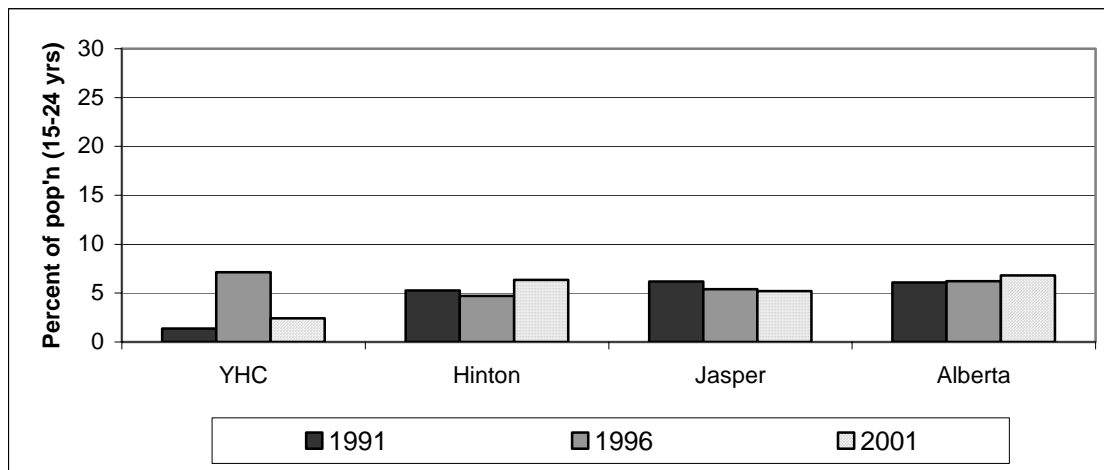


Figure 6.7. Part-time school attendance, 1991-2001



## CENSUS TABLES

Table 6.1. Population by education attainment, 2001

Census divisions	Total popn 15 years+	Less than grade 9	Gr. 9 - 13 (no certificate)	Gr. 9 - 13 (certificate)	Trades diploma	Other non-university (no diploma)	Other non-university (diploma)	University (no degree)	University (degree)
YHC	6,940	655	2,195	960	1,135	535	840	220	90
Hinton	6,295	410	1,605	895	1,120	465	970	320	55
Jasper	3,225	60	540	515	450	255	645	395	100
Foothills	16,460	1,125	4,340	2,370	2,705	1,255	2,455	935	245
Grande Cache	2,490	165	585	405	405	190	410	110	55
Edson	5,110	300	1,445	775	950	300	595	255	90
Whitecourt	5,435	175	1,475	755	1,060	370	885	245	65
Edmonton	488,200	31,740	91,420	52,465	61,085	36,285	82,870	38,980	10,880
Alberta	2,100,365	130,435	421,335	239,715	294,985	153,995	356,070	154,085	46,130
Canada	21,857,010	2,284,305	3,807,860	3,040,615	2,573,905	1,390,210	3,537,110	1,537,795	597,060

Table 6.2. Population by broad categories of education attainment, 2001

<b>Census divisions</b>	<b>Total popn 15 years+</b>	<b>Less than grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 9 to 13*</b>	<b>Some trades, or non-university</b>	<b>Some university</b>
YHC	6,940	655	3,155	2,515	610
Hinton	6,295	410	2,500	2,555	840
Jasper	3,225	60	1,055	1,350	755
Foothills	16,460	1,125	6,710	6,415	2,205
Grande Cache	2,490	165	990	1,005	325
Edson	5,110	300	2,220	1,845	745
Whitecourt	5,435	175	2,230	2,315	705
Edmonton	488,200	31,740	143,885	180,240	132,335
Alberta	2,100,365	130,435	661,050	805,050	503,835
Canada	21,857,010	2,284,305	6,848,475	7,501,225	5,223,000

\*Includes individuals without a graduation certificate

Table 6.3. Percent of population by broad categories of education attainment, 2001

<b>Census divisions</b>	<b>Total popn 15 years+</b>	<b>Less than grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 9 to 13*</b>	<b>Some trades, or non-university</b>	<b>Some university</b>
YHC	6,940	9	45	36	9
Hinton	6,295	7	40	41	13
Jasper	3,225	2	33	42	23
Foothills	16,460	7	41	39	13
Grande Cache	2,490	7	40	40	13
Edson	5,110	6	43	36	15
Whitecourt	5,435	3	41	43	13
Edmonton	488,200	7	29	37	27
Alberta	2,100,365	6	31	38	24
Canada	21,857,010	10	31	34	24

Table 6.4. Percent of population by broad categories of education attainment, 1996

<b>Census divisions</b>	<b>Total popn 15 years+</b>	<b>Less than grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 9 to 13*</b>	<b>Some trades, or non-university</b>	<b>Some university</b>
Hinton	7,060	11	49	30	10
Yellowhead	7,330	7	47	33	13
Jasper	3,585	2	34	36	28
Foothills	17,975	7	45	33	15
Edson	3,155	6	44	37	13
Grande Cache	5,395	7	46	34	13
Whitecourt	5,550	6	45	33	16
Edmonton	483,100	8	35	3	27
Alberta	2,055,020	8	38	31	24
Canada	22,628,925	12	37	28	23

Table 6.5. Percent of population by broad categories of education attainment, 1991

	Total popn 15 years+	Less than grade 9	Grade 9 to 13*	Some trades, or non-university	Some university
<b>Census divisions</b>					
Hinton	6,330	15.3	47.9	27.5	9.2
Yellowhead	6,545	6.6	44.5	35.8	13.1
Jasper	2,915	2.2	43.7	31.7	22.5
Foothills	15,790	9.3	45.7	31.7	13.3
Edson	2,660	7.5	48.7	31.2	12.6
Grande Cache	5,265	7.7	49.0	30.8	12.5
Whitecourt	4,845	5.2	48.4	32.4	13.9
Edmonton	479,435	8.8	37.4	28.7	25.1
Alberta	1,918,290	8.8	39.9	29.4	22.0
Canada	21,304,740	13.9	39.0	26.3	20.8

Table 6.6. Percent of population by broad categories of education attainment, 1981

Census divisions	Total popn 15 years+	Less than grade 13	Some trades or non-university	Some university
Hinton	5,830	61	28	12
Yellowhead	6,590	76	18	7
Jasper	2,855	50	28	21
Foothills	15,275	65	23	11
Edson	4,165	60	25	16
Grande Cache	3,055	59	30	11
Whitecourt	3,875	63	24	13
Edmonton	419,460	52	27	22
Alberta	1,672,620	56	26	18
Canada	18,609,285	61	23	16

Table 6.7. Percent population (15-24 years) by school attendance, 1981-2001

School attendance by year	YHC	Hinton	Jasper	Alberta	Canada
<b>2001</b>					
Full time	51	47	27	49	57
Part time	2	6	5	7	6
<b>1996</b>					
Full time	54	42	32	53	59
Part time	7	5	5	6	6
<b>1991</b>					
Full time	55	43	39	51	55
Part time	1	5	6	6	6

## 7.0 REAL ESTATE

### OBJECTIVE

To track real estate values over time and housing payments as a proportion of family income. The average value of dwellings, average major housing payments and gross rent, as well as the change in the number of owned and rented dwellings in the FMF region are documented by this indicator. The proportion of census families living in private households is also assessed.

