



CALGARY REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROFILE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide an economic and social profile of the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP). By providing such background information on the CRP, the report complements a study that is currently being conducted on urban-rural interdependencies in the Region. The report presents and analyzes 2006 Census data using two geographical systems: with an urban / rural dichotomy and with a more refined rural categorization called Metropolitan Influence Zone (MIZ).

B. URBAN-RURAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE

All three measures point to greater urban-rural economic integration in the CRP than in the province. The same measures, however, also indicate greater economic dependency of rural on urban centres (than the other way around), suggesting that the conditions are set for rural CRP to benefit from their urban neighbors.

C. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

Compared to the province of Alberta as a whole, the population and demographic indicators for the CRP County stand out on a number of dimensions; with the greatest population gains, a slightly younger age profile, and the smallest Aboriginal but largest minority populations. The age structure of rural CRP is very mixed. The more youthful age of Weak MIZ (Banff) residents explains findings elsewhere in the report, most notably their greater likelihood of being single and their low rates of home ownership,

D. SOCIAL INDICATORS

The population of the Calgary Regional Partnership is characterized by high levels of educational attainment when compared with the province. Though a larger proportion of homes in the Calgary Regional Partnership are owned, they are more costly, newer and less likely to require major repair than in the province.

E. ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Most indicators suggest that the CRP has greater economic strength than the province. The CRP has a higher LFP rate and median income, a lower unemployment rate and incidence of government transfer income, and its population is more likely to be employed in the typically 'good' jobs found in professional, scientific, and technical service industries. Still, CRP residents are more likely than their provincial counterparts to meet the criteria for low-income, which is likely a function of their higher standard of living. This latter finding holds for all geographic zones except *Strong MIZ*, which is the least likely population of all comparison groups to be designated as low-income (3.6% compared to 9.2% for the total CRP and 8.7% for the total province).

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A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide an economic and social profile of the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP). By providing such background information on the CRP, the report provides contextual and benchmarking information that will complement a larger study currently being conducted on urban-rural interdependencies.

The overall objective of the larger study is to explore the nature of urban-rural interdependencies related to economic, social, and environmental sustainability and to determine their impact on the well-being and prosperity of regions. The CRP is one of three Alberta economic regions comprising the study. Similar profile reports have been developed for the other two case-study regions of Alberta Southwest and HUB (and for a pilot study of the Flagstaff region).

We begin the report by examining the economic interdependence in the CRP in Section B, followed by a presentation of population / demographic, social, and economic indicators in Sections C, D, and E, respectively. Each section of the report begins with highlights of the key findings and concludes with a brief summary that ties the key findings together.

About the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP)

The CRP is one of 13 Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) in the Province of Alberta. REDAs are autonomous self-selected organizations that are supported by the Alberta government and that include over 250 communities in the province. More information on the province's REDAs can be found at <http://albertacanada.com/regionaldev/1218.html>.

The Calgary Regional Partnership refers to the geographical area comprised of 18 municipalities, including 2 cities, 12 towns, 1 county, 2 municipal districts, and 1 reserve. As shown in the map below, the Calgary Regional Partnership spans a large geographical area with an approximate radius of 125 kilometers and is bounded by Banff to the west, Crossfield to the north, Wheatland County to the east, Nanton to the south, and with Calgary at its centre. This region of the province is significant in that it comprises more than one-third (35.6%) of the total Alberta population.

The CRP was established in 1999 to address regional issues and "to look for ways to improve the delivery of municipal services, promote economic growth, and protect the environment." The Partnership's vision for the region is based on three pillars, including Sustainable Municipal Service, Environmental Sustainability, and Economic Prosperity. Further information on the CRP can be obtained at www.calgaryregion.ca.



Source: Calgary Region: Where Opportunity Drives Prosperity, <http://www.calgaryregion.ca/crp/discover.aspx>

Note: The Municipal District of Bighorn is no longer a member of the CRP.

The main source of data for this report was Statistics Canada's 2006 and 2001 Censuses of Population.¹ Two major classification systems form the core analysis in this report. First, a basic comparison between urban centres and rural/small town zones is presented to capture overall differences between the two geographic zones of the CRP. Second, the Metropolitan Influenced Zone (MIZ) system, developed by McNiven et al. (2000), is used to make distinctions within rural and small town municipalities of the CRP. The four MIZ categories are *Strong*, *Moderate*, *Weak*, and *No MIZ*, with each reflecting progressively greater rurality and less influence by urban centres. When available, comparative data have been provided for Alberta using the same two classification schemes.

Most of the 2006 census data provided in this report include the Municipal District of Bighorn (population of 1,264), which opted out of the CRP in November of 2008, after the data for this report were provided by Statistics Canada. Since the data were pre-grouped by MIZ category, it is not possible to remove Bighorn data from the tables and figures. In addition, Tsuu T'ina Nation did not participate in the 2006 Census and their data are therefore excluded from the tables and figures presenting this census year. Their population for 2001 was 1,982.

¹ Discrepancies between the figures presented in this report and other Statistics Canada 2006 Census data is primarily due to the use of 20% sample data for most of the 2006 Census in the current report. These data have been weighted, are subject to rounding, and exclude institutional residents.

B. URBAN-RURAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE

Key Findings

B.1 Introduction

- Just 5.4% of the CRP population resides in rural areas (compared to 21.2% of the provincial population).

B.2 Urban-Rural Proximity

- All 17 CRP municipalities meet the definition of “urban-periphery” to the City of Calgary.
- As distance to Calgary increases, population size tends to decline.

B.3 Geographic Zone Designation

- In addition to the City of Calgary, the 6 municipalities located most closely to the City of Calgary comprise the CMA of Calgary indicating a high level of economic interdependence between these 7 municipalities
- The rural population of the CRP is more highly integrated with the urban population than is observed for the province of Alberta.

B.4 Commuting Flows and Patterns

- Not only is the rural population of the CRP more likely than the urban population to access jobs in other communities within the CRP boundaries, they are more likely to work in jobs located in rural regions.
- In-commuting accounts for a significantly larger proportion of the local labour market in rural CRP than in urban CRP.
- The two largest rural regions of the CRP (*Strong* and *Moderate MIZ*) are significantly more likely than other areas to experience a net loss in commuting.

Summary

The three measures of urban-rural interdependency all point towards greater rural economic dependence on urban centres, albeit with some intra-rural variation.

B.1 Introduction

The 18 municipalities in the Calgary Regional Partnership can be classified into urban and rural designations. According to Statistics Canada's geographical definition of 'Rural and Small Town' (see box at right), just 5.4% of the CRP population is rural. This compares to 21.2% of all Alberta municipalities that are defined as rural and small town.

Definition of Rural and Small Town: Regions that have a population of less than 10,000 and where less than 50% of employed individuals commute to a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) or Census Agglomeration (CA) (Statistics Canada, 1999a).

The urban/rural breakdown of the CRP has implications for urban-rural interdependency and therefore the economic well-being of the entire Region. Though comprising just one-twentieth of the CRP population, the rural communities can benefit economically from their interdependency with urban communities in a multitude of ways. For example, rural areas can gain economically from CRP's urban centres by having access to diverse employment opportunities, to large end markets for rural production, to resources for public and private investment in rural enterprise, to vibrant environments for knowledge creation and transfer, and to transportation hubs (Dabson, 2007; Core Cities, 2003; Slack et al., 2003).

Urban centres can also benefit from their independency with rural communities. Rural areas can provide to urban centres food, energy, a labour force, stewardship, waste management, congestion relief, and uniquely rural experiences, as well as specialty agriculture, hospitality and tourism, second and retirement homes, the outsourcing of services, and alleviation of urban labour shortages (Stauber, 2001; Porter et al, 2004; Partridge, 2005).²

The extent to which these reciprocal benefits are realized depends on a number of factors, with the most perceptible and widely researched being proximity to urban centres. Though research has demonstrated that the greatest economic advantages accrue to rural communities within the urban periphery (Dabson, 2007; Partridge et al., 2007; Wensley and Stabler, 1998), it stands to reason that the reverse must also be true; that proximity to rural areas increases the opportunities for urban centres to capitalize on the benefits of their interdependency with rural areas. Yet, for both rural and urban communities to take advantage of the benefits and to avoid the costs, rural and urban interdependency must be first be acknowledged and then urban-rural partnerships can be formed around these interdependencies. Hence, this portion of the report attempts to draw out the degree of urban-rural interdependence in the CRP.

