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Labour Force Activity

Introduction

This bulletin provides an overview of the labour force of Metro Vancouver based on data from the 2006 Census. Included in this bulletin is information on:

- ◆ The labour force in Metro Vancouver;
- ◆ Changes in the labour force between 1996 and 2006;
- ◆ The distribution of labour force in Metro Vancouver;
- ◆ Age and gender profile of the labour force;
- ◆ Labour force place of work status.

Labour Force Activity in Metro Vancouver

Labour force refers to the population age 15 and older who are eligible for employment. This excludes retired workers, students, homemakers, seasonal workers on an “off season” and those people who are unable to work due to long term illness or disability. Participation rate refers to the labour force in the week prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006), expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years and over excluding institutional residents.

As shown in Table 1, Metro Vancouver has a labour force of 1,169,720 people, representing 66.7% of the total population age 15 and older in 2006. Metro Vancouver’s participation rate of 66.7% is comparable to the national participation rate of 66.8%, and is slightly lower than Toronto’s participation rate of 68.3%. Calgary and Edmonton have higher participation rates (75.6% and 73.0% respectively) while Victoria’s participation rate of 65.7% is lower than Metro Vancouver’s participation rate.

Table 1. Labour Force Participation for Select Metropolitan Areas

Geographic Area	Population age 15 years and older	In the Labour Force	Not in the Labour Force	Participation Rate (%)	Employment Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
Canada	25,664,220	17,146,135	8,518,090	66.8	62.4	6.6
Vancouver CMA	1,752,390	1,169,720	582,665	66.7	63.0	5.6
Toronto CMA	4,122,820	2,815,845	1,306,975	68.3	63.7	6.7
Montreal CMA	2,967,715	1,972,455	995,260	66.5	61.9	6.9
Calgary CMA	871,410	658,510	212,900	75.6	72.5	4.0
Edmonton CMA	837,710	611,245	226,465	73.0	69.6	4.6
Victoria CMA	278,590	182,895	95,695	65.7	62.8	4.3

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

The Labour Force activity data also reports on the employment and unemployment rates. Metro Vancouver’s unemployment rate of 5.6% in 2006 is lower than the national unemployment rate of 6.6%. Calgary and Edmonton also have low unemployment rates (4.0% and 4.6% respectively), whereas Montreal’s unemployment rate of 6.9% was higher than the national unemployment rate of 6.6%.

Changes in the Labour Force Activity from 1991 to 2006

Table 2 shows the change in the number of labour force participants in Metro Vancouver over the past four census periods, from 1991 to 2006. Participation rates declined from 69.7% in 1991 to 66.7% in 2006. This reflects an aging population, characterized by a higher proportion of the population retired and no longer participating in employment.



Table 2. Labour Force Participation for Metro Vancouver, 1991-2006

Metro Vancouver	1991	1996	2001	2006
In the Labour Force	896,525	993,355	1,073,010	1,169,720
Participation Rate	69.7	67.3	66.2	66.7
Employment Rate	63.3	61.5	61.4	63.0
Unemployment Rate	9.2	8.6	7.2	5.6

* Population age 15 years and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Table 2 also shows that unemployment rates declined from 9.2% in 1991 to 5.6% in 2006.

Table 3 shows how participation rates have changed between 1996 and 2006 for municipalities in Metro Vancouver. While the region's participation rates declined from 67.3% to 66.7% between 1996 and 2006, participation rates increased in the City of Vancouver (from 65.5% in 1996 to 66.4% in 2006), New Westminister (from 67.6% in 1996 to 69.3% in 2006), Burnaby (from 63.6% in 1996 to 64.0% in 2006) and Pitt Meadows (from 70.7% in 1996 to 71.1% in 2006). Some municipalities showed a slight decline in labour force between 1996 and 2006 even though the total population increased. These municipalities include Delta, West Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, Lions Bay and Belcarra.

Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by Municipality, 1996 - 2006

Geographic Area	1996			2006		
	Population *	Labour Force	Participation Rate (%)	Population *	Labour Force	Participation Rate (%)
Anmore	730	560	76.7	1,325	1,045	78.9
Belcarra	535	445	83.2	580	420	72.4
Bowen Island	n/a	n/a		2,750	2,120	77.1
Burnaby	147,855	93,970	63.6	171,065	109,545	64.0
Coquitlam	79,215	55,400	69.9	93,630	62,895	67.2
Delta	74,010	53,465	72.2	77,930	53,105	68.1
Electoral Area 'A'	n/a	n/a		9,075	5,600	61.7
Langley City	17,860	11,790	66.0	19,430	12,800	65.9
Langley Township	60,515	43,745	72.3	74,885	53,030	70.8
Lions Bay	1,065	835	78.4	1,135	795	70.0
Maple Ridge	41,920	28,905	69.0	54,125	37,665	69.6
New Westminister	41,870	28,300	67.6	49,455	34,260	69.3
North Vancouver City	35,130	25,160	71.6	38,570	27,325	70.8
North Vancouver District	63,235	45,875	72.5	66,610	45,540	68.4
Pitt Meadows	10,125	7,160	70.7	12,635	8,985	71.1
Port Coquitlam	35,180	26,195	74.5	41,850	30,380	72.6
Port Moody	16,020	12,410	77.5	21,940	16,300	74.3
Richmond	120,200	76,765	63.9	146,530	92,470	63.1
Surrey	232,995	159,030	68.3	312,870	210,935	67.4
Vancouver	436,725	285,930	65.5	497,830	330,480	66.4
West Vancouver	33,990	20,815	61.2	35,515	20,480	57.7
White Rock	15,080	8,560	56.8	16,225	9,690	59.7
Vancouver CMA	1,476,980	993,355	67.3	1,752,390	1,169,720	66.7

* Population age 15 years and older

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2006 Census

The Labour Force Activity in Metro Vancouver by Municipalities.

This bulletin also provides information on labour force activity by municipality (Table 4). The highest participation rates were found in Port Moody (74.3%) and Port Coquitlam (72.6%), as well as Anmore (78.9%), Belcarra (72.4%) and Bowen Island (77.1%). The municipalities with the lowest participation rates in 2006 were West Vancouver (57.7%) and White Rock (59.7%).

Unemployment rates vary across the region by municipality. The municipalities with the highest unemployment rates in 2006 were the City of Burnaby (6.8%) and Electoral Area A (7.9%). The municipalities with the lowest unemployment rates were Langley Township (3.5%), Lions Bay (2.5%), Anmore (2.9%), Belcarra (3.6%) and Bowen Island (1.9%).

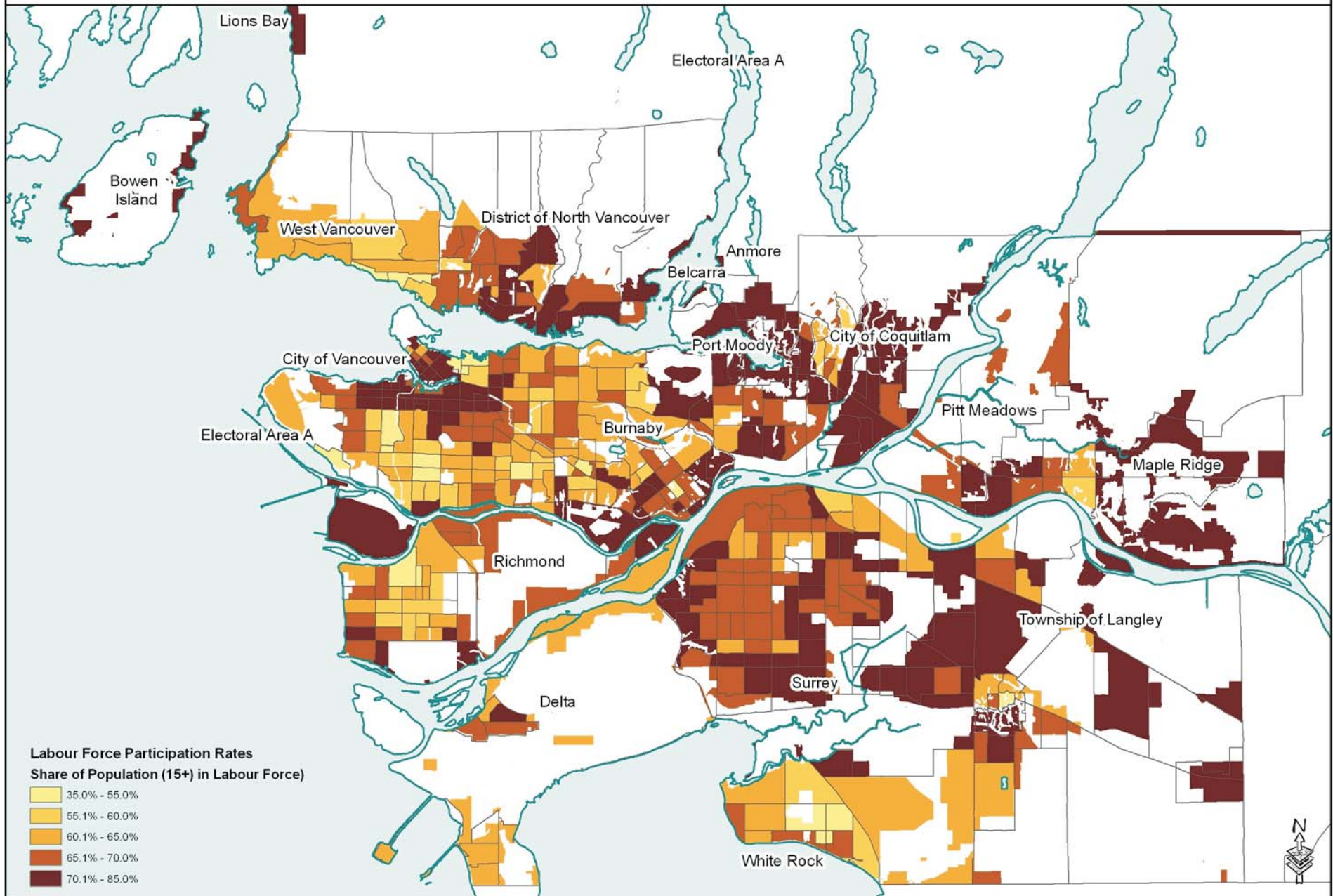
Table 4. Labour Force Participation Rate and Employment Rate for Metro Vancouver, 2006