### RATIONALE

Boom and bust cycles in the local economy, particularly in resource dependent towns, can affect local property values. A loss or increase in property values can have economic impacts at the regional and family level. A major decrease in property value decreases the economic security of the owner, as it represents an investment loss—the purchase of private dwelling is typically the largest investment an individual will make—and if coupled with a regional economic downturn, may mean an inactive housing market in the community. A decrease in property values, especially if property values were previously high, can also mean an increase in the affordability of property, thereby drawing homeowners to a community. Consequently, it is important to track changes in property values across time and regions to see if change is proportional to larger trends or is the result of local economic fluctuations. Real estate values are also considered reliable indicators of regional economic performance, as they reflect housing market activity and consumer confidence in long-term employment opportunities to support property purchases.

The proportion of owned and rented dwellings, as well as the change in this proportion, is also important to monitor. If the number of owned dwellings increases relative to total dwellings, it suggests that individuals are investing in the community and are planning to stay for the longer-term. An increase in owned dwellings can also point to favourable economic conditions, meaning that more individuals can afford to buy property. If a high proportion of community residents rent their dwellings, or there is a decrease in owned dwellings it suggests the opposite: community members want the flexibility to leave the community in the short-term. It may also suggest that property costs are sufficiently high, or employment sufficiently unstable, to discourage the population from purchasing a private dwelling.

Another aspect of local community real estate is the proportion of family income that is taken up by rent or housing payments. Although rent and housing payments typically consume a significant proportion of monthly income—usually around 15% to 20% in Canada overall—if this proportion is too high it may indicate that households are struggling to meet their basic needs. Statistics Canada considers a high income-to- housing-payment ratio to be over 30%.

### NOTE ON REAL ESTATE MEASUREMENTS

To make more accurate comparisons between census years, dollar values for census years prior to 2001 have been converted to 2001 dollars. A note is included with all tables to indicate where these conversions have been made.

Statistics Canada uses several terms to distinguish between household and dwelling variables. A dwelling is considered a set of living quarters, whereas a household refers to a group of

individuals who occupy the same dwelling and do not reside elsewhere. Households can be composed of family members or unrelated individuals, and a private household is a group of individuals living in a private dwelling. A private dwelling is a set of living quarters suitable for human habitation and must have a heat source and be an enclosed space providing suitable shelter from the outdoor environment. An owned dwelling is occupied by the owner of the dwelling, whereas a rented dwelling is entirely tenant (i.e. renter) occupied. The variable ‘owner’s major payments’ applies to households where the owner is securing shelter, and includes average monthly payments for mortgage payments, utilities, municipal services, property taxes and other fees, such as condominium fees. ‘Gross rent’ applies to tenant households and includes average monthly rent, as well as payments for utilities and municipal services.

Statistics Canada defines a census family as a married couple or common-law couple with or without children, or a lone parent with at least one child living in the same dwelling.

**MEASURING REAL ESTATE**

According to Figure 7.1, in the YHC jurisdiction and province overall, the average value of a private dwelling has increased. In Hinton and Jasper, however, it has decreased slightly, although Jasper remains the most expensive community in which to own a home. Hinton has experienced a fairly steady decrease in average values between 1986 and 2001, while in Jasper prices have fluctuated more dramatically. For all FMF jurisdictions, the percent change in average dwelling values for each 5 year census period from 1981 to 2001 is documented in Table 7.4.

Owner’s major payments on housing, as depicted in Figure 7.2, have remained fairly stable since 1991 in the YHC and Hinton jurisdictions, whereas they have increased steadily in Jasper. Gross rent, in contrast, (Figure 7.3) has dropped slightly in Jasper, and similar to housing payments, has remained fairly stable in Hinton. In YHC, however, gross rent has actually increased between 1996 and 2001.

Figure 7.1. Average value of a dwelling, 1981-2001.