We assess the regional economic interdependence by examining the level of economic integration among our geographical region of interest using a number of techniques. We begin

² This is not to say that there aren't potential for costs as well as benefits. Costs effects of increasing interdependence include diminishing rural landscapes, environmental degradation, rural out-migration (for jobs and amenities), and loss of rural employment opportunities as firms locate in urban areas to take advantage of agglomeration benefits (Partridge et al., 2005).

by examining the proximity of each CRP municipality to the City of Calgary, which as noted above, bears on the extent to which rural communities can capitalize on the benefits of urban centres. Subsequent sections draw upon various measures of commuting flow data as indicators of the interaction of people between localities.³ Commuting flows are more than just a measure of home to work journeys and access to labour markets since people tend to use services provided in the same regions where they work. Accordingly, our examination of commuting flows reflect both the economic and social connections between communities.

This assessment is done first by drawing upon the Metropolitan Influence Zone (MIZ) system which exacts a more granular categorization of rural communities and, mostly notably, accounts for commuting flows from rural communities to the urban core (in this case, the City of Calgary). The MIZ categorization system also forms the core basis of analysis for all subsequent sections in the report. The final and central analysis in this section entails an evaluation of place of work data and of work commuting patterns between urban and rural (and MIZ) communities in the CRP. Hence, this final section moves the investigation from a simple one-directional commuting flow analysis to the single municipality of Calgary, towards a much more robust delineation of two-directional flows between a wider range of communities.

B.2 Urban-Rural Proximity

Geographically, the City of Calgary is at the centre of the CRP. It is also central insofar as it is the major urban economic, social, and cultural hub of the region. As such, an examination of the proximity of CRP municipalities to the City has implications for the degree to which the conditions are set for interdependency. The population of each community and their respective distance to the City of Calgary are presented in Table 1 below.

The first observation of note from Table 1 is that none of the municipalities is considered to be outside the urban periphery of the City of Calgary (which is typically considered to be a 200 kilometer radius: see Partridge et al., 2007; Wensley and Stabler, 1998; or within a 90-minute commute: see Dabson, 2007). Nonetheless, the distance table suggests that some municipalities are more likely to benefit from their close proximity than others. On the other hand, more distant communities such as Banff and Canmore are less likely to be competing with Calgary, with local merchants having the advantage of providing more convenient access to their services and goods for those residing within their own communities. In addition to being well-established tourist destinations, Banff and Canmore should be able to corner other markets within their own micro-economy.

³ Other ways of understanding urban-rural interdependency including examining the flows of goods, flows of wastes; and sectoral interactions (e.g. urban farming, rural manufacturing) (Tacoli, 1998).

The table also indicates that there is a negative correlation between distance to the City of Calgary and population size: as distance increases, population size decreases. These population and proximity data are important to keep in mind when examining the factors that go into determining MIZ classification in the next section.

| Table 1: Population and Urban Proximity Calgary Regional Partnership | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Region | 2006 Population | Distance to Calgary (kms) |
| TOTAL CRP | 1,159,630 | -- |
| Calgary | 988,193 | -- |
| Chestermere | 9,564 | 27 |
| M.D. of Rocky View | 34,171 | 28 |
| Airdrie | 28,927 | 31 |
| Cochrane | 13,760 | 36 |
| Tsuu T'ina Nation ¹ | 1,982 | 43 |
| Crossfield | 2,648 | 47 |
| Okotoks | 17,145 | 47 |
| Strathmore | 10,225 | 50 |
| M.D. of Foothills | 19,736 | 70 |
| High River | 10,716 | 65 |
| Black Diamond | 1,900 | 69 |
| Turner Valley | 1,908 | 73 |
| Wheatland County | 8,164 | 82 |
| Nanton | 2,055 | 93 |
| Canmore | 12,039 | 102 |
| Banff | 6,700 | 126 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census of Population and Travel Alberta Distance Calculator (<http://www1.travelalberta.com/en-us/index.cfm?pageid=2155>)

¹ Includes Redwood Meadows and is for the 2001 Census.

B.3 Geographic Zone Designation

Rural municipalities can be further categorized into a system that captures varying degrees of 'rurality' called "Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Influenced Zones" (MIZ). The MIZ allocation of municipalities is a good indicator of urban-rural economic interdependency as it captures the flows of rural populations to urban populations for work. Under the MIZ system, rural communities are classified into four MIZ categories based on the proportion of the population commuting to large urban centres.

Urban communities can also be distinguished by population size and include municipalities that exceed a 50% commuting threshold. The CMA / CA and MIZ definitions and the classifications of the 17 municipalities in the Calgary Regional Partnership are displayed in Table 2.

Of initial note is the fact that the 6 municipalities located most closely to the City of Calgary (see Table 1) comprise the CMA of Calgary. These 7 communities are highly interdependent simply by virtue of the fact that they are included in the CMA of Calgary and exceed the 50% commuting threshold. The other urban category, CA or Census Agglomeration, includes Okotoks and Canmore

At the other end of the distance and commuting spectrum is the town of Banff which is the only community designated as "weakly" influenced by the urban core of Calgary and is the furthest of all municipalities. Otherwise, it is notable that there are no municipalities in which none of the residents commute to the urban core (i.e., No Influence Zone). We conclude that though there is variation with the Region, most of the municipalities are relatively highly economically dependent on the City of Calgary.

The respective urban/rural and MIZ classifications of the CRP municipalities are important to keep in mind when interpreting the results presented in this report. As demonstrated across the country, not only do urban and rural communities depart significantly along a number of dimensions, but the further distinction brought by MIZ zone classifications is a strong determinant of the population, demographic, social, and economic characteristics of any rural community (Sorensen and de Peuter, 2006).

**Table 2: Geographic Zone Designation by Municipality
Calgary Regional Partnership**

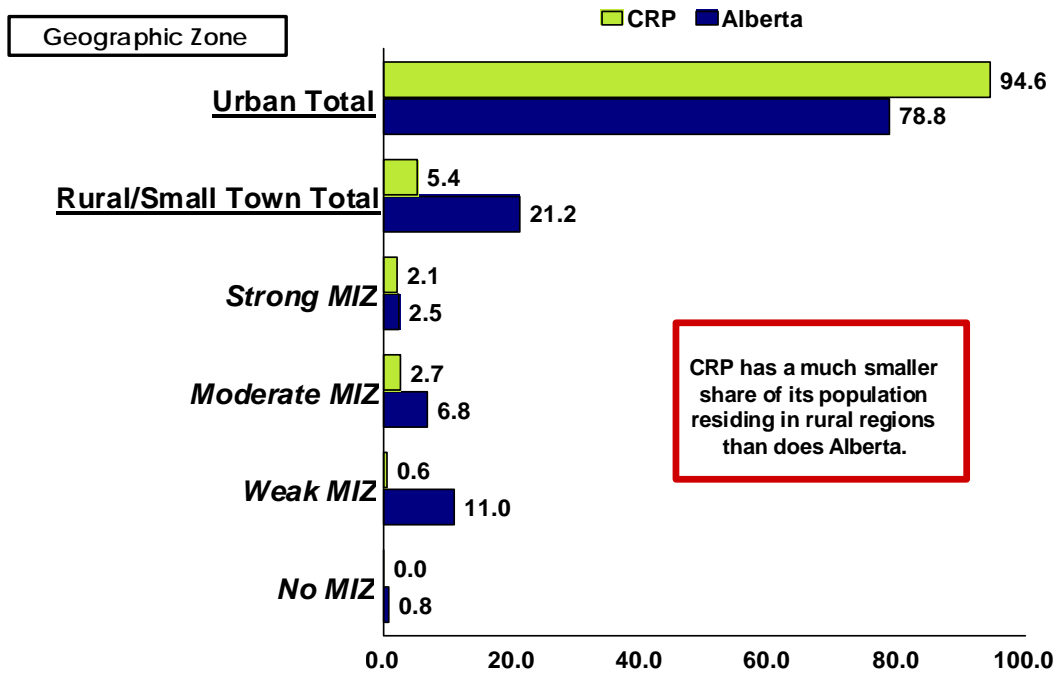
| Geographical Designation | Municipality | Definition |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| URBAN | | |
| CMA | Calgary Airdrie Chestermere Cochrane Crossfield MD of Rocky View Tsuu T'ina Nation | CMA's have an urban core population of at least 100,000 and include all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the labour force commutes into the urban core. |
| CA | Okotoks Canmore | CAs have an urban core population between 10,000 and 99,999 and abide by the same commuting rules as CMA's (Statistics Canada, 1999a). |
| RURAL | | |
| Strong Influence | Black Diamond MD of Foothills Turner Valley | Between 30% and 49% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any large urban centre, suggesting that this population is <u>strongly</u> integrated with the urban economy |
| Moderate Influence | High River Nanton Strathmore Wheatland County | At least 5% but less than 30% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any large urban centre, suggesting that this population is <i>moderately</i> integrated with the urban economy. |
| Weak Influence | Banff | More than 0% but less than 5% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any large urban centre, suggesting that this population is <i>weakly</i> integrated with the urban economy. |
| No Influence | -- | 0% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any large urban centre (plus any CSD that has less than 40 people in its employed labour force), suggesting that this population is <i>not at all</i> integrated with the urban economy. |

Source: Statistics Canada Population, 2006

Figure 1 shows the population distribution between the urban and rural and MIZ designations for the CRP and for the province of Alberta. In addition to illustrating the much smaller rural component of the CRP compared to the province, the figure shows that, while for the province population size increases as influence decreases, a somewhat reversed pattern is observed in

the CRP. Hence, the CRP not only has a smaller rural population than does the province, but it also has a rural population that is more highly integrated with the urban core. Once again, therefore, we have evidence of a relatively highly interdependent region.