Geographic Area	Population (15 yrs and older)	In the Labour Force	Not in Labour Force	Participation Rate (%)	Employment Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
Anmore	1,325	1,045	280	78.9	77.0	2.9
Belcarra	580	420	160	72.4	70.7	3.6
Bowen Island	2,750	2,120	630	77.1	75.8	1.9
Burnaby	171,065	109,545	61,515	64.0	59.7	6.8
Coquitlam	93,630	62,895	30,735	67.2	63.6	5.3
Delta	77,930	53,105	24,825	68.1	65.0	4.7
Electoral Area 'A'	9,075	5,600	3,470	61.7	56.9	7.9
Langley City	19,430	12,800	6,630	65.9	62.6	5.0
Langley Township	74,885	53,030	21,860	70.8	68.3	3.5
Lions Bay	1,135	795	335	70.0	68.3	2.5
Maple Ridge	54,125	37,665	16,455	69.6	66.4	4.6
New Westminster	49,455	34,260	15,195	69.3	65.4	5.6
North Vancouver City	38,570	27,325	11,245	70.8	67.6	4.6
North Vancouver District	66,610	45,540	21,070	68.4	65.0	4.9
Pitt Meadows	12,635	8,985	3,650	71.1	67.9	4.5
Port Coquitlam	41,850	30,380	11,470	72.6	69.1	4.9
Port Moody	21,940	16,300	5,635	74.3	70.8	4.7
Richmond	146,530	92,470	54,055	63.1	59.5	5.7
Surrey	312,870	210,935	101,940	67.4	63.6	5.7
Vancouver	497,830	330,480	167,350	66.4	62.4	6.0
West Vancouver	35,515	20,480	15,035	57.7	55.1	4.4
White Rock	16,225	9,690	6,535	59.7	56.9	4.6
Vancouver CMA	1,752,390	1,169,720	582,665	66.7	63.0	5.6

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Map 1 shows participation rates by census tract in Metro Vancouver 2006. Census tracts with low participation rates have a high share of the population out of the labour force because they are retired, students, homemakers, seasonal workers, or unable to work due to health issues. The pattern that is reflected in the data show older, established neighbourhoods have lower participation rates than new neighbourhoods.

Map 1: 2006 Census - Labour Force Participation Rate by Census Tract.



Note about Census Data.
Census data on Labour Force Activity applies to population age 15 years and older.
Agricultural and Green Zone lands are excluded for mapping purposes.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

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The Labour Force of Metro Vancouver by Gender

Table 5 shows the change in labour force participation in Metro Vancouver by gender between 1991 to 2006. While the drop in participation rates is common to both genders, female participation rates dropped by only 0.7% between 1991 and 2006 whereas male participation rates dropped 5.2% over the same period.