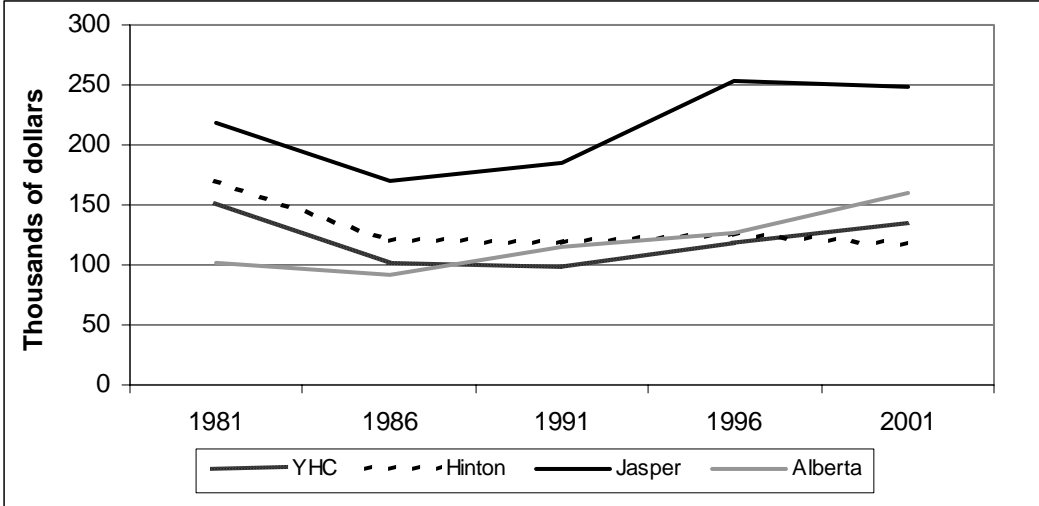


Figure 7.2. Owner's major payments on housing, 1981-2001

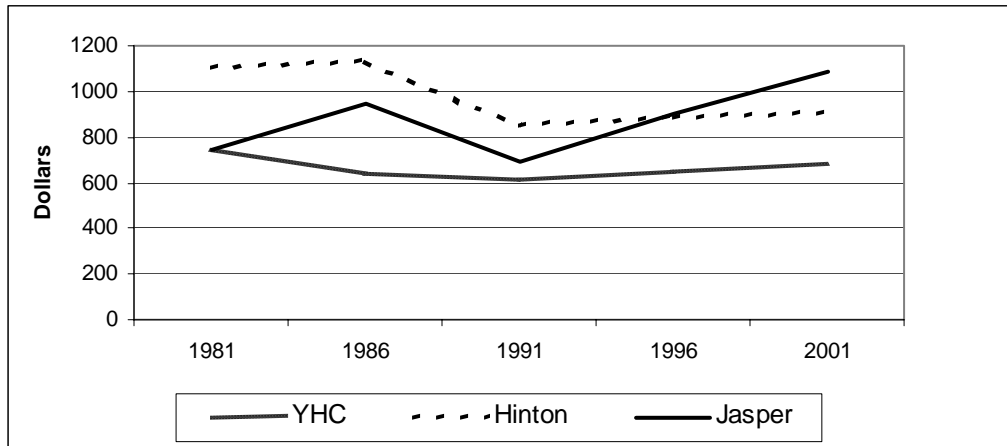
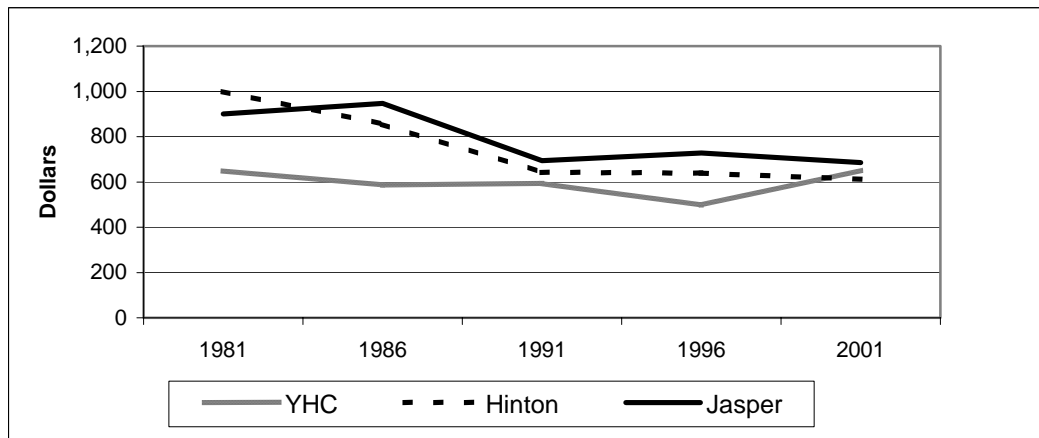


Figure 7.3. Average gross rent, 1981-2001



The data in Figure 7.4 suggest that owner's major payments as a proportion of median income have decreased significantly between 1981 and 2001. In the YCH jurisdiction, for example, this proportion has decreased from 20.8% to 13.7%. This same trend is not observed in Jasper, where owner's payments as a proportion of median income have fluctuated between 1981 and 2001, and increased from 1996 to 2001. Similarly, according to Figure 7.5, gross rent as a proportion of median income has dropped. In Hinton in 1981, this proportion was close to 20%, while in 2001 it dropped to 11%. In Jasper gross rent as a proportion of median income has fluctuated over the years, but dropped between 1996 and 2001.

Figure 7.4. Owner's major payments as a proportion of median household income, 1981-2001

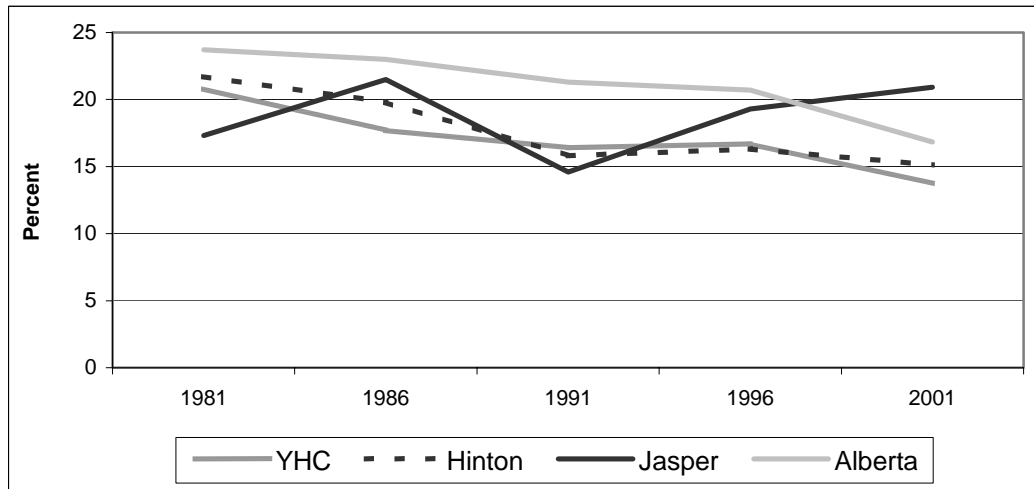
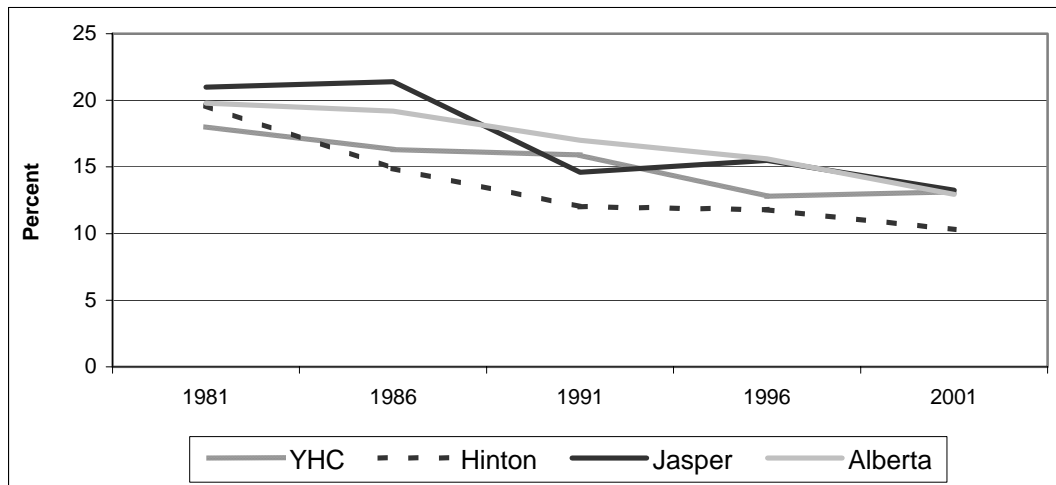