**Figure 1: Population Distribution by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership¹ and Alberta, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

B.4 Commuting Flows and Patterns

Table 3 presents place of work (commuting) data which has important implications for the urban / rural interdependence of municipalities within the CRP.

The main observation to note is the relatively small proportion of CRP residents working outside their own municipality, including those working within the same Census Division, within the province, or outside of Canada (10.1%). These figures, however, are higher for the rural population and especially for those residing in *Strong MIZ* zones, only 27.4% of whom work in the same municipality as they reside (including those who work at home). Thus, the rural population is much more geographically mobile than the urban population with respect to place of work.

**Table 3: Place of Work by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership¹, 2006**

| Place of Work | Percent | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | CRP TOTAL | Urban Total | Rural & Small Town | | | |
| | | | Total | Strong MIZ | Moderate MIZ | Weak MIZ |
| No fixed work address ² | 685,565 12.8 | 648,355 12.7 | 37,215 14.8 | 14,980 15.4 | 17,190 16.6 | 5,040 7.0 |
| Work at home | 7.6 | 7.1 | 16.2 | 20.3 | 16.0 | 4.6 |
| Work in same municipality as residence | 69.5 | 71.8 | 29.7 | 7.1 | 34.3 | 81.3 |
| Work in same Census Division ³ | 7.8 | 6.6 | 29.4 | 53.4 | 15.9 | 4.2 |
| Work elsewhere in Alberta or Canada | 1.8 | 1.3 | 9.4 | 3.3 | 16.9 | 1.8 |
| Work elsewhere in the world | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 1.0 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding and area suppression)

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

² Includes "persons who do not go from home to the same workplace location at the beginning of each shift." In Canada, these persons are most likely to be truck drivers, construction workers (especially carpenters), cleaners, and landscape and grounds maintenance labourers (see http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/analysis/pow/10_construction.cfm).

³ There are 4 Census Divisions represented by the CRP, including Calgary, Banff, Drumheller, and Fort MacLeod.

We are not able to tell from these data, however, whether rural residents are primarily commuting to urban centres or other rural regions. Table 4 provides these details of out- and in-commuting patterns for the total commuting population of the CRP, for urban and rural, and for the three MIZ geographies.

The table demonstrates that though most commuters are urban and most commuting is done to and from urban centres, proportionally speaking, rural workers are much more likely to travel outside their municipality to access jobs. More than one-third (33.9%) of the rural working population works in another municipality in the CRP compared to just 6.7% of the urban working population. The working population in *Moderate MIZ* (including Black Diamond, M.D. of Foothills and Turner Valley) are the most likely of all geographic zones to commute to work in other rural CRP communities (28.5%) and to receive

Rural Commuting Patterns in Canada:
With the exception of the findings for *Weak MIZ*, recent Canadian research supports the findings for the CRP: In rural areas with weaker linkages with urban centres, strong rural-to-rural economic linkages were found. In these areas, most rural commuters travelled to the same type of rural area as where they lived (Harris et al, 2008).

commuters from other rural communities (46.1%). Furthermore, despite that commuting is most often done between urban centres, commuting to rural regions contributes a much more significant share to the local labour force (25.6% compared to 7.6%). With fully 100% of *Weak MIZ* (Banff) commuters working in urban centres and 100% of in-commuters coming from urban centres, the commuting patterns observed for Banff are an exception to the patterns otherwise observed for rural CRP. Banff represents an unusual rural case insofar as it is a tourist destination with its own highly specialized and micro-economy and a larger transient, seasonal and perhaps underground labour force.

Finally, net commuting (that is, the difference between the number of people coming to work in a municipality and the number of people leaving to work elsewhere in the CRP) is much more balanced in urban centres than in rural areas of the CRP. There is, however, great variation within rural regions. *Strong MIZ* is shown to experience the greatest net loss of -58.8% whereas *Weak MIZ* has 76.9% more people coming to work in their municipalities than are leaving.

Residents of the CRP who commute to urban centres for work are most likely to come from Ardrrie and the M.D. of Rocky View to access highly skilled jobs in professional, scientific, and technical service industries (10%; such as legal, accounting, architectural, engineering, design, marketing, public relations computer, administrative, environmental, and research and development services) (results not shown in table or figure). The second and third most common industries are the manufacturing sector (10%) and retail trade (9%). Conversely, the commuting population are accessing jobs in rural areas primarily to work in manufacturing (20%, largely in High River), followed by health care and social assistance (10%, largely in Strathmore, Banff, and High River), and accommodation and food services (10%, mostly in Banff, but also spread throughout a large number of other rural municipalities). In contrast to what we might expect, only a small portion of job commuters are traveling to rural areas to work in the agriculture or mining, oil and gas sectors (5.5% and 3.5%, respectively).

Overall, the commuting patterns presented in Table 4 indicate that compared to the urban population, the rural population of the CRP is much more mobile, commuters are a much more important source of labour, and they are more likely to commute to other rural communities. The results suggest that rural CRP is more dependent on urban CRP for jobs and as a source of labour, though urban CRP also benefits to some extent from the labour supplied in rural areas, especially from the labour supplied in *Strong MIZ* regions. These conclusions, however, must be tempered by keeping in mind that though commuting patterns provide a good indication of urban-rural interdependencies, a more fulsome examination of interdependence would also include examining the economic relationships and partnerships within the region.

**Table 4: Work Commuting Patterns by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership¹, 2006**

| | Geographic Zone | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | CRP Total | Urban Total | Rural & Small Town | | | |
| | | | Total | Strong MIZ | Moderate MIZ | Weak MIZ |
| Out-Commuters (leaving municipality to work elsewhere) | | | | | | |
| # of Commuters | 56,340 | 43,730 | 12,610 | 7,665 | 4,795 | 150 |
| % of local employed population | 8.2% | 6.7% | 33.9% | 51.2% | 27.9% | 2.0% |
| % Commuting to Urban Municipalities | 87.3% | 89.8% | 78.4% | 82.2% | 71.5% | 100.0% |
| In-Commuters (coming into municipality to work) | | | | | | |
| # of Commuters | 56,340 | 48,560 | 7,780 | 1,990 | 4640 | 1150 |
| % Commuting from Urban Centres | 77.6% | 79.6% | 65.0% | 70.9% | 53.9% | 100.0% |
| % Contribution to Local Labour Force ² | 8.4% | 7.6% | 25.6% | 23.7% | 28.7% | 19.7% |
| Net Commuting Rate³ | 0% | 5.2% | -23.7% | -58.8% | -1.6% | 76.9% |

Source: 2006 Census Statistics Canada: Table 97-561-XCB2006008; Commuting Flow Census Subdivisions: Industry - North American Industry Classification System 2002 (21) for the Employed Labour Force 15 Years and Over.

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

² Calculations are based on the ratio of in-commuters from Table 4 to those working at home, at no fixed address, and in the same municipality (from Table 3), plus in-commuters from Table 4. Though we have no way of knowing if those working "at no fixed address" are working locally (e.g., within the same municipality as their place of residence) and therefore, have no information to base a decision on whether or not to include them in the calculations, we have chosen to include them in these calculations. As such, the local labour force size data presented in this table should be viewed as over-estimates of the actual size of the local labour force for each geographic point. This, in turn, means that the percentage of commuters comprising the local labour force are likely under-estimates.

³ The Net Commuting Rate is the difference between in- and out-commuting divided by the sum of in- and -out-commuting.

Summary

The three measures of urban-rural interdependency all point towards greater rural economic dependence on urban centres, albeit with some intra-rural variation.

