Demographic & Economic Profile: Western Region, Nova Scotia

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Glossary and Sources

Terms & Acronyms

CAARG: compound average annual rate of growth

Western Region - This region captures the following geographic areas: Argyle (Municipal District), Barrington (Municipal District), Clare (Municipal District), Digby (Municipal District), Digby (Town), Yarmouth (Municipal District), and Yarmouth (Town).

CSD: Census Subdivision. CSDs inculde villages, towns, parishes, cities, and municipalities (refer to complete listing below).

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

Census subdivision types:

C - City / Cité

CC - Chartered community

CG - Community government

CN - Crown colony / Colonie de la couronne

COM - Community

CT - Canton (municipalité de)

CU - Cantons unis (municipalité de)

CV - City / Ville

CY - City

DM - District municipality

HAM - Hamlet

ID - Improvement district

IGD - Indian government district

IM - Island municipality

IRI - Indian reserve / Réserve indienne

LGD - Local government district

LOT - Township and royalty

M - Municipality / Municipalité

MD - Municipal district

MÉ - Municipalité

MU - Municipality

NH - Northern hamlet

NL - Nisga'a land

NO - Unorganized / Non organisé

NV - Northern village

P - Parish / Paroisse (municipalité de)

PE - Paroisse (municipalité de)/

RCR - Rural community / Communauté rurale

RDA - Regional district electoral area

RG - Region

RGM - Regional municipality

RM - Rural municipality

Glossary and Sources

Census subdivision types (cont'd):

RV - Resort village

S-É - Indian settlement / Établissement indien

SA - Special area

SC - Subdivision of county municipality / Subdivision municipalité de comté

SÉ - Settlement / Établissement

SET - Settlement

SG - Self-government / Autonomie gouvernementale

SM - Specialized municipality

SNO - Subdivision of unorganized / Subdivision non organisée

SV - Summer village

T - Town

TC - Terres réservées aux Cris

TI - Terre inuite

TK - Terres réservées aux Naskapis

TL - Teslin land

TP - Township

TV - Town / Ville

V - Ville

VC - Village cri

VK - Village naskapi

VL - Village

VN - Village nordique

Sources

1.	Statistics Canada Population Estimates by Census Subdivision (2006-2019) - annual updates
2.	Statistics Canada Census of the Canadian Population (2006, 2011 and 2016) - The Census is conducted once every five years and the next one is expected to take place in May 2021, with results released throughout 2022.
3.	Statistics Canada GDP by Industry - annual updates
4.	Statistics Canada Business Registrations by Industry and Employment Size Range - semiannual updates