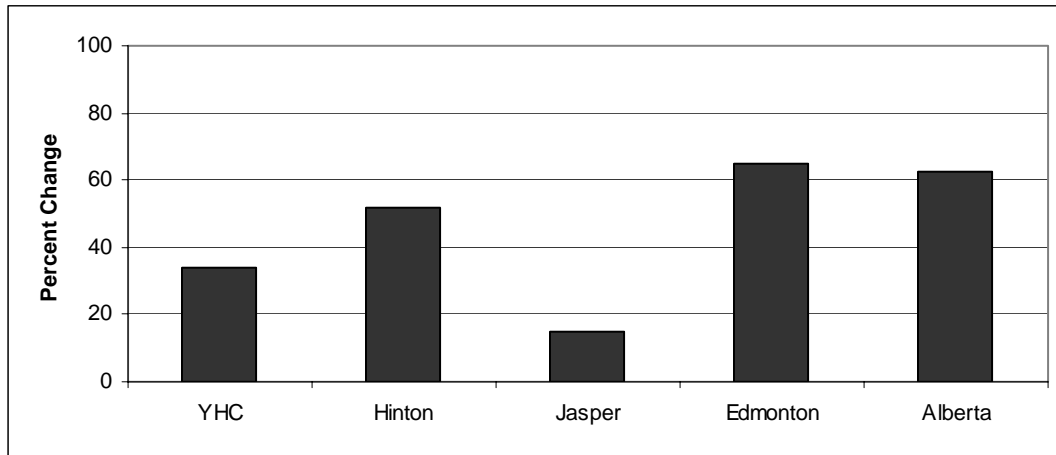
Figure 7.5. Gross rent as a proportion of median income, 1981-2001



As illustrated in Figure 7.6, the number of owned dwellings as a proportion of all private dwellings, has increased substantially in all FMF regions between 1981 and 2001, as well as in the province overall. Hinton reports the greatest increase in owned dwellings, with a 52% increase. In Figure 7.7, we see that in most FMF regions, as well as in the province overall, over 70% of all private dwellings are classified as owner-occupied dwellings. In Jasper, however, only 45% of dwellings are owned-occupied.

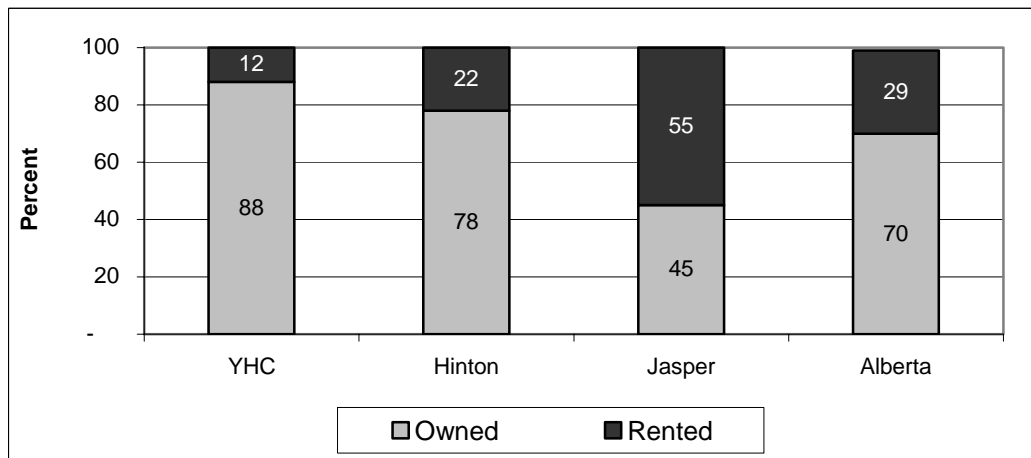


Figure 7.6. Percent change in owned dwellings, 1981-2001\*



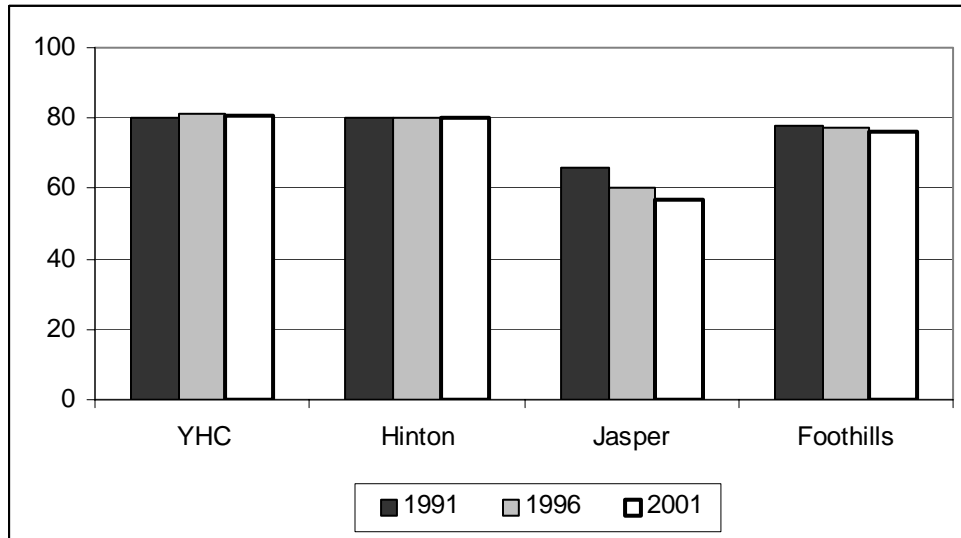
\*Percent change for Jasper assessed for 1986-2001

Figure 7.7. Percent of owned and rented dwellings, 2001



The proportion of census families that reside in private households is also assessed for the FMF region. This measure illustrates whether census families are living in a private dwelling. In Figure 7.8 we observe that in most FMF jurisdictions, more than 80% of census families are in private dwellings and this proportion has not changed significantly between 1991 and 2001. In Jasper, however, a much smaller proportion (57%) of census families live in private households and this proportion has been steadily decreasing since 1991. This smaller proportion of census families in private households relative to other FMF jurisdictions likely reflects the transience of Jasper residents and the unstable unemployment opportunities throughout the year, where census families are not moving into private households owing to the likelihood of leaving the community in the short-term.