First, since all municipalities are considered to be within the urban-periphery of the City of Calgary, they all meet the basic necessary conditions deemed by researchers that will lead to the greatest economic advantages (Dabson, 2007; Partridge et al., 2007; Wensley and Stabler, 1998). Second, the CMA designation of Airdrie, Chestemere, Cochrane, Crossfield, the M.D. of Rocky in itself suggests a high level of economic dependence with the City of Calgary. Third, within rural and small town CRP the distribution of the population is more heavily weighted to *Strong* and *Moderate* MIZ geographic zones which, by definition, are strongly and moderately integrated with large urban centres, whereas *Weak MIZ* comprises the largest zone for the province. Finally, compared to the urban population, the rural population is much more likely to commute to work and though they are somewhat more likely to commute to rural than the urban population, there is a strong flow of workers from rural to urban CRP.

C. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

KEY FINDINGS

C.1 Population Change

- Between 1996 and 2006, the population of the CRP increased by 32.6% with even larger increases occurring within rural portions of the Region (36.1%).

C.2 Population Age Structure

- The CRP has a slight larger young adult population than Alberta.
- *Strong MIZ* communities have a larger adult population (35.1%), *Moderate MIZ* have larger child and senior populations (20.9% and 13.2%, respectively) and the population of *Weak MIZ* is most heavily concentrated in the youth and young adult age categories (18.4% and 42.6%, respectively).

C.3 Minority Status

- Compared to the province, the Calgary Regional Partnership is home to a significantly smaller Aboriginal population, especially when comparing rural and small town geographic zones.
- Representation of other minorities, however, is slightly higher in the CRP than in the province, irrespective of geographic zone.

C.4 Marital Status and Family Structure

- Within one exception (*Weak MIZ* in which a much larger share of the population is single), the marital status of each geographic zone within the CRP is comparable to that of the province.

Summary

Compared to the rest of the province, the total CRP population has similar proportions of married and single rates and larger young adult, visible minority, and immigrant populations. Rural CRP has a much smaller Aboriginal Identity population than rural Alberta, a smaller rate of single parent families and, most notably, a somewhat larger immigrant population. Within the CRP more significant variation is observed with the *Weak MIZ* standing out on a number of dimensions.

C.1 Population Change

Table 5 presents population percentage change between 1996 and 2006 for the CRP (See Appendix Table for total population figures for each community, geographic zone, and census year). The figure demonstrates a dramatic difference in population growth between the Calgary Regional Partnership and Alberta (which was the province to experience the largest population growth between 2001 and 2006). For the full 10-year inter-census period (between 1996 and 2006), the CRP population increased by 287,252 (from 880,599 to 1,167,851) for a total percentage change of 32.6%, while the provincial population grew by 20.9%. Population growth differences between rural CRP and rural Alberta are even greater (36.1% compared to 9.3% for Alberta).⁴

Provincial / CRP disparities in growth are apparent for all MIZ categories but are especially notable for *Moderate MIZ* where the CRP experienced a population increase of 45.9% compared to just 9.3% for the comparable zone in the province. The only CRP zone to experience a population decline was *Weak MIZ* and this was only for the most recent inter-census period (of -6.1%).

CRP Compared to Rural and Small Town Canada and Alberta:

Population change in the CRP rural and small town communities is much higher than the 2001-2006 rural and small town population change observed in Canada (1.0%) and in Alberta, which experienced the fastest-growing rural population of all provinces during the same period of +3.8% (Martel and Malenfant. 2007).

Rural population in Canada change, however, varies greatly by proximity to urban centres; rural communities close to urban centres, in fact, experienced population increases between 2001 and 2006. Due to a net migration loss, more remote rural communities experienced population reductions during this most recent inter-census period (Statistics Canada, 2008).

UPDATE: Calgary Population Growth Predictions:

"In 2009, expect net natural addition to continue at the 8,000 to 9,000 level, and net in-migration to be between 3,000 and 7,000 people, for a total population growth forecast of 12,000 to 15,000 for 2009, representing an upper end growth rate of 1.44 per cent over 2008." (Adam Legge, VP and Chief Economist, March 2009, Calgary Economic Development)

⁴ Since the Alberta figures are drawn from a different census tabulation (i.e., they are not the 20% sample used for the CRP), caution should be taken when making comparisons between CRP and the province.

**Table 5: Population Change by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership¹ & Alberta, 2006**

| Geographic Zone | 2001-2006 (5-year) | | 1996-2006 (10-year) | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | Population Count Change | % Change | Population Count Change | % Change |
| TOTAL CRP | 143,941 | 14.1% | 287,252 | 32.6% |
| Urban | 136,472 | 14.1% | 270,977 | 32.4% |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 7,459 | 13.8% | 16,275 | 36.1% |
| Strong MIZ | 3,468 | 17.3% | 5,875 | 33.3% |
| Moderate MIZ | 4,426 | 16.6% | 9798 | 45.9% |
| Weak MIZ | -435 | -6.1% | 602 | 9.9% |
| TOTAL ALBERTA² | 315,543 | 10.6% | 593,524 | 20.9% |
| Urban | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Rural & Small Town Total² | n/a | 3.8% | n/a | 9.3% |
| Strong MIZ | n/a | 12.9% | n/a | 25.6% |
| Moderate MIZ | n/a | 3.4% | n/a | 9.3% |
| Weak MIZ | n/a | 1.6% | n/a | 3.4% |
| No MIZ | n/a | 14.1% | n/a | 32.0% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006, 2001 and 1996 Census of Population

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

² Population change for the province is not available for the 20% Census samples for 2001 and 1996. Population percentage changes for Alberta are from published data in Table 2 of www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/21-006-x/2007007/t/6000469-eng.htm. Since these figures draw upon different census data using different tabulation methods and are adjusted for constant 2006 boundaries, caution should be taken when making comparisons between AlbertaSW and Alberta.

C.2 Population Age Structure

With slightly smaller proportions of children, youth, and seniors, the age structure of the Calgary Regional Partnership is somewhat less polarized than that of the province (Table 6). There are, however, noteworthy differences within the CRP, with larger proportions of mature adult and senior populations found in rural than in urban communities. Differences in age structure are even greater within rural and small town CRP: *Strong MIZ* communities are noteworthy for their large mature adult population (35.1%) and *Moderate MIZ* for their large child and senior populations (20.9% and 13.2%, respectively). *Weak MIZ* portions of the CRP stand out as having the most dissimilar age structure of all comparison groups, with the smallest proportion of children (12.2%), mature adults (21.1%) and seniors (5.8%) and the largest proportion of youth (18.4%), and young adults (42.6%). These age distributions have implications for the demand for services targeted to children and seniors, especially in *Moderate MIZ* areas of the CRP.

**Table 6: Age Distribution by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership¹ & Alberta, 2006**

| Geographic Zone | Percent Distribution | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | TOTAL | Children (0 to 14) | Youth (15 to 24) | Young Adults (25 to 44) | Mature Adults (45 to 64) | Seniors (65+) |
| TOTAL CRP | 100.0 | 18.7 | 14.4 | 32.3 | 25.5 | 9.1 |
| Urban | 100.0 | 18.8 | 14.5 | 32.8 | 25.5 | 8.5 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 100.0 | 18.7 | 13.8 | 26.8 | 29.3 | 11.3 |
| Strong MIZ | 100.0 | 17.8 | 13.4 | 23.1 | 35.1 | 10.6 |
| Moderate MIZ | 100.0 | 20.9 | 13.1 | 26.4 | 26.4 | 13.2 |
| Weak MIZ | 100.0 | 12.2 | 18.4 | 42.6 | 21.1 | 5.8 |
| TOTAL ALBERTA | 100.0 | 19.4 | 15.0 | 30.0 | 25.5 | 10.2 |
| Urban | 100.0 | 18.7 | 15.2 | 31.0 | 25.3 | 9.8 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 100.0 | 22.0 | 14.1 | 25.9 | 26.3 | 11.8 |
| Strong MIZ | 100.0 | 20.5 | 13.3 | 26.5 | 29.6 | 10.2 |
| Moderate MIZ | 100.0 | 20.9 | 13.3 | 24.6 | 27.9 | 13.3 |
| Weak MIZ | 100.0 | 22.6 | 14.7 | 26.7 | 24.8 | 11.3 |
| No MIZ | 100.0 | 27.2 | 14.0 | 24.6 | 23.2 | 11.0 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding and area suppression)

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

C.3 Minority Status

Table 7 presents data on gender, Aboriginal identity, visible minority status, and immigrant status. Though gender parity is more or less observed for all geographic zones, Aboriginal representation is significantly lower within rural and small town communities of the CRP than in Alberta, with the difference most notably occurring within *Weak MIZ* (1.3% compared to 15.1% for the province). Otherwise, minority representation is slightly higher in the CRP than in the province, irrespective of geographic zone. This difference is most evident within *Weak MIZ* areas which have significantly higher proportions of visible minorities (16.7% compared to 2.2%) and immigrants (16.1% compared to 5.9%).