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Region Overview

General Information on Western Region, Nova Scotia

Total regional population (2019)	48,726
Number of communities within region	7

Share of Regional Population by Community

Count (LH-axis)   Share(RH-axis)
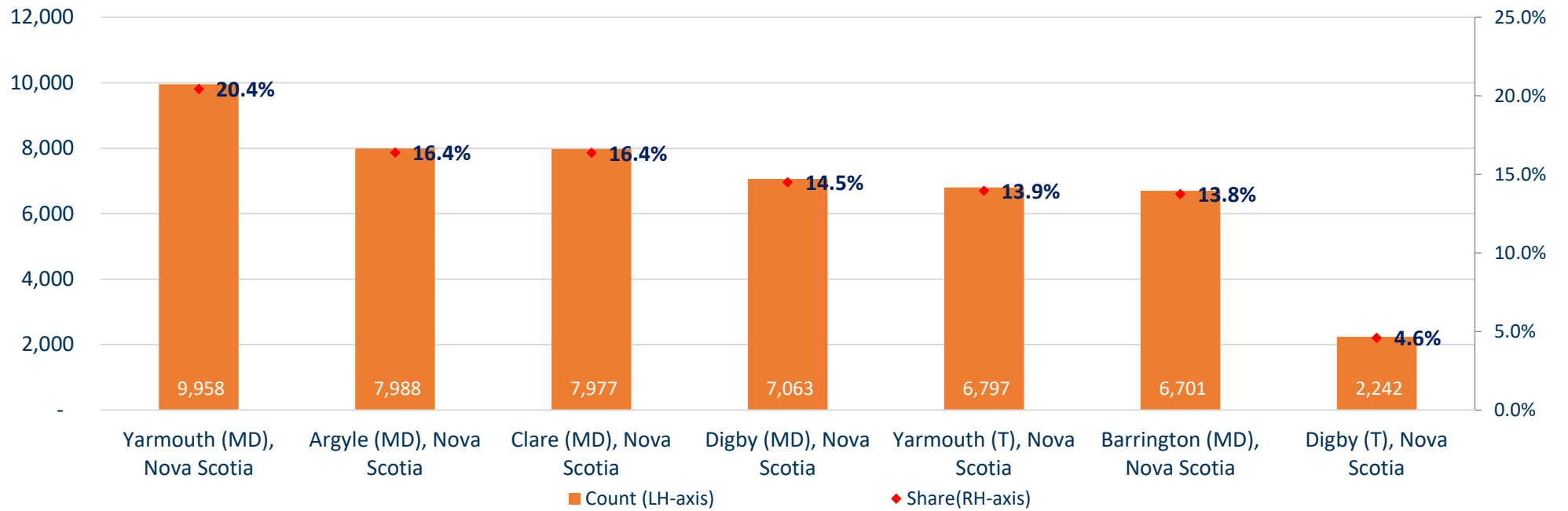
Region Overview

Population Growth by Community in the Region

Region/Community	2019	% share 2019	CAARG (%): 2006-2019	Population (cumulative total)
Yarmouth (MD), Nova Scotia	9,958	20%	-0.4%	9,958
Argyle (MD), Nova Scotia	7,988	16%	-0.8%	17,946
Clare (MD), Nova Scotia	7,977	16%	-0.9%	25,923
Digby (MD), Nova Scotia	7,063	14%	-1.1%	32,986
Yarmouth (T), Nova Scotia	6,797	14%	-0.6%	39,783
Barrington (MD), Nova Scotia	6,701	14%	-0.9%	46,484
Digby (T), Nova Scotia	2,242	5%	0.4%	48,726

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Summary of Key Regional Economic and Demographic Characteristics

Western Region, Nova Scotia:

Population Characteristics

Based on Statistics Canada estimates, the region's population count totaled 48,726 inhabitants in 2019, and its population decreased by -0.7% p.a. over the period 2006 to 2019.

65.6% of the population falls in the 15-64 age cohort (or principal working years).

Regional Economy & Commercial Landscape

The region's top five sectors, in terms of employment, account for approximately 44.5% of regional employment. Those sectors and their shares of the region's total employment are as follows:*

[1] 11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (3.8%)

[2] 44-45 Retail trade (12.8%)

[3] 62 Health care and social assistance (13.8%)

[4] 31-33 Manufacturing (7.0%)

[5] 72 Accommodation and food services (7.1%)

* (1) Numbers preceding the sector names are North American Industry Classification Codes (NAICS). (2) Percentages in parentheses are the sector's share of the local labour force, and shares are derived from Census 2016.

51.5% of the area's registered businesses have no employees.

Small businesses account for 99% of the region's businesses with employees.

The area's top five sectors in terms of their shares of total business registrations are:

[1] Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (36.3%)

[2] Retail trade (8.4%)

[3] Real estate and rental and leasing (7.2%)

[4] Construction (7.1%)

[5] Other services (except public administration) (6.5%)

These sectors account for 65.6% of the region's total business registrations (businesses with and without employees).

Summary of Key Regional Economic and Demographic Characteristics

Labour Force & Income

Figures pertaining to the region's current labour force status are not available. Nevertheless it is worth noting that, over the ten-year period separating the 2006 and 2016 censuses, the area's rate of unemployment decreased from, 12.5% to 11.3%, and the region's rate of unemployment was higher than the national rate, 7.7%, as of Census 2016.