Figure 7.8. Percent census families in private households, 1991-2001



## CENSUS TABLES

Table 7.1. Average value of a dwelling, 1981-2001

Census divisions	Average value of dwelling (\$)				
	2001	1996	1991	1986	1981
YHC	134,761	117,874	98,378	101,376	150,925
Hinton	116,808	125,383	118,010	120,417	170,050
Jasper	247,658	252,877	184,998	170,426	218,186
Foothills	149,210	146,677	121,466	121,375	170,969
Grande Cache	90,006	103,893	87,919	88,022	133,255
Edson	112,334	97,808	93,058	106,187	149,604
Whitecourt	126,600	115,291	108,567	104,720	154,034
Edmonton	142,318	141,798	143,829	141,434	212,518
Alberta	159,698	142,216	138,603	137,487	195,862
Canada	162,709	165,622	174,766	137,308	153,803

Values adjusted to 2001 real dollar amount. Values for Foothills were weighted according total number of dwellings. YHC (0.42); Hinton (0.39); Jasper (0.19)

Table 7.2. Average monthly major payments, 1981-2001

Census divisions	Average monthly major payments (\$)				
	2001	1996	1991	1986	1981
YHC	681	652	610	638	748
Hinton	899	880	847	1,131	1,106
Jasper	1,082	906	691	950	745
Foothills	842	795	870	768	898
Grande Cache	783	754	817	1,065	1,092
Edson	815	795	848	952	922
Whitecourt	889	941	885	958	1,055
Edmonton	833	822	848	941	978
Alberta	875	827	868	979	1,008
Canada	835	844	857	809	798

Values adjusted to 2001 real dollar amount. Values for Foothills were weighted according total number of dwellings. YHC (0.42); Hinton (0.39); Jasper (0.19)

Table 7.3. Average monthly gross rent, 1981-2001\*

Census divisions	Average monthly gross rent (\$)				
	2001	1996	1991	1986	1981
YHC	652	497	594	586	649
Hinton	612	638	642	854	999
Jasper	686	728	694	947	900
Foothills	643	600	632	763	841
Grande Cache	515	666	671	917	913
Edson	626	589	651	805	872
Whitecourt	658	684	659	836	841
Edmonton	619	596	680	817	863
Alberta	673	622	691	817	845
Canada	648	666	703	745	655

\*Values adjusted to 2001 real dollar amount. Values for Foothills were weighted according total number of dwellings. YHC (0.42); Hinton (0.39); Jasper (0.19)

Table 7.4. Percent change in average dwelling value over 5 year periods, 1981 –2001\*

Census divisions	Percent change in value of dwellings			
	1996 to 2001	1991 to 1996	1986 to 1991	1981 to 1986
YHC	14.3	19.8	-3.0	-32.8
Hinton	-6.8	6.2	-2.0	-29.2
Jasper	-2.1	36.7	8.6	-21.9
Foothills	1.7	20.8	0.1	-29.0
Grande Cache	-13.4	18.2	-0.1	-33.9
Edson	14.9	5.1	-12.4	-29.0
Whitecourt	9.8	6.2	3.7	-32.0
Edmonton	0.4	-1.4	1.7	-33.4
Alberta	12.3	2.6	0.8	-29.8
Canada	-1.8	-5.2	27.3	-10.7

\*Values adjusted to 2001 real dollar amount. Values for Foothills were weighted according total number of dwellings. YHC (0.42); Hinton (0.39); Jasper (0.19)

Table 7.5. Percent change in owner's major payments over 5 year periods, 1981 –2001\*

Census divisions	Percent change in owners major payments			
	1996 to 2001	1991 to 1996	1986 to 1991	1981 to 1986
YHC	4.5	6.9	-4.4	-14.8
Hinton	2.1	4.0	-25.2	2.3
Jasper	19.4	31.2	-27.3	27.6
Foothills	5.9	-8.6	13.3	-14.5
Grande Cache	3.9	-7.8	-23.3	-2.4
Edson	2.5	-6.2	-10.9	3.2
Whitecourt	-5.5	6.3	-7.6	-9.2
Edmonton	1.3	-3.0	-9.9	-3.8
Alberta	5.9	-4.8	-11.3	-2.9
Canada	-1.1	-1.4	5.9	1.4

\*Values adjusted to 2001 real dollar amount. Values for Foothills were weighted according total number of dwellings. YHC (0.42); Hinton (0.39); Jasper (0.19)

Table 7.6. Percent change in gross rent over 5 year periods, 1981 –2001\*

<b>Percent change in gross rent</b>				
<b>Census divisions</b>	1996 to 2001	1991 to 1996	1986 to 1991	1981 to 1986
YHC	-10.7	-1.0	-23.4	-33.7
Hinton	-37.9	-3.7	-40.0	-20.4
Jasper	-32.4	21.4	-41.8	-0.7
Foothills	-27.8	-15.4	-9.2	-33.4
Grande Cache	-39.0	-14.6	-38.5	-24.1
Edson	-29.7	-13.2	-28.6	-19.7
Whitecourt	-37.6	-1.6	-25.9	-29.3
Edmonton	-32.8	-10.2	-27.8	-25.1
Alberta	-27.3	-11.9	-29.0	-24.4
Canada	-31.5	-8.8	-15.1	-21.1

\*Values adjusted to 2001 real dollar amount. Values for Foothills were weighted according total number of dwellings. YHC (0.42); Hinton (0.39); Jasper (0.19)

Table 7.7. Yearly major payments as proportion of median household income, 1981-2001

<b>Census divisions</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1981</b>
YHC	13.7	16.7	16.4	17.7	20.8
Hinton	15.1	16.3	15.8	19.8	21.7
Jasper	20.9	19.3	14.6	21.5	17.3
Foothills	15.7	17.0	15.8	19.2	20.5
Grande Cache	15.2	13.0	14.7	19.0	21.0
Edson	15.2	15.2	18.8	21.3	20.5
Whitecourt	14.9	17.8	17.9	21.6	23.7
Edmonton	17.0	22.8	22.2	23.0	23.1
Alberta	16.8	20.7	21.3	23.0	23.7
Canada	17.5	22.5	21.8	20.4	21.6

Table 7.8. Yearly gross rent as proportion of median household income, 1981- 2001

<b>Census divisions</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1981</b>
YHC	13.1	12.8	15.9	16.3	18.0
Hinton	10.3	11.8	12.0	14.9	19.6
Jasper	13.3	15.5	14.6	21.4	21.0
Foothills	12.0	12.9	14.0	16.6	19.2
Grande Cache	10.0	11.5	12.1	16.3	17.5
Edson	11.7	15.2	14.4	18.1	19.3
Whitecourt	11.0	12.9	13.4	18.9	18.9
Edmonton	12.7	16.6	17.7	20.0	20.4
Alberta	13.0	15.6	17.0	19.2	19.8
Canada	13.6	17.8	17.8	18.7	17.7

Table 7.9. Owned and rented dwellings, and average of person per dwelling, 2001

Census divisions	Total occupied private dwellings	No. of persons in private HH	Average no. of persons/HH	No. of owned private dwellings	Percentage of HH owned	No. of rented private dwellings	Percentage HH rented
YHC	3,610	9,795	2.7	3,175	88.0	440	12.2
Hinton	3,375	9,365	2.8	2,625	77.8	755	22.4
Jasper	1,620	3,870	2.4	725	44.8	895	55.2
Foothills	8,605	23,030	2.6	6,525	75.8	2,090	24.3
Grande Cache	1,330	3,695	2.8	955	71.8	375	28.2
Edson	2,825	7,445	2.6	1,855	65.7	970	34.3
Whitecourt	2,920	8,270	2.8	2,095	71.7	820	28.1
Edmonton	265,340	655,685	2.5	157,695	59.4	107,645	40.6
Alberta	1,104,100	2,918,920	2.6	777,480	70.4	319,090	28.9
Canada	11,562,975	29,522,305	2.6	7,610,385	65.8	3,907,170	33.8