CRP and Immigration Rates:

Though there are larger proportions of immigrants in urban than rural CRP, rural CRP is a choice location for immigrants much more than is typically observed in other rural regions and somewhat contradicts a long-standing Canadian pattern of immigrants choosing to reside in urban centres. In 2006, just 2.8% of recent immigrants to Canada lived outside a census metropolitan area or a census agglomeration (Statistics Canada, 2008).

**Table 7: Minority Status¹ by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership² & Alberta, 2006**

| Geographic Zone | Percent | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| | Female | Aboriginal Identity ³ | Visible Minority | Immigrant |
| TOTAL CRP | 50.1 | 2.5 | 20.9 | 22.6 |
| Urban | 50.1 | 2.5 | 21.8 | 23.3 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 49.8 | 2.7 | 4.8 | 9.8 |
| Strong MIZ | 49.7 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 10.0 |
| Moderate MIZ | 50.0 | 2.8 | 4.2 | 8.3 |
| Weak MIZ | 48.9 | 1.3 | 16.7 | 16.1 |
| TOTAL ALBERTA | 49.9 | 5.8 | 13.9 | 16.2 |
| Urban | 50.1 | 4.1 | 17.2 | 18.9 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 49.3 | 11.9 | 2.0 | 6.0 |
| Strong MIZ | 49.2 | 3.2 | 1.6 | 6.7 |
| Moderate MIZ | 49.6 | 6.1 | 1.9 | 6.4 |
| Weak MIZ | 49.0 | 15.1 | 2.2 | 5.9 |
| No MIZ | 50.1 | 43.2 | 1.4 | 2.8 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

¹ Aboriginal Includes individuals identifying with at least one Aboriginal group including North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian band or First Nation. Visible Minority is defined as persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.

² Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

³ The omission of Tsuu T'ina Nation data for Aboriginal Identity nominally reduces their representation in the CRP. In 2001, there were 1,980 residents of Tsuu T'ina Nation indicating they were of Aboriginal Identity. Including these figures in the table would increase the total CRP and urban regions by 0.2% each (to 2.7%).

C.4 Marital Status and Family Structure

The marital status of each geographic zone within the CRP population is comparable to that of the province: There are smaller proportions of singles and higher proportions of married people in rural areas than in urban areas (Table 8). Within rural CRP, however, the exception to this pattern is observed once again for *Weak MIZ* (Banff) in which fully 58% of the population is single, more than double the rate found in *Strong* or *Moderate MIZ* zones (24.8% and 26.7%, respectively). This finding is understandable given the more “youthful” age profile of Banff residents (Table 6). Otherwise, slightly higher proportions of the population in *Moderate MIZ* communities are found to be widowed, thus reflecting the larger senior populations in this zone (Table 6).

| Table 8: Marital¹ and Family Status² by Geographic Zone Calgary Regional Partnership³ & Alberta, 2006 | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Geographic Zone | Percent | | | | Single Parent Family |
| | Single | Married | Divorced | Widowed | |
| TOTAL CRP | 34.6 | 53.8 | 7.8 | 3.8 | 14.0 |
| Urban | 34.9 | 53.5 | 7.8 | 3.8 | 14.2 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 29.5 | 59.1 | 7.5 | 3.8 | 10.4 |
| Strong MIZ | 24.8 | 64.4 | 7.5 | 3.3 | 8.2 |
| Moderate MIZ | 26.7 | 60.7 | 7.9 | 4.7 | 12.1 |
| Weak MIZ | 57.6 | 34.2 | 5.9 | 2.3 | 11.8 |
| TOTAL ALBERTA | 34.0 | 53.0 | 7.7 | 4.4 | 14.4 |
| Urban | 35.0 | 52.9 | 7.9 | 4.2 | 15.0 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 30.2 | 57.8 | 7.0 | 5.0 | 12.2 |
| Strong MIZ | 26.4 | 62.3 | 7.8 | 3.5 | 9.6 |
| Moderate MIZ | 26.7 | 61.0 | 7.2 | 5.1 | 10.9 |
| Weak MIZ | 32.7 | 55.6 | 6.5 | 5.2 | 13.1 |
| No MIZ | 39.7 | 47.5 | 7.4 | 5.4 | 20.6 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding and area suppression)

¹ Expressed as a percentage of all individuals greater than 15 years of age.

² Expressed as a percentage of all census families.

³ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

Table 8 also shows that most geographic zones in the CRP have a larger proportion of single parents than does urban Alberta, We have no readily-available explanation for this latter finding other than to speculate that the higher rates of immigrants in the CRP translates to a higher rate of religiosity which may in turn explain the lower rates of single-parenthood in the Region.⁵

Summary

Compared to the rest of the province, the total CRP population has similar proportions of married and single rates and larger young adult, visible minority, and immigrant populations. Rural CRP has a much smaller Aboriginal Identity population than rural Alberta, a smaller rate of single parent families and, most notably, a somewhat larger immigrant population. Within the CRP more significant variation is observed with *Weak MIZ* standing out on a number of dimensions.

⁵ Research shows that recent immigrants tend to have a higher degree of religiosity than the Canadian-born. In 2001, 4 in 10 immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1982 and 2001 had a high degree of religiosity compared to just 26% of people born in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2006).

D. SOCIAL INDICATORS

Key Findings

D.1 Educational Attainment

- The population of the Calgary Regional Partnership is characterized by high levels of educational attainment when compared with the province.
- Though still higher than their provincial geographic comparison group, *Moderate MIZ* CRP has the highest rate of high school incompleteness and the lowest proportion with a university degree in the CRP.

D.2 Housing Indicators

- A larger proportion of homes in the Calgary Regional Partnership are owned and they are more costly, newer, and less likely to require major repair than in the province.
- Though *Weak MIZ* residents are by far the least likely to own their homes, they are paying significantly higher costs for housing than *Weak MIZ* residents of the province.

Summary

Both the education and housing indicators reviewed in this section were higher for the CRP than for the province. Education levels were higher in the CRP, as were housing ownership and housing costs, and houses tended to be newer and in less disrepair than elsewhere in the province.

D.1 Educational Attainment

The population of the Calgary Regional Partnership has, on average, a significantly higher level of educational attainment than the province. As depicted in Table 9, well over half (55.8%) of CRP residents had attained a post-secondary credential, compared to half (50.4%) of the provincial population. The CRP also contains a large proportion of residents with a university degree (24.1% compared to 17.5% for the province).

As is the pattern province-wide, rural and small town residents of the CRP have lower levels of educational attainment than do urban CRP residents. This difference is especially notable within *Moderate MIZ*, only 9.3% who have attained a university degree (compared to 16.8% of *Strong MIZ*, 21.1% of *Weak MIZ*, and 24.7% of those residing in urban CRP). Educational levels among rural and small town CRP, however, are still higher than those observed in rural Alberta. Indeed, the results for *Weak MIZ* stand out as being exceptionally high, exceeding even those found in urban CRP.

Nonetheless, with most post-secondary institutions requiring a high school diploma for admittance, high school completion is an important first step towards increasing education levels in *Moderate MIZ* regions of the CRP. A more detailed examination of the educational attainment in *Moderate MIZ* reveals that residents in all four municipalities have higher rates of high school incompleteness than found elsewhere in the CRP, with the population of Nanton and Wheatland County exhibiting the highest rates at 32.4% and 31.2%, respectively. The larger share of children in *Moderate MIZ* than elsewhere in the CRP (20.9% compared to 18.7% for the total CRP; Table 6), further highlights the importance of developing initiatives designed to increase high school completion rates in these communities of the Region.

Rural Education in Canada: "Rural Alberta has one of the highest rates of high school drop-outs in the country at about 25%, presumably spurred by the promise of attractive pay for relatively unskilled work. However, this leaves these youths ill-prepared to deal with the consequences of a slump in the industry" (Cross and Bowlby, 2006: 3.11).

Calgary Education: "Calgary's high education rate is partially due to the immigration of skilled workers from other provinces and countries, rather than the education levels of people born or raised in Calgary. Calgary has one of the lowest proportions of youth aged 20 to 24 participating in post-secondary education of any major city in Canada. In 2006, only 35% of Calgary's youth were enrolled in postsecondary studies, as compared with 54% in Montreal and 48% in Ottawa (Cooper, 2008).