Approximately 52.2% of the region's working age population (15+ years of age) is employed (i.e., the region's employment rate), and roughly 71% of that segment of the population is employed in sectors that grew on par with or faster than the overall Canadian economy over the period 2014-2018. Note: The corresponding Canada-wide benchmark employment rate is 60.2%.

The share of the population by broad income bracket is as follows:

< $40,000 = 67.8%

$40,000 to $100,000 = 28.2%

>$100,000 = 4.0%

Education, Training & Occupations

The share of the population (15+ years of age) by highest level of education attained is as follows:

[1]   No certificate, diploma or degree (31.7%)
[2]   High School (22.0%)
[3]   Postsecondary (46.3%)

In addition, 30.4% of the population is bilingual in Canada's official languages, French and English.

The region's top 3 occupations account for 49.5% of its working population and they are as follows:

[1]   6 Sales and service occupations (21.8%)
[2]   8 Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations (15.6%)
[3]   7 Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (12.1%)

   *   Numbers preceding text are occupation codes employed by Statistics Canada

Summary of Key Regional Economic and Demographic Characteristics

Housing

71.9% of households have 1 or 2 occupants, while 4.1% have 5 or more occupants.

The region's most prevalent types of private occupied dwellings are the following:

[1] Single-detached house (84.8%)

[2] Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys (8.1%)

[3] Semi-detached house (2.4%)

21.6% of the population resides in rented dwellings.

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Basic Population Characteristics and Trends

Population Size and Growth

Key Figures:	
Population size, 2019 =	48,726
Population growth rate, 2006-2019:*	
Western Region	-0.7%
Nova Scotia	0.3%
Canada	1.1%

* Compound average annual rate of growth (CAARG)

Based on Statistics Canada estimates, the region's population count totaled 48,726 inhabitants in 2019, and its population decreased by -0.7% p.a. over the period 2006 to 2019.

Population Trend: 2006 - 2019 (estimates)
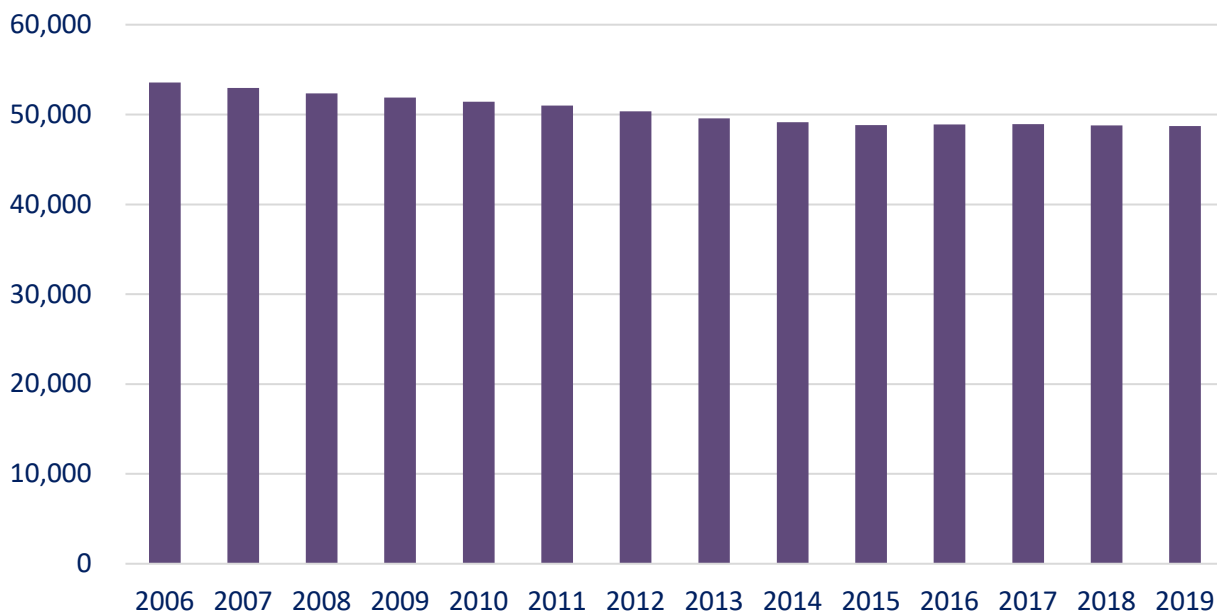
Year	Population	% chg.
2006	53,571	-
2007	52,960	-1.1%
2008	52,350	-1.2%
2009	51,872	-0.9%
2010	51,422	-0.9%
2011	50,989	-0.8%
2012	50,340	-1.3%
2013	49,589	-1.5%
2014	49,132	-0.9%
2015	48,826	-0.6%
2016	48,899	0.1%
2017	48,925	0.1%
2018	48,801	-0.3%
2019	48,726	-0.2%

