Yukon Bureau of Statistics

Population and Dwellings
Census 2011

Highlights

- 33,897 people were counted in Yukon in May 2011.
- Yukon’s population growth of 11.6% between the 2006 and 2011 census years was the highest in Canada.
- 80% of Yukon’s population growth took place in Whitehorse.
- The total number of Yukon dwellings occupied by usual residents grew by 11.9%.

In May 2011, Statistics Canada conducted a census of Canadian residents. The data collected covered Canada, the provinces and territories, and down to community and municipal areas.

In Yukon, data is categorized into 37 geographic census subdivisions. These subdivision types range from city down to very small parcels of land which have historic significance but no current population.

The release of population and dwelling counts data from the 2011 Census of Population marks the first of four releases in 2012.

Yukon’s 2011 census population of 33,897 was an increase of 11.6% from the 2006 census population of 30,372. This population growth in Yukon was the highest rate of growth across Canada, and the highest rate of growth Yukon has seen since 1991.

Due to a small population base, Yukon is more prone to proportionally-large swings in population than the provinces are. However, in the past 40 years, Yukon’s population has continued to grow—with only one exception (1996 to 2001 census years; due mainly to the Faro mine closure).

The growth in Yukon between 2006 and 2011 (which occurred mainly in Whitehorse) was related to a net increase in the number of immigrants and non-permanent residents, as well as a net increase in inter-provincial migration.

Other Census Information

- Statistics Canada’s Census Profile of Yukon, including Whitehorse and other census subdivisions: http://bit.ly/wMN8qN
- GeoSearch - an interactive tool which helps locate and relate census data to geographic areas: http://bit.ly/wnuhw3
Population Change in Whitehorse

In 1971, the number of Yukoners in Whitehorse surpassed the number of Yukoners in the rest of the territory; that ratio has been growing ever since.

In the 2011 census, the Whitehorse population of 23,276 represented 68.7% of Yukon's population.

When looking at the greater Whitehorse area (which includes Whitehorse Unorganized, Macpherson-Grizzly Valley, Marsh Lake, Ibex Valley, Lake Laberge and Mt. Lorne) that figure (26,028) increases to 76.8% of the total Yukon population. This is an increase of 1.4 percentage points from the 2006 census figure of 75.4%.

In 1971, the number of Yukoners in Whitehorse surpassed the number of Yukoners in the rest of the territory; that ratio has been growing ever since.

In the 2011 census, the Whitehorse population of 23,276 represented 68.7% of Yukon's population.

When looking at the greater Whitehorse area (which includes Whitehorse Unorganized, Macpherson-Grizzly Valley, Marsh Lake, Ibex Valley, Lake Laberge and Mt. Lorne) that figure (26,028) increases to 76.8% of the total Yukon population. This is an increase of 1.4 percentage points from the 2006 census figure of 75.4%

Population Change in all Communities

Yukon’s population growth of 11.6% between 2006 and 2011 was not uniform across communities. In fact, the Whitehorse increase of 2,815 accounted for 79.9% of the total Yukon increase.

Dawson and Haines Junction’s populations remained almost the same, while Watson Lake's population decreased 5.2%.

Selected Population Counts (Census Years 2006 and 2011)

Yukon’s population growth of 11.6% between 2006 and 2011 was not uniform across communities. In fact, the Whitehorse increase of 2,815 accounted for 79.9% of the total Yukon increase.

Dawson and Haines Junction’s populations remained almost the same, while Watson Lake's population decreased 5.2%.

Selected Population Counts

Whitehorse and Other Yukon Population (Census Years 1956 to 2011)

1Due to changes in geographic boundaries, Whitehorse (census subdivision) population figures may not be strictly comparable.

1Carcross includes census subdivisions: Carcross (settlement) and Carcross 4 (self-government)

2Teslin includes census subdivisions: Teslin (village), Teslin Land, and Teslin Post 13 (self-government)

3Other includes census subdivisions: Champagne Landing 10, Kluko Lake, Klukshu, Two and One-Half Mile Village, and Two Mile Village (Indian settlements); Johnsons Crossing, Stewart Crossing, and Swift River (settlements); and Lake Laberge 1 and Moosehide Creek 2 (self-government)
Dwellings, Yukon and Census Subdivision

There were 16,259 private dwellings in Yukon in 2011. Of this number, 14,117 or 86.8% were occupied by usual residents.

The total number of dwellings increased 6.3% between 2006 and 2011 while the number occupied by usual residents grew by 11.9%.

These changes were not uniform across communities. The number of private dwellings occupied by usual residents in Whitehorse increased 12.4%, while that figure increased 5.0% in Dawson and 3.9% in Watson Lake.

Note: Statistics Canada defines a ‘dwelling’ as a set of living quarters designed for or converted for human habitation in which a person or group of persons reside or could reside. In addition, a ‘private dwelling’ must have a source of heat or power and must be an enclosed space that provides shelter from the elements, as evidenced by complete and enclosed walls and roof and by doors and windows that provide protection from wind, rain and snow. An ‘occupied private dwelling’ is defined as a separate set of living quarters which has a private entrance either directly from outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway leading to the outside, and in which a person or a group of persons live permanently. Also included are private dwellings whose usual residents are temporarily absent on Census Day.
Components of Growth

**Note:** Additional 2011 census demographic indicators won’t be released until later in 2012 and into 2013; however, Statistics Canada does produce estimates on components of population growth between census years to help give an indication of the driving factors behind population change.

Approximately 65% of the population growth between 2006 and 2011 can be attributed to migration (the remaining 35% is net natural increase; that is, births less deaths). International migration accounted for 40% of the gain, while interprovincial migration represented the other 25%.

Ontario, Northwest Territories and Quebec were the biggest sources of Yukon net interprovincial migrants.

Census Information

About the Census

Every five years Statistics Canada conducts a census of every person in Canada. The information collected is the primary source of comparable, reliable demographic data in Canada; it is used by governments, businesses, associations, and many others in decision-making processes that affect everyone.

Census vs. YBS population figures

The Statistics Canada (census) population count in Yukon for May 2011 is 33,897 while the YBS population estimate for May 2011 was 35,287. This is a difference of 1,390. Similar differences were seen in the 2006 census figures.

This figure from the 2011 census will be adjusted using the results of studies, always conducted after a census, which determine how many individuals were not counted or were counted more than once. The final results of the study will be released in September, 2013. It is very likely that the adjusted 2011 census figure and the YBS figure will be more closely aligned, as they were for the 2006 census.

What’s next

Additional statistics from the 2011 Census of Population will be available in the coming months of 2012:

- May 29, 2012: Age and sex
- September 19, 2012: Families, households and marital status, Structural type of dwelling and collectives
- October 24, 2012: Language

**Additional information**

Government of Yukon
Executive Council Office
Bureau of Statistics (A-8C)
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (867) 667-5640; Fax: (867) 393-6203
email: ybsinfo@gov.yk.ca
website: www.eco.gov.yk.ca/stats/