**Table 9: Educational Attainment¹ by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership² & Alberta, 2006**

| Geographic Zone | Percent Distribution | | | | | Total |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Less than High School | High School | Any Post-secondary | Certificate Diploma | Degree | |
| TOTAL CRP | 18.3 | 25.9 | 55.8 | 31.7 | 24.1 | 100.0 |
| Urban | 18.0 | 25.7 | 56.3 | 31.6 | 24.7 | 100.0 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 22.6 | 29.1 | 48.3 | 34.6 | 13.7 | 100.0 |
| Strong MIZ | 20.2 | 29.1 | 50.7 | 34.0 | 16.8 | 100.0 |
| Moderate MIZ | 27.0 | 29.0 | 44.0 | 34.8 | 9.3 | 100.0 |
| Weak MIZ | 13.0 | 29.7 | 57.3 | 36.1 | 21.1 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL ALBERTA | 23.4 | 26.2 | 50.4 | 32.9 | 17.5 | 100.0 |
| Urban | 20.8 | 26.3 | 52.9 | 33.1 | 19.8 | 100.0 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 33.6 | 25.9 | 40.5 | 32.3 | 8.2 | 100.0 |
| Strong MIZ | 25.4 | 28.0 | 46.6 | 35.9 | 10.7 | 100.0 |
| Moderate MIZ | 31.7 | 26.4 | 41.9 | 33.6 | 8.3 | 100.0 |
| Weak MIZ | 35.6 | 25.6 | 38.8 | 31.1 | 7.7 | 100.0 |
| No MIZ | 47.5 | 19.4 | 33.1 | 27.2 | 5.9 | 100.0 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding and area suppression)

¹ Educational attainment is for the population 15 years of age and older.

² Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

D.2 Housing Indicators

Tables 10a and 10b present information on housing for the Calgary Regional Partnership and for Alberta. Beginning with the first column in Table 10a, it is clear that home ownership is slightly more prevalent in the CRP than in the province, with 74.5% of houses owned compared to 73.1% in Alberta. Though the difference is not large, this pattern holds for all geographic zones except *Weak MIZ*, in which only 41.6% of houses are owned compared to 75.5% in the same geographic zone of the province. This finding is in part explained by the high value of real estate in Banff (averaging \$474,916), by restrictions on land and housing development in the Park, and by the younger age profile of the local population (Table 6).

UPDATE: Calgary Housing Market

“The Calgary housing market continues to bear the brunt of an oversupply condition, with numerous homes still on the market, putting downward pressure on house prices. There is still plenty of supply to be worked through the market, which will serve to keep new housing starts at bay for 2009 until demand and inventory levels warrant a rise in new housing construction.” (Adam Legge, VP and Chief Economist, Calgary Economic Development. March, 2009)

Housing values are higher in the CRP than in all of their corresponding geographic comparison groups for the province. The difference is most notable in *Strong* and *Weak MIZ* rural regions in which they are 1.5 and 2.5 times higher, respectively, in the CRP than in the province.

The cost of maintaining housing is also higher with CRP residents making marginally larger monthly mortgage and utility payments. Rural CRP residents are also paying much more to maintain their houses with *Weak MIZ* once again standing out as being significantly higher than their provincial counterparts (\$1,355 per month compared to \$827 per month). CRP / provincial differences in rents follow much the same pattern as mortgage payments.

Rural CRP Compared to Rural and Small Town Canada:

Ownership is the predominant form of tenure in rural Canada (82 per cent in rural vs. 64 per cent in urban areas), however, the stock of housing in rural areas is older, on average, than it is in urban areas (CMHC, 2003).

The period of housing construction provides an indication of economic and population growth. The greater the percentage of houses constructed more recently in a region, the greater the likelihood that communities in those zones have experienced economic and population growth. Given the population growth in the CRP (Table 5), it is not surprising that homes in the Calgary Regional Partnership are newer and less likely to require major repair than those in the province (Table 10b). Homes in *Moderate MIZ* are notable for being the newest in all geographic zones (with just 61.1% constructed before 1996) and in the least disrepair (6.9%) (at least when compared to *Moderate MIZ* regions of the province).

**Table 10a: Housing Characteristics by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership¹ & Alberta, 2006**

| Geographic Zone | OWNED HOUSES | | | RENTED HOUSES | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--|---------------|------------------|
| | % Owned | Average Value (\$) | Average Monthly Payments (\$) ² | % Rented | Median Rent (\$) |
| TOTAL CRP | 74.5 | \$383,447 | \$1,195 | 25.5 | \$876 |
| Urban | 74.2 | \$382,580 | \$1,196 | 25.8 | \$877 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 79.8 | \$399,259 | \$1,182 | 20.2 | \$850 |
| Strong MIZ | 88.7 | \$556,575 | \$1,340 | 11.2 | \$802 |
| Moderate MIZ | 81.4 | \$257,407 | \$1,028 | 18.6 | \$799 |
| Weak MIZ | 41.6 | \$474,916 | \$1,355 | 58.4 | \$952 |
| TOTAL ALBERTA | 73.1 | \$293,811 | \$1,063 | 26.3 | \$804 |
| Urban | 71.7 | \$313,451 | \$1,112 | 28.2 | \$1,669 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 78.7 | \$215,808 | \$866 | 18.6 | \$673 |
| Strong MIZ | 86.4 | \$345,563 | \$1,085 | 13.5 | \$770 |
| Moderate MIZ | 82.8 | \$214,382 | \$857 | 16.5 | \$664 |
| Weak MIZ | 75.5 | \$187,633 | \$827 | 21.2 | \$669 |
| No MIZ | 63.1 | \$140,809 | \$670 | 36.9 | \$560 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding and area suppression)

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

² Includes average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that own their dwelling. The owner's major payments include, for example, the mortgage payment and the costs of electricity, heat and municipal services.

**Table 10b: Housing Characteristics by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership¹ & Alberta, 2006**

| Geographic Zone | Percent | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Dwellings Constructed Before 1996 | Dwellings Requiring Major Repair |
| TOTAL CRP | 70.9 | 4.9 |
| Urban | 71.2 | 4.8 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 65.2 | 6.9 |
| Strong MIZ | 66.3 | 6.9 |
| Moderate MIZ | 61.1 | 6.9 |
| Weak MIZ | 78.6 | 6.8 |
| TOTAL ALBERTA | 76.1 | 6.7 |
| Urban | 75.0 | 5.5 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 80.6 | 11.6 |
| Strong MIZ | 69.5 | 7.1 |
| Moderate MIZ | 79.4 | 11.1 |
| Weak MIZ | 83.5 | 12.2 |
| No MIZ | 84.0 | 20.9 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding and area suppression)

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

Summary

Both the education and housing indicators reviewed in this section were higher for the CRP than for the province. With the exception of residents of *Moderate MIZ*, education levels were higher in the CRP, as were housing ownership and housing costs, and houses tended to be newer and in less disrepair than elsewhere in the province.

E. ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Key Findings

E.1 Labour Market Indicators

- The CRP exhibits a strong labour market with higher labour force participation and lower unemployment rates than found in the province as a whole.
- *Weak MIZ* regions of the CRP have the strongest labour market indicators and *Moderate MIZ* the weakest.

E.2 Industry Employment Distribution

- Compared to the province, CRP employment is more heavily weighted towards the service sector (75.9% compared to 72.2% for Alberta), with the largest difference (of 3.8 percentage points) occurring within typically high-end professional, scientific, and technical service jobs, though these jobs are less readily found in rural and small town CRP.

E.3 Income Indicators

- Compared to elsewhere in the province, the Calgary Regional Partnership exhibits higher average incomes and is less likely to garner its income from government sources. At the same time, however, residents of the CRP are more likely than Alberta residents to have low income status.

Summary

Most indicators suggest that all geographic zones of the CRP have greater economic strength than found in the province as a whole. The CRP has a higher LFP rate and median income and a lower unemployment rate and incidence of government transfer income than observed in the province.

E.1 Labour Market Indicators

Labour force participation (LFP) rates and unemployment rates for both men and women within the Calgary Regional Partnership are more favourable than elsewhere in the province (Table 11). The most positive labour force conditions can be found in *Weak MIZ* in which fully 87.7% of the working-age population is participating in the labour force and just 1.9% are unemployed. Indeed, for both men and women, very low unemployment rates are found in virtually all rural and small town zones of the Region. Though still lower than the unemployment rate for urban CRP and for *Moderate MIZ* in the province, at 3.3%, *Moderate MIZ* has the highest unemployment rate of all rural CRP.