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Basic Population Characteristics and Trends

Comparative Growth in Population: CAARG 2006-2019 (%) (estimates)
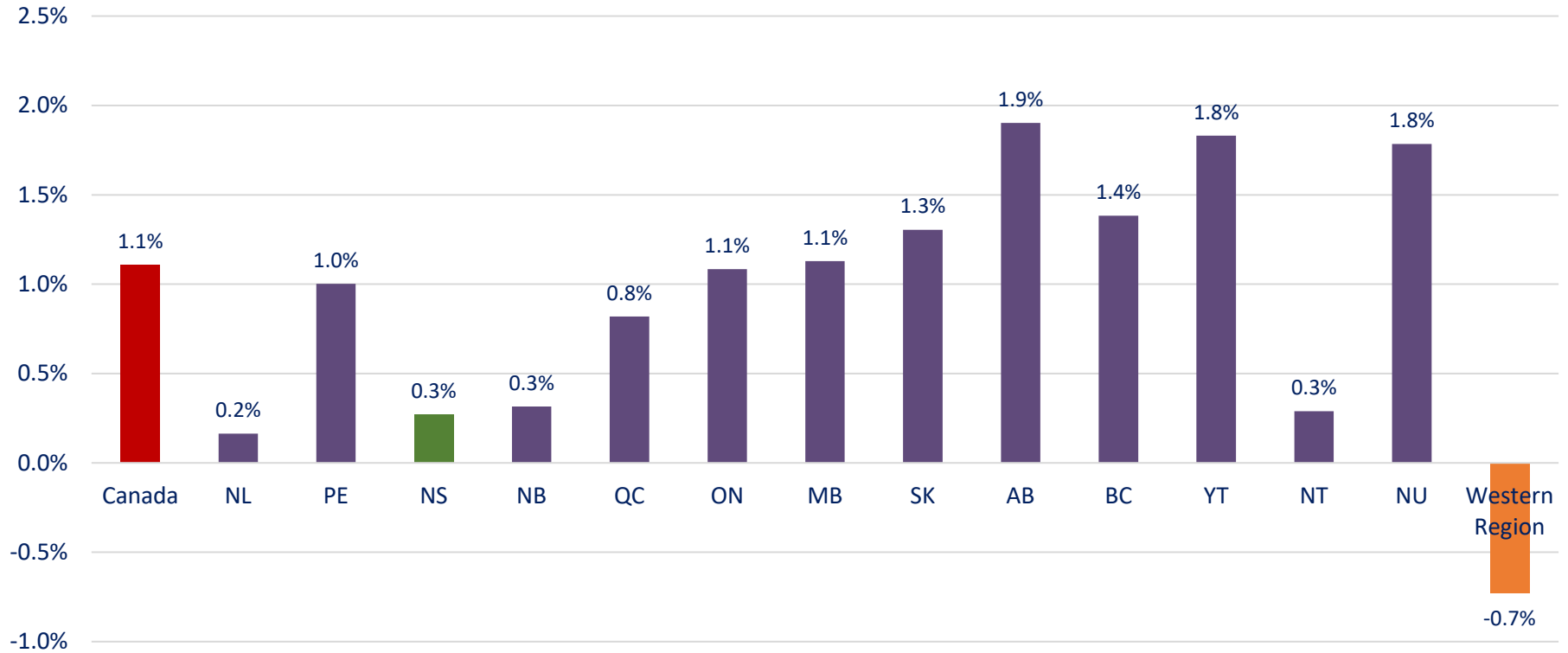
Basic Population Characteristics and Trends