Table 4 also shows an inequality in unemployment rates between males and females. In 2006 the unemployment rate for females was 6.1% as compared to 5.1% for males. This difference between unemployment rates in 2006 is noticeably different than previous census periods when the unemployment rate difference between genders was negligible (less than 0.2%).

Table 5. Labour Force Participation for Metro Vancouver by Gender, 1991-2006

Metro Vancouver	1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
In the Labour Force	411,050	485,370	463,270	530,080	509,255	563,755	560,080	609,640
Participation Rate	62.6	77.2	61.3	73.6	61.1	71.6	61.9	72.0
Employment Rate	56.7	70.2	56.0	67.2	56.7	66.4	58.1	68.3
Unemployment Rate	9.3	9.1	8.5	8.6	7.2	7.3	6.1	5.1

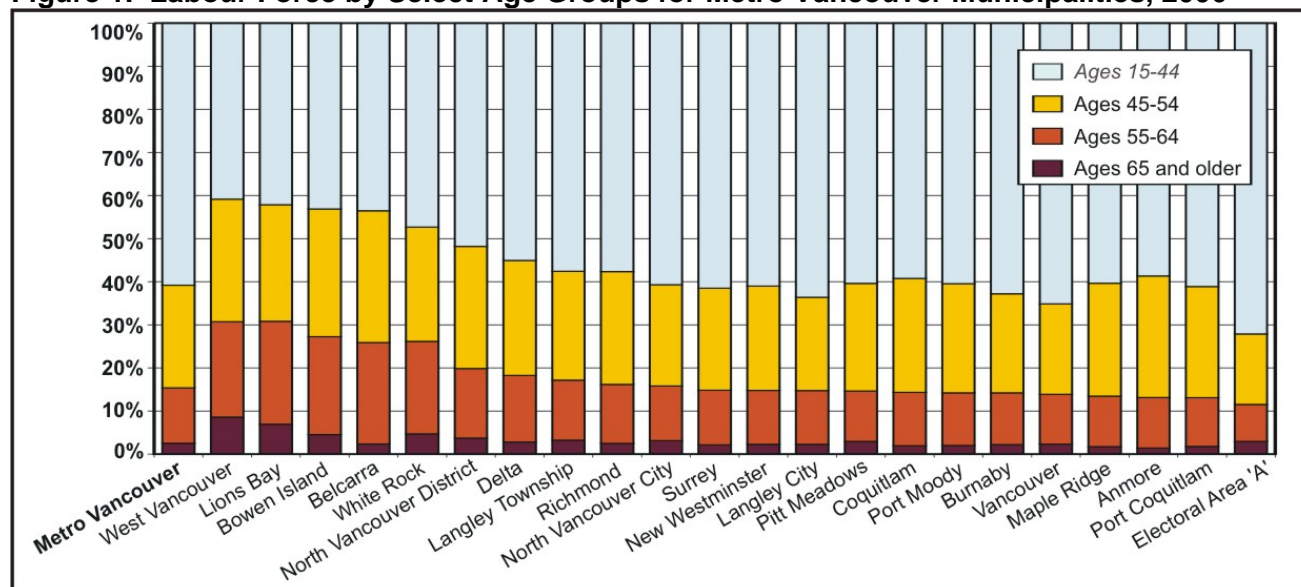
Source: Statistics Canada, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census

The Labour Force of Metro Vancouver by Age Groups

Table 6 shows the change in distribution of labour force by age groups in Metro Vancouver over the census periods from 1996 to 2006. As shown in Table 6, younger workers (age 15 to 34) account for 36% of the labour force in 2006, a decrease from 42% in 1996. Participation rates are lowest among the 15 to 24 age group (61.2% as compared to the regional participation rate of 66.7%) as many youth continue with their education beyond high school.

The age group 35 to 54 account for 49% of the labour force in 2006. This is a slight increase from 47% in 1996. This age grouping has the highest participation rates and also has the lowest unemployment rate.