UPDATE: Calgary Labour Market

“With slower population growth, and continued job losses in Calgary, it is forecast that Calgary’s employment will contract in 2009, despite coming off three very strong years. Labour force growth is expected to keep pace with population growth, as more people remain actively working, or looking for work, in this economic slowdown. In 2009, employment in Calgary is forecast to contract between 1.0 and 1.6 per cent. . . . With some job losses already experienced in January 2009, and more expected as companies make decisions post spring thaw and annual reports, the unemployment rate in Calgary is forecast to rise to an annual average of between 5.5 and 6.0 per cent.” (Adam Legge, VP and Chief Economist, Calgary Economic Development. March, 2009)

UPDATE: Alberta Labour Market: “Employment fell in several provinces in March, with the largest declines in British Columbia (-23,000), Alberta (-15,000), and Ontario (-11,000). Since October, these three provinces also had the fastest rate of employment decreases . . . Following a large decline in February, employment in Alberta fell a further 15,000 in March, pushing the unemployment rate up to 5.8%. Since October, employment losses have totalled 48,000 (-2.4%), mainly in the goods-producing sector.” (Statistics Canada, The Daily, April 9, 2009).

Table 11: Labour Force Activity by Geographic Zone and by Gender
Calgary Regional Partnership¹ & Alberta, 2006

| Geographic Zone | Labour Force Participation Rate ² | | | Unemployment Rate ³ | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| TOTAL CRP | 75.6 | 81.5 | 69.9 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 4.2 |
| Urban | 75.7 | 81.5 | 69.9 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.3 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 75.5 | 81.3 | 69.8 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.9 |
| Strong MIZ | 75.6 | 82.0 | 69.2 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.7 |
| Moderate MIZ | 72.5 | 78.2 | 67.0 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 3.3 |
| Weak MIZ | 87.7 | 91.4 | 84.0 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 2.1 |
| TOTAL ALBERTA | 74.0 | 80.3 | 67.7 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| Urban | 74.5 | 80.6 | 68.5 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | 72.3 | 79.4 | 65.0 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.5 |
| Strong MIZ | 75.6 | 82.3 | 68.7 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 3.5 |
| Moderate MIZ | 71.9 | 79.1 | 64.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.8 |
| Weak MIZ | 72.5 | 79.7 | 65.0 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.9 |
| No MIZ | 62.0 | 68.8 | 54.9 | 9.7 | 10.5 | 8.6 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census of Population

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

² The Labour Force Participation Rate is the ratio of individuals who are currently employed or who are out of work (but looking for work) to the total number of individuals in the population who are over the age of 15.

³ The Unemployment Rate is based on the ratio of individuals who are currently unemployed to those who are in the labour force.

E.2 Industry Employment Distribution

Just under one-quarter (24.1%) of workers in the Calgary Regional Partnership are employed in the goods-producing sector, with jobs most likely to be found in construction (8.8%), manufacturing (7.3%), and mining, oil & gas extraction (6.4%; Table 12). Urban CRP and urban Alberta differences in the goods sector are nominal, however, we observe greater rural-to-rural disparities. For instance, the population in rural CRP are less likely than their provincial counterparts to be working in agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting industries (10.4% compared to 14.5%) and in mining, oil, and gas extraction (5.3% compared to 10.1%).

Employment in Agriculture in Canada: In Canada, employment in agriculture declined by slightly more than 4.2% between 2001 and 2006 with most of the decline occurring in 2001/02. Since then, employment in the industry has grown, but it remains below its 2000/01 level (HRSDC, 2007).

Not surprisingly, the population in the CRP is most likely to work in the service sector with fully 75.9% of its labour force working in these industries, most predominantly in professional, scientific, and technical services (11.3%), retail (10.4%), and health and social services (8.4%). Indeed, compared to the province, CRP employment is more heavily weighted towards the service sector (75.9% compared to 72.2% for Alberta), with the largest difference (of 3.8 percentage points) occurring within typically high-end professional, scientific, and technical service jobs. As we would expect, employment in this industry is lower for rural than urban CRP (6.3% compared to 11.5%), though it is still higher than found in rural Alberta (3.6%). Other notable but not surprising findings include the very large proportion of *Weak MIZ* residents working in accommodation and food services (39.4% compared to 10.4% for the total rural and small town CRP).

Table 12: Industry Employment Distribution by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership¹ & Alberta, 2006

| | Calgary Regional Partnership | | | | | | Alberta | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Total | Urban | Rural & Small Town | Strong MIZ | Mod. MIZ | Weak MIZ | Total | Urban | Rural & Small Town | Strong MIZ | Mod. MIZ | Weak MIZ | No MIZ |
| Total Goods Sector | 24.1 | 23.7 | 32.3 | 36.2 | 36.7 | 5.1 | 27.8 | 24.9 | 39.6 | 39.5 | 41.6 | 38.8 | 34.4 |
| Agri. forestry, fishing, & hunting | 1.1% | 0.6% | 10.4% | 10.5% | 13.2% | 0.4% | 3.9% | 1.3% | 14.5% | 11.3% | 17.5% | 13.8% | 7.7% |
| Mining, oil & gas extraction | 6.4% | 6.4% | 5.3% | 6.9% | 5.4% | 0.2% | 7.0% | 6.2% | 10.1% | 9.8% | 8.7% | 10.9% | 12.5% |
| Utilities | 1.0% | 1.0% | 0.6% | 0.5% | 0.9% | 0.0% | 0.9% | 1.0% | 0.9% | 0.7% | 0.8% | 1.0% | 0.7% |
| Construction | 8.4% | 8.3% | 10.2% | 12.9% | 9.5% | 4.2% | 8.8% | 8.8% | 8.6% | 11.0% | 8.9% | 7.8% | 9.9% |
| Manufacturing | 7.3% | 7.4% | 5.8% | 5.5% | 7.7% | 0.3% | 7.2% | 7.6% | 5.6% | 6.7% | 5.8% | 5.3% | 3.6% |
| Total Services Sector | 75.9 | 76.3 | 67.7 | 63.8 | 63.3 | 94.8 | 72.2 | 75.1 | 60.4 | 60.5 | 58.4 | 61.2 | 65.6 |
| Wholesale trade | 4.7% | 4.8% | 3.5% | 4.1% | 4.1% | 0.2% | 4.4% | 4.8% | 3.2% | 4.2% | 3.3% | 2.9% | 3.0% |
| Retail trade | 10.4% | 10.5% | 9.5% | 8.3% | 9.6% | 13.0% | 10.7% | 11.0% | 9.5% | 8.8% | 8.8% | 10.0% | 9.0% |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 5.6% | 5.7% | 4.9% | 4.9% | 5.2% | 3.4% | 5.1% | 5.1% | 5.3% | 4.8% | 5.1% | 5.6% | 5.2% |
| Information & Cultural Ind. | 2.6% | 2.6% | 1.3% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 0.3% | 1.9% | 2.1% | 0.8% | 1.2% | 0.8% | 0.7% | 0.9% |
| Finance & Insurance | 3.7% | 3.8% | 2.7% | 3.2% | 2.5% | 2.0% | 3.1% | 3.4% | 2.0% | 2.7% | 2.0% | 1.8% | 1.5% |

CONT'D

Table 12: Industry Employment Distribution by Geographic Zone (Cont'd)
Calgary Regional Partnership¹ & Alberta, 2006

| | Calgary Regional Partnership | | | | | | Alberta | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Total | Urban | Rural & Small Town | Strong MIZ | Mod. MIZ | Weak MIZ | Total | Urban | Rural & Small Town | Strong MIZ | Mod. MIZ | Weak MIZ | No MIZ |
| Service Sector Cont'd | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Real Estate & Rental / Leasing | 2.3% | 2.3% | 2.1% | 2.0% | 1.6% | 3.9% | 2.0% | 2.1% | 1.3% | 1.7% | 1.1% | 1.4% | 0.5% |
| Prof. sci. & tech. | 11.3% | 11.5% | 6.3% | 8.9% | 4.7% | 4.0% | 7.5% | 8.5% | 3.6% | 5.9% | 3.6% | 3.0% | 2.6% |
| Mngmt. of Companies & Enterprises | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.0% |
| Admin. / support, waste mngmt. & remediation serv. | 4.2% | 4.2% | 3.8% | 3.8% | 3.0% | 6.7% | 3.7% | 4.0% | 2.6% | 2.8% | 2.7% | 2.5% | 3.3% |
| Educational serv. | 5.8% | 5.8% | 5.3% | 4.9% | 5.8% | 4.6% | 6.2% | 6.3% | 6.0% | 5.0% | 6.0% | 6.1% | 8.5% |
| Health & social serv. | 8.4% | 8.5% | 6.2% | 5.6% | 7.3% | 3.7% | 9.1% | 9.3% | 8.4% | 7.4% | 8.6% | 8.4% | 9.4% |
| Arts, entertainment, & recreation | 2.3% | 2.3% | 2.7% | 2.5% | 1.6% | 7.4% | 1.9% | 2.0% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 1.5% | 1.2% |
| Accommodation & food serv. | 6.8% | 6.6% | 10.4% | 5.0% | 6.7% | 39.4% | 6.6% | 6.7% | 6.3% | 4.9% | 5.3% | 7.3% | 5.4% |
| Public Admin. | 3.0% | 3.0% | 3.4% | 3.2% | 3.6% | 3.0% | 4.7% | 4.7% | 4.5% | 3.5% | 3.9% | 4.8% | 10.6% |
| Other Services | 4.6% | 4.5% | 5.5% | 5.7% | 6.0% | 3.2% | 5.1% | 5.1% | 5.3% | 5.8% | 5.5% | 5.2% | 4.5% |
| TOTAL | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census (numbers may not add up due to rounding and area suppression).