Age profile of the Population: share and growth of age cohorts
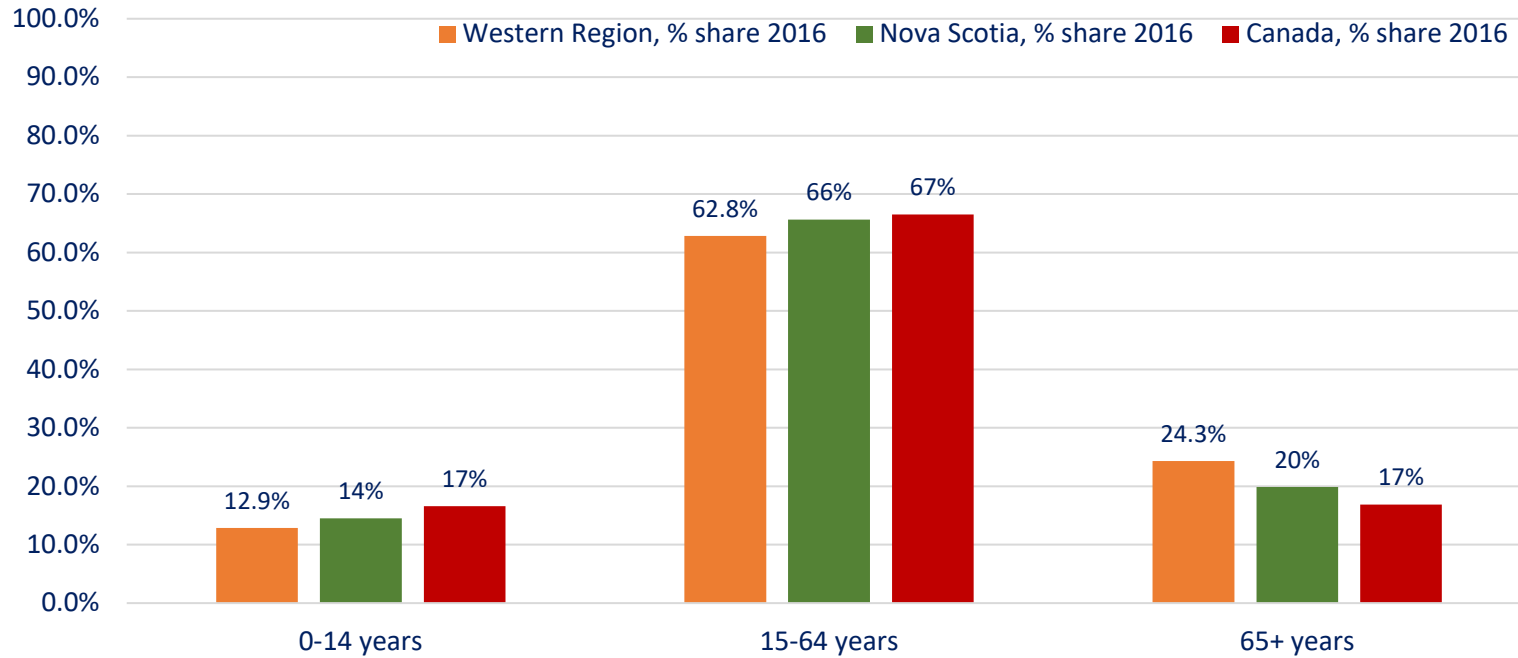
	Western Region	Western Region, % share 2016	Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia, % share 2016	Canada	Canada, % share 2016
0-14 years	6,185	12.9%	133,830	14%	5,839,565	17%
15-64 years	30,190	62.8%	605,960	66%	23,376,525	67%
65+ years	11,680	24.3%	183,820	20%	5,935,635	17%
Total	48,055	100.0%	923,610	100%	35,151,725	100%