Table 7.10. Owned and rented dwellings, and average of person per dwelling, 1996

Census divisions	Total occupied private dwellings	No. of persons in private HH	Average no. of persons/HH	No. of owned private dwellings	Percentage of HH owned	No. of rented private dwellings	Percentage HH rented
YH 94	3,265	9,325	2.9	2,900	88.8	360	11.1
Hinton	3,435	9,945	2.9	2,410	70.2	1,025	29.8
Jasper	1,545	3,935	2.5	760	49.2	790	51.1
Foothills	8,245	23,205	2.8	6,070	76.5	2,175	34.4
Grande Cache	1,400	4,260	3	940	67.1	465	33.2
Edson	2,585	7,250	2.7	1,685	65.2	995	38.5
Whitecourt	2,585	7,710	3	1,755	67.9	830	32.1
Edmonton	240,050	607,410	2.5	138,425	57.7	101,625	42.3
Alberta	979,175	2,647,110	2.7	664,165	67.8	310,300	31.7
Canada	10,820,050	28,390,685	2.6	6,877,780	63.6	3,905,145	36.1

Table 7.11. Owned and rented dwellings, and average of person per dwelling, 1991

Census divisions	Total occupied private dwellings	No. of persons in private HH	Average no. of persons/HH	No. of owned private dwellings	Percentage of HH owned	No. of rented private dwellings	Percentage HH rented
YH 94	2,925	8,600	2.9	2,520	86.2	405	13.8
Hinton	3,095	8,990	2.9	2,045	66.1	1,045	33.8
Jasper	1,305	3,330	2.6	640	49	660	50.6
Foothills	7,325	20,920	2.9	5,205	71.1	2,110	28.8
Grande Cache	1,200	3,710	3.1	755	62.9	450	37.5
Edson	2,620	7,170	2.7	1,625	62	990	37.8
Whitecourt	2,335	6,860	2.9	1,510	64.7	830	35.5
Edmonton	236,120	604,480	2.6	123,150	52.2	112,975	47.8
Alberta	910,390	2,484,980	2.7	581,895	63.9	324,610	35.7
Canada	10,018,270	26,731,855	2.7	6,273,030	62.6	3,718,525	37.1

Table 7.12. Owned and rented dwellings, and average of person per dwelling, 1986

Census divisions	Total occupied private dwellings	No. of persons in private HH	Average no. of persons/HH	No. of owned private dwellings	Percentage of HH owned	No. of rented private dwellings	Percentage HH rented
YH 94	2,670	8,125	3	2,250	84.3	425	15.9
Hinton	2,835	8,555	3	1,880	66.3	960	33.9
Jasper**	1,430	3,465	2.4	630	44.1	800	55.9
Foothills	6,935	20,145	2.9	4,760	68.6	2,185	31.6
Grande Cache	1,035	3,425	3.3	565	54.6	475	45.9
Edson	2,575	7,175	2.8	1,525	59.2	1,050	40.8
Whitecourt	1,915	5,665	3	1,035	54	880	46
Edmonton	218,825	563,380	2.6	109,620	50.1	109,205	49.9
Alberta	836,125	2,310,055	2.8	516,090	61.7	316,070	37.8
Canada	8,991,670	24,773,110	2.8	5,580,880	62.1	3,368,480	37.5

Table 7.13. Owned and rented dwellings, and average of person per dwelling, 1981

Census divisions	Total occupied private dwellings	No. of persons in private HH	Average no. of persons/HH	No. of owned private dwellings	Percentage of HH owned	No. of rented private dwellings	Percentage HH rented
YH 94	2,885	9,110	3.2	2,375	82.3	510	17.7
Hinton	2,570	8,255	3.2	1,730	67.3	840	32.7
Jasper	n/a						
Edson	1,905	5,715	3	1,205	63.3	700	36.7
Whitecourt	1,790	5,505	3.1	1,080	60.3	710	39.7
Grande Cache	n/a						
Edmonton	196,495	521,935	2.7	95,665	48.7	97,825	49.8
Alberta	758,240	2,179,345	2.9	478,215	63.1	280,025	36.9
Canada	8,281,530	23,797,375	2.9	5,141,940	62.1	3,139,590	37.9

Table 7.14. Percentage change in owned and rented dwellings, 1981-2001

Census divisions	Percent change				
	No. of occupied private dwellings	No. of persons in dwellings	Average no. of persons/HH	No. of owned private dwellings	No. of rented private dwellings
YHC	25.1	7.5	-15.6	33.7	-15.9
Hinton	31.3	13.4	-12.5	51.7	-11.3
Jasper *	13.3	11.7	0	15.1	10.6
Foothills	25	10.6	-10.2	37.8	-2.9
Grande Cache *	28.5	7.9	-15.2	69	-26.7
Edson	48.3	30.3	-13.3	53.9	27.8
Whitecourt	63.1	50.2	-9.7	94	13.4
Edmonton	35	25.6	-7.4	64.8	9.1
Alberta	45.6	33.9	-10.3	62.6	12.2
Canada	39.6	24.1	-10.3	48	19.6

\*Percent change assessed between 1986 and 2001

Table 7.15. Census families in private households, 2001

Census divisions	Total no. of private households	Total no. census families in private HH	Percentage census fam. in private HH	Total no. of non-family HH	Percentage of non-family HH
YHC	3,610	2,915	80.7	760	21.1
Hinton	3,380	2,700	79.9	715	21.2
Jasper	1,615	920	57.0	700	43.3
Foothills	8,605	6,535	75.9	2,175	25.3
Grande Cache	1,335	1,115	83.5	250	18.7
Edson	2,825	2,110	74.7	745	26.4
Whitecourt	2,915	2,280	78.2	680	23.3
Edmonton	265,340	176,955	66.7	93,205	35.1
Alberta	1,104,100	811,280	73.5	313,030	28.4
Canada	11,562,975	8,371,020	72.4	3,407,415	29.5

Table 7.16. Census families in private households, 1996

Census divisions	Total no. of private households	Total no. census families in private HH	Percentage census fam. in private HH	Total no. of non-family HH	Percentage of non-family HH
YHC	3,435	2,795	81	695	20
Hinton	3,265	2,615	80	695	21
Jasper	1,545	930	60	640	41
Foothills	8,245	6,340	77	2,030	27
Grande Cache	2,685	1,980	74	735	27
Edson	1,400	1,215	87	205	15
Whitecourt	2,585	2,045	79	570	22
Edmonton	240,050	163,390	68	81,945	34
Alberta	979,175	721,845	74	273,790	28
Canada	10,820,050	7,865,030	73	3,134,585	29