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

E.3 Income Indicators

Three income indicators for the CRP and Alberta are presented in Table 13. Compared to the province, the Calgary Regional Partnership exhibits higher incomes. Interestingly, median income is higher in *Strong MIZ* than in urban centres, both in the CRP and in the province as a whole. In addition to the relatively high levels of education, the high incomes are in part explained by the larger proportion of mature than young adults (Table 6) in this zone, many of whom would presumably be earning higher salaries than younger working-age residents. With nearly 3 in 10 of residents of *Strong MIZ* commuting to work in other communities (primarily urban ones; Table 4), however, care should be taken in attributing these high incomes solely to the communities comprising *Strong MIZ* (Black Diamond, M.D. of Foothills, and Turner Valley).

Earnings and Education in Canada: As for all previous censuses, the 2006 Census reaffirmed that higher education is a gateway to higher earnings (Statistics Canada, 2008)

Otherwise, the pattern within rural CRP (and rural Alberta) is that incomes decrease as urban influence decreases. With the lowest incomes in the CRP, *Weak MIZ* which, despite having the highest labour force participation rates, the lowest unemployment rates, and the highest proportion of the population with some postsecondary education, are not earning as much as we would expect. This finding is especially problematic given the high cost of housing in Banff (Table 10a).

Table 13 also presents two measures of income insecurity. Government transfer income refers to the proportion of economic families receiving such transfer payments as old age security, Canada Pension Plan installments, employment insurance, and child tax credits. If a group of people derives a relatively greater percentage of income from social transfer payments, as opposed to employment income or personal investments, this suggests greater economic dependency for members of that group. The second measure used to illustrate the relative economic well-being of residents within each geographic zone of the CRP is the share of the population with low incomes (as measured by the percent of the population living in households with incomes below the low-income cut-offs (LICOs)). This indicator refers to the proportion of individuals with incomes below the cost of basic necessities including food, shelter, and clothing.⁶

⁶ Along with family size, level of urbanization is factored into the estimated costs of necessities for each census individual, thereby determining the low-income cut-off value. The indicator assumes, quite rightly, that a higher cost of living amount coincides with a higher level of integration with urban centres. LICOs are, by Statistics Canada's admission, not a measure of poverty. There is also considerable debate about whether LICOs are a valid measurement of low income (see, for example, Webber (1998)).

**Table 13: Income Indicators¹ by Geographic Zone
Calgary Regional Partnership² & Alberta, 2005**

| Geographic Zone | Median Individual Income³ (\$) | Government Transfer Income⁴ (% of Economic Families) | Low Income⁵ (% of Economic Families) |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| TOTAL CRP | \$30,718 | 4.9 | 9.2 |
| Urban | \$30,835 | 4.8 | 9.4 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | \$29,308 | 6.2 | 5.3 |
| Strong MIZ | \$31,488 | 4.1 | 3.6 |
| Moderate MIZ | \$28,035 | 9.4 | 6.6 |
| Weak MIZ | \$27,374 | 4.9 | 5.9 |
| TOTAL ALBERTA | \$28,896 | 6.4 | 8.7 |
| Urban | \$29,919 | 5.9 | 9.2 |
| Rural & Small Town Total | \$24,775 | 6.7 | 6.7 |
| Strong MIZ | \$30,003 | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| Moderate MIZ | \$24,204 | 9.9 | 7.0 |
| Weak MIZ | \$24,505 | 9.4 | 6.8 |
| No MIZ | \$20,172 | 14.0 | 6.7 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census of Population

¹Income refers to total income received by persons 15 years and over during the calendar year 2005 as wages and salaries, net income from a non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice, and/or net farm self-employment income.

²Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.

³Median income is used because, unlike mean income values, median measures are not as unduly influenced by extreme values, whether high or low.

⁴Government transfer income refers to all government transfer payments to individuals including Old Age Security, Canada/Quebec Pension Plans, Employment Insurance and Child Tax Credits and is expressed as a ratio of the amount of government transfer payments to the total average income among the population 15 years and over.

⁵The incidence of low income is calculated as the number of individuals living in a household with an income below the low-income cut-offs (LICOs) divided by the total number of individuals.

Once again residents of the CRP are notable for their relative economic well-being when compared to the province and again this is especially the case for the population residing in *Strong MIZ*. Though still lower than the provincial figures, *Moderate MIZ* residents, however, are by far the most likely to be receiving at least a portion of their income from government transfer payments (9.4% compared to 4.9% for the CRP region as a whole). This finding is

likely explain by the larger share of this population who are children and seniors (Table 6), groups which are entitled to receive Old Age Security, Pension Plan income, and Child Tax Credits.

Lastly, the higher rate of low income families observed in urban than rural regions of the CRP and of the province likely reflects the higher cost of living in urban centres, an important factor in calculating low income. That it is slightly higher in urban CRP than in urban Alberta (9.4% compared to 9.2%) also likely reflects this cost-of-living factor, though the very small incidence of low-income in the healthy 2006 economy of *Strong MIZ* (of just 3.6%) presents an exception to this explanation.

Summary

Most indicators suggest that the CRP has greater economic strength than found in the province as a whole. The CRP has a higher LFP rate and median income and a lower unemployment rate and incidence of government transfer income than observed in the province. These findings are especially applicable to *Strong MIZ* and least so to *Moderate MIZ* regions of the CRP. The findings for *Weak MIZ* are mixed; their high labour force participation rates and low unemployment rates are contrasted with their low average incomes.

UPDATE: Calgary Economy

"Calgary is not immune to the economic conditions being faced around the world. As a result, Calgary Economic Development now forecasts that the Calgary economy will contract in 2009 Although it is challenging now, this economic malaise will turn around," (Adam Legge, VP and Chief Economist, Calgary Economic Development, March, 2009)

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APPENDIX: SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE

| Appendix Table: Population Counts 2006, 2001 & 1996 Calgary Regional Partnership¹ | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Community | Geographic Zone | 2006 | 2001 | 1996 |
| Calgary | CMA | 988,193 | 878,866 | 768,082 |
| Airdrie | CMA | 28927 | 20407 | 15,946 |
| Chestermere | CMA | 9564 | 3856 | 1911 |
| Cochrane | CMA | 13760 | 12041 | 7424 |
| Crossfield | CMA | 2648 | 2399 | 1899 |
| MD of Rockyview | CMA | 34171 | 29925 | 23326 |
| Canmore | CA | 12039 | 10792 | 8354 |
| Okotoks | CA | 17145 | 11689 | 8528 |
| TOTAL URBAN | | 1,106,447 | 969,975 | 835,470 |
| Black Diamond | Strong MIZ | 1900 | 1866 | 1811 |
| MD of Foothills | Strong MIZ | 19736 | 16602 | 14331 |
| Turner Valley | Strong MIZ | 1908 | 1608 | 1527 |
| Total Strong MIZ | | 23544 | 20076 | 17669 |
| High River | Moderate MIZ | 10716 | 9383 | 7359 |
| Nanton | Moderate MIZ | 2055 | 1841 | 1672 |
| Strathmore | Moderate MIZ | 10225 | 7621 | 5314 |
| Wheatland County | Moderate MIZ | 8164 | 7889 | 7017 |
| Total Moderate MIZ | | 31160 | 26734 | 21362 |
| Banff | Weak MIZ | 6700 | 7135 | 6098 |
| TOTAL RURAL & SMALL TOWN | | 61404 | 53945 | 45129 |
| TOTAL CRP | | 1167851 | 1023920 | 880599 |

Source: Statistics Canada 1996, 2001, and 2006 Censuses

¹ Includes data for the M.D. of Bighorn and excludes data for Tsuu T'ina Nation.