



Shape Your
Future Victoria

Demographics Tomorrow

A full report on demographic projections is available on the City of Victoria's website for the Official Community Plan review at: www.ShapeYourFutureVictoria.ca

Definition and Description

Demography is the study of human populations, its composition and changes. **Demographics** are the characteristics of a population, such as births, deaths and migrations, in the present and over time, as well as the causes and consequences of change, especially aging.

Why Is This Topic Important?

Sustainable community planning involves land use management that is responsive to the present and future needs of a population, including housing and work. Population demands are influenced by existing and projected changes in demographics, such as births, deaths, lifecycle stages, movements within a municipality and migration from elsewhere in a regional district, province, Canada and the world.

Did You Know?

Victoria's population is approximately 82,000 and is projected to increase to 101,000 by 2041. This is **19,000 new residents** over 33 years.

Between 2008 and 2041, Victoria is expected to see a six per cent decline in residents aged 25 or younger; a six per cent decline in people aged 25 to 65; and a dramatic increase in citizens aged 65 and older from 17 per cent to **29 per cent** of the total population.

In 2041, Victoria is anticipated to have **55 per cent** of apartments¹, including condominiums, and 13 per cent of ground oriented housing² in the CRD.

An increase of **10,500 jobs** is projected for Victoria over the next 33 years. Given the aging population, around 1,100 of total new jobs are anticipated in the health sector.

The city is expected to experience its greatest employment growth, by 2041, in management, business, finance and administration (3,300 new jobs) and sales and services (2,300 new jobs).

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1. 'Apartment' housing does not directly access the street or a yard and has an entrance that opens on to a common corridor.
2. Ground oriented housing is assumed to be dwellings that open directly on to a yard and individual units do not share a common entrance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Issues and Trends

Dramatic changes in population:

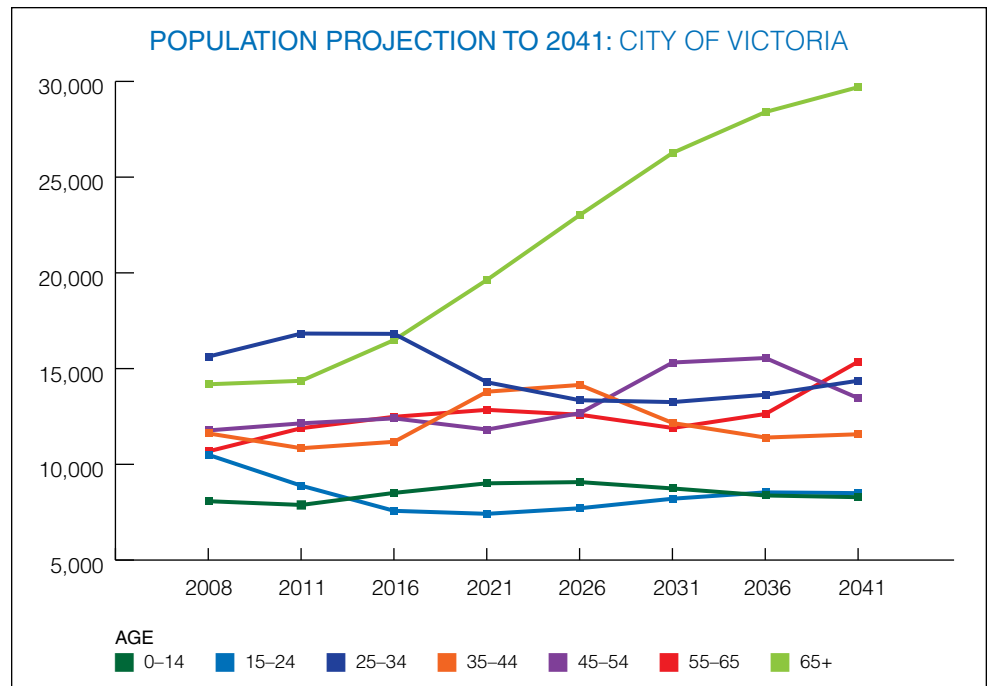
- By 2041, Victoria is expected to have undergone a profound shift in its demographic profile, due to the aging of the post Second World War baby boom generation.
- The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to double and comprise almost one-third of our total population.
- Victoria's policies and programs need to anticipate and respond to these changes, especially in the areas of housing, healthcare and community services.

Local and regional economy:

- The level of employment in Victoria and demand for occupations is dependent on growth and changes in the economy of British Columbia and the Capital Regional District.
- Victoria's economy includes services to non-residents, such as tourism, and export products, such as manufacturing, and businesses and jobs that serve the needs of the local population.
- Victoria's capacity to attract businesses and labour in demand in the CRD, and to provide an adequate diversity of housing, shapes who works and lives in the city, i.e. our demographics.

Housing availability and needs:

- The housing market in Victoria is also determined by growth and changes in the provincial and CRD economies, which draw additional people to work and live in the region, creating the need to construct new homes.
- The size and composition of Victoria's population is determined by the available stock of 'apartments', including condominiums, and family friendly housing.



- Past trends in the CRD reveal that people under 25 and aged 75 or older are most likely to live in apartments, but often those over age 25, in the family stage of life, have moved from Victoria to municipalities with more housing that is not apartments.
- Victoria's share of apartments in the CRD, which is projected to remain high at 55 per cent, is a major factor in the number of households with children now and in our future city.

The City in Action: What We Do Now

The City of Victoria guides and responds to population growth and change in its boundaries through land use plans, policies and zoning regulations. Planning goals include a wide diversity of housing tenures and types and community amenities and services for all age groups.

Land use planning has the capacity to guide Victoria to a different future than is projected through policies that respond to population demands, such as incentives to create more affordable family housing, and the retention of existing office spaces in the downtown core.

Share your thoughts and ide as:

Population projections are a vision of the future that is based on trends in the past, but the type of residents, housing and employment in Victoria in 2041 could be different from the statistics. Municipal policies and programs can help to shape and alter our future community profile.

- Do the 2041 projections match your vision of future Victoria? Why or why not?
- What would you change in the anticipated breakdown of population, and how?
- How could the City support the everyday needs of future residents?

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- Additional topic sheets are available online at www.shapeyourfuturevictoria.ca/research-facts