Table 7.17. Census families in private households, 1991

Census divisions	Total no. of private households	Total no. census families in private HH	Percentage census fam. in private HH	Total no. of non-family HH	Percentage of non-family HH
YHC	3,095	2,475	80	635	21
Hinton	2,925	2,350	80	600	21
Jasper	1,305	865	66	440	34
Foothills	7,325	5690	78	1,675	23
Grande Cache	2,620	1,935	74	695	27
Edson	1,200	1,010	84	195	16
Whitecourt	2,335	1,780	76	570	24
Edmonton	236,120	159,750	68	79,345	34
Alberta	910,390	667,985	73	251,735	28
Canada	10,018,270	7,356,170	73	2,783,040	28

## **8.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

The following is a discussion and summary of the key findings in this report. Major findings and implications from the measurement of the six key indicators: population and migration, employment, income distribution, poverty, human capital and real estate, are briefly discussed.

### **POPULATION AND MIGRATION**

The characteristics of the human population in the FMF region and changes to this population over time are used to measure the population and migration indicator. Population change is an important feature of a region to monitor, as population fluctuations can influence social organization within the community, economic activity and change local needs for regional services.

The population in the FMF region has since the early 1960s, grown slightly almost every census year, with the most rapid growth between 1961 and 1981. In 2001, however, population dropped in all FMF jurisdictions by between 2% and 6%. One explanation for this change is economic downturn in the Hinton and YHC jurisdictions, which show the greatest decrease in population. The population may have decreased as unemployed individuals left the community in search of work opportunities. This segment of the population would not be reflected in the unemployment rate of the FMF region, as this rate only considers unemployed individuals living in the region, and does not count those who have left because of job losses.

An analysis of the age distribution reveals that the population of the FMF region is aging. This region—with the exception of Jasper, which has a relatively young population—has a large 30-44 year old cohort, while the 65-74 year old cohort has grown by nearly 400% in the past 20 years. The FMF region in the next 10 to 15 years will need services and facilities to accommodate an expanding retired and elderly population, assuming individuals in this age group continue to stay in the community. If the region does not have the services to care for an ageing population, it is possible that ageing residents will need to move elsewhere.

The migration and transience of the local population continues to be an issue in Jasper, unlike the rest of FMF region that has not typically experienced high rates of migration or transience. Migration rates have been stable in the Foothills region since 1986, with a slight decline in the past 5 years, likely owing to the rising male unemployment rate during this period meaning that fewer individuals are moving to the FMF region to find work. Migration and transience is mostly an issue in Jasper, which has a higher proportion of movers and migrants compared to the rest of the FMF region. This level of mobility in the population likely reflects the short-term and seasonal work opportunities available to the labour force in this community.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

This indicator illustrates employment conditions in the FMF region, including male and female unemployment and participation rates, labour force participation, and employment by sector and occupation, as well as changes in employment conditions between census years. Labour force participation and unemployment rates, are important to monitor as there are significant social costs associated with poor employment conditions. In addition, since natural resource-based



communities tend to offer fewer full-time employment opportunities for women, the difference in male and female employment conditions is also important to assess.

We find that there is a significant difference in the unemployment and participation rates for males and females throughout the FMF region. The unemployment rate for males is higher than that for females, which may be partly accounted for by the higher participation rate for males. Although more males than females are part of the labour force, a greater proportion of males in the labour force are unemployed. The unemployment rate in Hinton has increased for males between 1996 and 2001, likely reflecting the closure of several mines in the FMF area during this period. The closure of mines in the FMF region would have resulted in the loss of jobs mostly occupied by males.

Census data also show that a larger proportion of females than males joined the labour force between 1996 and 2001, as the female participation rate increased slightly and the male participation decreased slightly. With the exception of Jasper, more males than females are employed full-time. Although female participation in the labour force is increasing, more than half of the female labour force is involved in part-time employment.

There has not been a significant change in the FMF region in occupational and sectoral labour classifications. Between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of males and females involved in occupations typically associated with resource extraction (e.g. primary industry and processing & manufacturing) has not changed significantly. Like many resource-dependent regions, most males are involved in trades, processing and manufacturing, and primary industry, while most females are involved in sales and service occupations. Jasper is the exception to this trend with most employment in the sales and service occupations.

## **INCOME DISTRIBUTION**

Average income and income distribution at the household and individual level, and for full-time and part-time employment is assessed by this indicator. When income is fairly equally distributed between community members, it suggests that community members are benefiting from the economy to a similar extent. In Canada, income distribution tends to be bimodal, where a large proportion of the population earns low and high incomes (representing two high points on an income distribution graph) and smaller proportion earns middle incomes (representing a gap in the middle). Median, rather than average income is also assessed.

The income distribution for the FMF regions is slightly different than the national distribution, the FMF curve has three, rather than two, distinct high points. These high points are represented by the \$10,000-\$29,999, \$69,999 to \$79,999, and \$100,000 or more income categories. As such, the FMF region has fewer lower income households and more middle income households than compared to the Canadian income distribution.

Overall, household and individual income in the FMF region is relatively high, particularly when compared to the rest of the province. Jasper has the lowest median income of the FMF region, and income actually dropped between 1996 and 2001. Median household income is growing in the FMF region, although the rate of this growth between 1991 and 2001 is much smaller

compared to growth experienced between 1981 and 1991. This slower rate of growth is similar provincially and nationally, and does not represent a trend unique to the FMF region.

There is a significant difference in income for males and females in the FMF region, with male median income significantly higher than female income. This finding is likely explained by the employment indicators, which show that most employed females in the FMF region work in part-time rather than full-time occupations. In general, a far greater proportion of females than males earn incomes below \$29,900 and a far greater proportion of males earn incomes above this amount.

Growth in household income has been unevenly distributed among income categories. Between 1996 and 2001 in Hinton, there has been a significant increase in households earning \$10,000-\$19,900, and those earning over \$70,000, but a decrease in households earning between \$40,000-\$69,999. This trend suggests that there is an increasing disparity in household income in the population, with growing high and lower income households. The increase in lower income households coincides with findings from poverty indicators. A different trend is emerging in the YHC jurisdiction, as income distribution is shifting to the right, meaning that more households are earning higher incomes and fewer households are earning lower incomes.

## **POVERTY**

This indicator examines the incidence of low income for economic families and unattached individuals in the FMF region, and also describes the region's census family characteristics. Low-income cut-offs are used to identify low-income families that are worse off than average, spending more than 70% of their income on food, clothing and shelter.