Figure 1. Labour Force by Select Age Groups for Metro Vancouver Municipalities, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Table 6. 2006 Census - Labour Force Activity by Age Groups, Metro Vancouver CMA

TOTAL - All Age Groups (2006)	Total - Labour force activity	In the labour force	Share of labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Total (Age 15 and older)	1,752,390	1,169,720	100%	1,104,760	64,960	582,665	66.7	63.0	5.6
Ages 15-24	285,070	174,390	15%	155,240	19,150	110,675	61.2	54.5	11.0
Ages 25-34	288,910	244,040	21%	230,825	13,215	44,870	84.5	79.9	5.4
Ages 35-44	346,395	292,850	25%	279,745	13,105	53,540	84.5	80.8	4.5
Ages 45-54	336,960	278,715	24%	267,470	11,245	58,245	82.7	79.4	4.0
Ages 55-64	236,505	150,265	13%	143,450	6,810	86,245	63.5	60.7	4.5
Ages 65-74	139,625	24,510	2%	23,410	1,100	115,115	17.6	16.8	4.5
Ages 75 and older	118,915	4,950	0%	4,620	330	113,965	4.2	3.9	6.7

TOTAL - All Age Groups (2001)	Total - Labour force activity	In the labour force	Share of labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Total (Age 15 and older)	1,620,920	1,073,010	100%	995,320	77,690	547,905	66.2	61.4	7.2
Ages 15-24	265,875	157,455	15%	135,685	21,770	108,420	59.2	51.0	13.8
Ages 25-34	296,665	248,190	23%	230,295	17,890	48,475	83.7	77.6	7.2
Ages 35-44	347,235	291,110	27%	273,415	17,695	56,125	83.8	78.7	6.1
Ages 45-54	303,440	247,330	23%	234,475	12,850	56,115	81.5	77.3	5.2
Ages 55-64	179,605	107,520	10%	101,345	6,175	72,080	59.9	56.4	5.7
Ages 65-74	127,555	17,830	2%	16,745	1,085	109,730	14.0	13.1	6.1
Ages 75 and older	100,535	3,575	0%	3,350	220	96,965	3.6	3.3	6.2

TOTAL - All Age Groups (1996)	Total - Labour force activity	In the labour force	Share of labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Total (Age 15 and older)	1,476,980	993,355	100%	908,325	85,030	483,625	67.3	61.5	8.6
Ages 15-24	242,135	149,825	15%	128,045	21,785	92,305	61.9	52.9	14.5
Ages 25-34	317,685	270,450	27%	247,230	23,225	47,230	85.1	77.8	8.6
Ages 35-44	318,100	268,480	27%	248,905	19,570	49,620	84.4	78.2	7.3
Ages 45-54	244,860	201,940	20%	189,400	12,540	42,915	82.5	77.4	6.2
Ages 55-64	151,380	84,850	9%	78,180	6,665	66,530	56.1	51.6	7.9
Ages 65-74	120,110	15,195	2%	14,150	1,045	104,915	12.7	11.8	6.9
Ages 75 and older	82,710	2,600	0%	2,410	195	80,110	3.1	2.9	7.5

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census

In comparing the 2006 data on labour force age 55 and older with the data from 1996, their proportion of total labour force increased from 11% (102,645 people) of total labour force in 1996 to 15% (179,725 people) in 2006. It is interesting to note how the number of seniors age 75 and older who are actively employed in the labour force increased from 2,410 seniors in 1996 to 4,620 in 2006. The age group 65 to 74 also showed a substantial increase in the number of people actively employed in the labour force, increasing from 14,150 seniors in 1996 to 23,410 seniors in 2006.

As shown in Figure 1, municipalities with the highest percentage of the labour force age 55 and older were West Vancouver (30.7%), and Lions Bay (30.6%). The municipalities of Bowen Island, Belcarra and White Rock show had a high share (greater than 25%) of their labour force age 55 and older. On the other end of the scale, Electoral Area A (including UBC) reported 71.2% of its labour force age 45 and younger, as compared to the regional share of 60.8% of the labour force for that age grouping.

Employed Labour Force – Place of Work Status

The 2006 Census data on labour force provides insight into where the employed labour force are working. This is referred to as the “place of work status.” The employed labour force is categorized either having no fixed workplace, working outside of Canada, working at a usual place of work, or working at home.

Working at Home

Table 7 shows how the number of employed labour force working at home has increased in Metro Vancouver. Working at home has increased as an absolute number in Metro Vancouver (from 69,885 jobs in 1996 to 91,595 in 2006) and as a share of the total employed labour force (from 7.3% in 1996 to 8.3% in 2006).

