

2011 National Population Census by Age and Gender

Youth: Edmonton's demographic advantage

May 29, 2012 – The May 29 release of the 2011 national population census - age and gender - confirms Edmonton's demographic advantage: a large percentage of our growing population comprises people in their prime working (and consuming/spending) years – 25 to 44 years of age.

From an employment and growth perspective, the age profile for Edmonton is very strong when compared with both Alberta and Canada. With 31% of our city's population in the 25 to 44 age range, the outlook is also positive with respect to income growth and consumer spending, as this population group leads the way in household formation. Hence the city can anticipate better-than-average income growth fueling a demand for new housing.

The Statistics Canada release shows that the Edmonton census metropolitan area (CMA) was one of the few jurisdictions that did not see its median age - currently at 36 years - increase from 2006 to 2011. Strong net migration to the city, combined with an increase in children under 5 years of age, helped offset a rise in the 65-and-over population.

Provincially, the youth trend continues, with the province's median age of 36.5 years compared to the Canadian average of 40 years. As with Edmonton, a key factor in the young provincial median age has been the steady migration of relatively young individuals to the province. As well, at 11.1%, Alberta has the lowest share of seniors among the provinces. This bodes well for the province's capacity to meet demands for health care and other services, which tend to increase with a higher proportion of seniors.

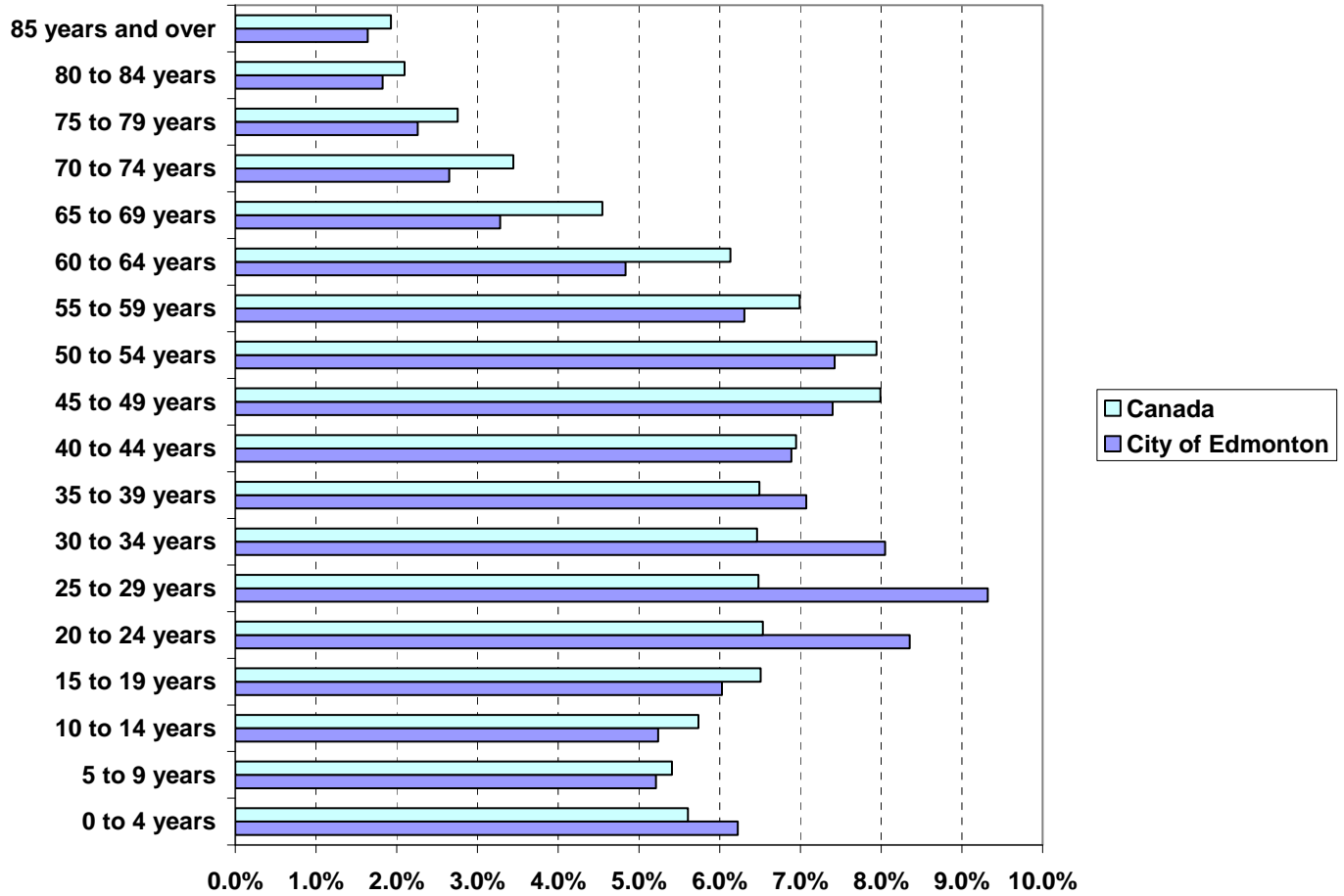
At the national level, the share of seniors in the population rose to 14.8% in 2011 from 13.7% in 2006. Canada still has one of the lowest levels of seniors among the advanced G8 countries and the share of the population that is of working age is among the highest of the G8. However, this will change rapidly as the 'baby boom' cohort is now reaching 65 years of age in increasing numbers. As a result, Canada will soon face the same issues of slower growth and increased fiscal pressure now being experienced by other 'older' nations, such as Italy and Japan.

Table 1
Median Age

	2006	2011
City of Edmonton	36.1	36.0
Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area	36.4	36.5
Alberta	36.0	36.5
Canada	39.5	40.0

Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 1
Population Shares by Age



Contact

John Rose
Chief Economist
Financial Services
780-496-6070

Milap Petigara
Senior Economist
Financial Services
780-442-7086