Compared to the province overall, the FMF region has a much lower incidence of low income. A greater proportion of unattached individuals than economic families are in the low-income category. Although Hinton has the highest household median income in the FMF region, it also has the highest incidence of low income for both economic families and unattached individuals. The increase in incidence of low income between 1996 and 2001 in Hinton is likely explained by economic downturn during this period. Low income also rose slightly in Jasper during this period, which coincides with a decrease in median income.

Family type is also part of an overall poverty assessment, as single parent families are more at risk of living in poverty than families with both parents in the household. The FMF region has a small proportion of single parent families, while most of these families are female single parent families. Although these families may be more at risk of poverty than other families, family type assessments suggest that a small percentage of families in the FMF could be at risk living in poverty.

## **HUMAN CAPITAL**

Education attainment and school enrolment are used to assess human capital in the FMF region. Education, training, knowledge, and creativity, contribute to human capital, as they influence an individual's ability to access employment and make a contribution to their community. Higher levels of human capital improve a community's ability to adapt to change and take advantage of opportunities.

In most FMF regions, education attainment is fairly low, especially when compared to the rest of province. Jasper is an exception to this regional trend, as education attainment is higher in this community than the provincial average. In general, a small percentage of the population of the FMF region has a university education or trades training as their highest level of education, and a fairly large proportion of the population has grade 13 or less as their highest level of attainment. The education attainment for Jasper is the highest of the FMF region, while the YHC jurisdiction has the lowest attainment. Despite this trend, education attainment has increased between 1981 and 2001, with a shrinking proportion of the population having less than high school as their highest level of education and a growing proportion with some university or trades education.

Income figures suggest that median income in the FMF region is fairly high. This finding, along with education attainment data, suggests that the FMF region provides high salary employment requiring basic formal education. Consequently, the FMF region is similar to many resource dependent regions with a highly paid workforce having skills related nearly exclusively the resource sector, with little flexibility for finding occupations elsewhere should the resource sector shrink. As such, economic downturns in the resource sector in the FMF region will be felt strongly throughout the FMF region, as individuals are accustomed to a fairly high living standard, but have little education to allow them the flexibility to find employment and financial benefits outside the community.

Nearly half of the population of the FMF between 15 and 24 years of age in 2001 was enrolled in full-time education, and this average is similar to the provincial trend. Similar to previous census years, however, Jasper has a much smaller proportion of the population in this age group enrolled in full-time education. One explanation may be the availability of job opportunities for young people in Jasper in the sales and service industry, meaning that young people delay further education and choose to join the labour force. This finding, however, is not necessarily of serious concern, as education attainment levels are fairly high in Jasper. It may be that young people are choosing to find employment immediately after secondary school and delay further education for several years. Although education attainment decreased in most FMF regions, it has increased in Hinton. This increase may be explained by the economic decline in this community, creating incentives for the younger population to pursue more education.

## **REAL ESTATE**

The average value of dwellings, average major housing payments and gross rent, as well as the change in the number of owned and rented dwellings in the FMF region are documented by this indicator. Real estate values are important to track in an assessment of community sustainability, as a private dwelling is often the largest investment an individual will make in his or her lifetime, and values will often fluctuate with regional economic fluctuations. The proportion of gross and rent and household payments as part of household income are part of this assessment, as they reflect the affordability of housing in the community.

The average value of dwellings in the FMF region is increasing in all FMF jurisdictions. Despite economic shocks in Hinton, property values have not decreased in this community. The value of these dwellings, however, is lower than in other FMF regions and the province as whole. Jasper continues to be the most expensive FMF jurisdiction in which to secure housing. This

community has the highest payments on housing and rent, as well as the highest household payments as a proportion of median income.

Gross rent and major payments as a proportion of median income continue to decrease in the YHC and Hinton, suggesting that the housing expenses are becoming increasingly affordable in these communities. In Jasper, however, owner's major payments are increasing and gross rent is the highest in the FMF region, indicating that housing is becoming less affordable. Throughout the FMF region, there has been an increase in owned dwellings, indicating that there are considerable incentives to invest in property. In Jasper, almost half of total dwellings are occupied by renters and therefore a large proportion of the population is not buying property, and those who do own property are likely renting to tenants as an additional source of income. This trend may also suggest that property ownership is concentrated in Jasper, with a small proportion of owners controlling property that is leased to a much higher proportion of tenants.

The population in Jasper is also far more mobile than in other Foothills communities, as a much smaller proportion of the population lives in private households. These individuals may be choosing not to live in private households owing to the short period of time they plan to stay in the community. Jasper also has a much younger population, which may be more comfortable living in arrangements other than private households. In other FMF regions, the population is older and less transient and therefore more likely to live in a private household.

## CONCLUSION

Using census information from 2001 and earlier, this report provides an assessment of community well being in the Foothills Model Forest. By updating the previous assessment that was conducted by Parkins and Beckley (2001), this report offers an up-to-date profile on social and economic conditions within the region. One of the main reasons for undertaking this update is to identify trends that may require some additional attention. Toward this end, we have identified several trends to watch. In some cases, these trends have just emerged within the past 5 years. In other cases, the trends are much more long term and may be well understood by residents and community leaders.

According to our analysis, if the following trends continue, they may have some significant negative impacts on the long-term well being of communities in the Foothills Model Forest.

- With a 400% increase in the 65 to 74 age cohort over the past 20 years (Figure 2.8), Hinton is faced with providing the housing, recreational, and medical resources necessary to maintain this population. Clearly this age cohort represents an important asset to Hinton and one that will require significant investment over the coming years.
- Employment statistics show a significant increase in unemployment rates for males and females in Hinton (Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4). Rates are not as high as 1986, but if the trend continues, we may observe a continued decline in town population and an increase in demand for social assistance.
- The bimodal income distribution in Hinton continues to become more acute as we observe a 'hollowing out' of middle class families in the community (Figure 4.8). This trend is not unique to Hinton, but it does represent a serious challenge to community well being when the divisions between rich and poor families become increasingly acute.

- Poverty rates for unattached individuals continue to climb in Jasper and Hinton (Figure 5.4). Poverty rates for families in Jasper have also started to climb in the last 5 years. These rates reflect a growing number of residents who are unable to access financial resources at minimum levels, and may either leave the area or may become dependent on social services.
- Full time school attendance continues to lag behind the provincial average (Figure 6.6). As a major factor in the capacity of communities to adapt to changing social and economic conditions, education attainment levels remain an important area to watch.
- As a longer-term trend, housing costs in Jasper continue to rise (Figure 7.4). This squeeze on families may result in out-migration of lower-income families and a significant transformation in community characteristics.

The issues raised in this discussion are complex and often difficult to address. This report is not intended to identify specific strategies for action, but the identification of trends can focus attention on specific community issues before issues become more acute.

The next Census of Canada will be in 2006. Data from this Census will be available in 2008, at which time another 5-year update will be available.

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