Municipalities with a high proportion of employed labour force working at home were West Vancouver (20.3%), Bowen Island (21.3%), and Lions Bay (24.5%). The municipalities with a low proportion of employed labour force working at home were New Westminster (5.2%) and the City of Langley (5.3%).

Municipalities that showed increases in the proportion of their employed labour force working at home include Vancouver (from 6.8% in 1996 to 8.6% in 2006), the City of North Vancouver (from 6.6% in 1996 to 8.4% in 2006), Port Moody (from 6.9% in 1996 to 8.7% in 2006), Electoral Area A (from 6.7% in 1996 to 12.0% in 2006) and Anmore (from 4.9% in 1996 to 9.3% in 2006).

Table 7: Employed Labour Force Working At Home, Metro Vancouver, 1996 - 2006

Geographic Area	1996			2006		
	Employed Labour Force	Work at Home #	%	Employed Labour Force	Work at Home #	%
Anmore	915	45	4.9%	1,020	95	9.3%
Belcarra	345	25	7.2%	410	35	8.5%
Bowen Island	1,615	365	22.6%	2,085	445	21.3%
Burnaby	89,225	4,905	5.5%	102,125	7,060	6.9%
Coquitlam	52,350	3,370	6.4%	59,555	4,480	7.5%
Delta	43,455	3,770	8.7%	50,635	4,275	8.4%
Electoral Area 'A'	4,565	305	6.7%	5,160	620	12.0%
Langley City	10,515	690	6.6%	12,160	640	5.3%
Langley Township	43,695	4,725	10.8%	51,180	5,645	11.0%
Lions Bay	680	160	23.5%	775	190	24.5%
Maple Ridge	30,670	2,085	6.8%	35,935	2,545	7.1%
New Westminster	28,115	1,235	4.4%	32,330	1,690	5.2%
North Vancouver City	22,525	1,485	6.6%	26,060	2,200	8.4%
North Vancouver District	38,730	4,365	11.3%	43,310	5,135	11.9%
Pitt Meadows	7,525	660	8.8%	8,585	670	7.8%
Port Coquitlam	24,770	1,585	6.4%	28,905	1,740	6.0%
Port Moody	13,930	955	6.9%	15,535	1,345	8.7%
Richmond	76,835	5,515	7.2%	87,180	7,285	8.4%
Surrey	166,700	10,085	6.0%	198,885	13,235	6.7%
Vancouver	272,870	18,620	6.8%	310,640	26,845	8.6%
West Vancouver	17,900	3,740	20.9%	19,570	3,975	20.3%
White Rock	7,860	925	11.8%	9,240	1,085	11.7%
Vancouver CMA	955,790	69,885	7.3%	1,104,760	91,595	8.3%

Note: Employed labour force includes "no fixed workplace" and 'work outside of Canada"

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Working in Home Municipality

Table 8 shows how many employed labour force with a fixed place of work within Canada have jobs within the same municipality in which they reside. In Metro Vancouver, the percentage of labour force workers working within the same municipality in which they reside has increased from 46.1% in 1996 to 48.0% in 2006.

Municipalities with a high proportion of employed labour force working in their home municipality in 2006 were Vancouver (68.9%), Richmond (59.2%), Bowen Island (54.0%), and Electoral Area A (51.4%). The municipalities with a low proportion of employed labour force working at home were Anmore (5.2%) Belcarra (12.5%) and Port Moody (17.7%).

Municipalities that showed increases in the proportion of their employed labour force working in their home municipality include Delta (from 31.4% in 1996 to 37.0% in 2006), Electoral Area A (from 6.9% in 1996 to 51.4% in 2006), and Bowen Island (from 45.5% in 1996 to 54.0% in 2006).

Municipalities that showed a large increase in the absolute number of employed labour force working in their home municipality between 1996 and 2006 include Vancouver (37,770 people), Surrey (32,185 people), and Burnaby (12,900 people). Also showing a significant increase in the number of labour force working in their home municipality were Langley Township (7,485 people), Coquitlam (7,205) and Delta (7,180).

Table 8: Employed Labour Force Working in Home Municipality, 1996 - 2006

Municipality	1996			2006		
	Employed Labour Force *	Employed in Home Municipality No.	%	Employed Labour Force *	Employed in Home Municipality No.	%
Anmore	915	45	4.9%	1,020	130	12.7%
Belcarra	345	25	7.2%	410	35	8.5%
Bowen Island	1,615	n/a		2,085	875	42.0%
Burnaby	89,225	28,385	31.8%	102,125	35,900	35.2%
Coquitlam	52,350	12,310	23.5%	59,555	16,590	27.9%
Delta	43,455	14,095	32.4%	50,635	16,230	32.1%
Electoral Area 'A'	4,565	1,435	31.4%	5,160	2,460	47.7%
Langley City	10,515	2,685	25.5%	12,160	2,795	23.0%
Langley Township	43,695	14,210	32.5%	51,180	18,105	35.4%
Lions Bay	680	200	29.4%	775	240	31.0%
Maple Ridge	30,670	10,065	32.8%	35,935	12,715	35.4%
New Westminster	28,115	5,415	19.3%	32,330	6,535	20.2%
North Vancouver City	22,525	6,640	29.5%	26,060	7,705	29.6%
North Vancouver District	38,730	11,025	28.5%	43,310	11,495	26.5%
Pitt Meadows	7,525	1,225	16.3%	8,585	1,525	17.8%
Port Coquitlam	24,770	4,915	19.8%	28,905	6,460	22.3%
Port Moody	13,930	1,675	12.0%	15,535	2,485	16.0%
Richmond	76,835	35,995	46.8%	87,180	46,305	53.1%
Surrey	166,700	52,605	31.6%	198,885	76,495	38.5%
Vancouver	272,870	165,310	60.6%	310,640	190,290	61.3%
West Vancouver	17,900	6,730	37.6%	19,570	7,380	37.7%
White Rock	7,860	1,895	24.1%	9,240	1,980	21.4%
Vancouver CMA	955,790	371,520	38.9%	1,104,760	465,090	42.1%

Note: Employed labour force includes "no fixed place of work" and those employed "outside Canada"

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Working in Home Subregion

Table 9 shows how many employed labour force have jobs within the same subregion in which they reside. In Metro Vancouver, the percentage of the employed labour force working within their subregion has increased from 45.9% in 1996 to 48.6% in 2006. The Vancouver/Electoral Area A subregion shows the greatest proportion of employed labour force working within the home subregion (73.2% in 2006). Most subregions have a higher percentage of jobs filled by local workers in 2006 than in 1996. Only Vancouver/Electoral Area A showed a decrease the percentage of employed labour force working in their home subregion, dropping from 74.1% in 1996 to 73.2% in 2006. Although the percentage dropped for the subregion, the absolute number increased by 28,405 (from 174,755 in 1996 to 203,160 to 2006).

Table 9: Employed Labour Force Working in Home Subregion, 1996 - 2006

Metro Vancouver Subregions	1996			2006		
	Employed Labour Force *	Employed in Home Subregion # *	%	Employed Labour Force	Employed in Home Subregion # *	%
Vancouver, Electoral Area A	235,970	174,755	74.1%	277,435	203,160	73.2%
Surrey, White Rock	131,410	59,140	45.0%	174,560	83,965	48.1%
Delta, Richmond	108,575	59,795	55.1%	120,290	72,170	60.0%
Burnaby / New Westminster	99,205	40,730	41.1%	117,340	50,280	42.8%
Northeast Sector	78,870	28,070	35.6%	92,310	38,335	41.5%
North Shore	81,080	40,855	50.4%	81,450	43,865	53.9%
Langley Township, Langley City	45,795	22,315	48.7%	54,210	28,395	52.4%
Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows	29,230	12,850	44.0%	38,195	17,100	44.8%
Metro Vancouver Total	812,215	438,510	54.0%	958,770	537,270	56.0%

* Employed labour force excludes "no fixed place of work" and those employed "outside Canada" for this table.

Note: Bowen Island incorporated in 1999. The geographic area of Electoral Area A has changed since the 1996 Census.

Note: 1996 values for Bowen Island and Electoral A are approximated for this table.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Conclusions and Observations

Analysis of the labour force data shows several important changes over the past ten years. The labour force participation rates have declined since 1991, which indicates a greater proportion of the population is not working and is dependent upon the labour force. Participation rates can be expected to continue to decline as the population experiences increased longevity and as the baby-boom age people move out of the labour force and into retirement. Although still not large in absolute numbers, the region is seeing more seniors continuing to work after the age of 65.

Regarding the place of employment, the employed labour force is traveling less. Over the previous two census periods more people are working at home, working within their home municipality, or working close by in a neighbouring municipality.