Basic Population Characteristics and Trends

Demographic Profile: Shares of Total Population by Age Cohort

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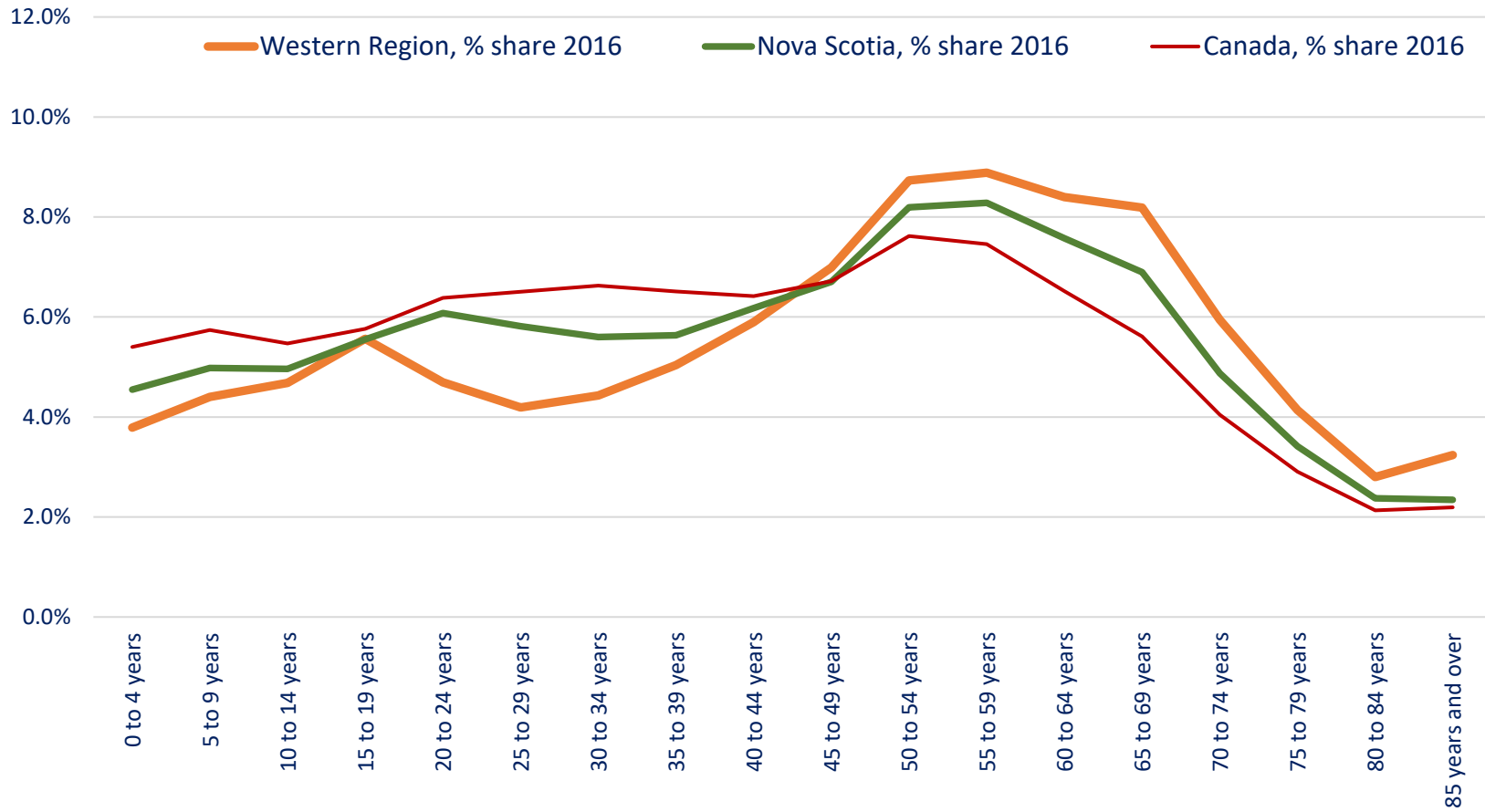
Basic Population Characteristics and Trends

Share of Total Immigrant Population by Place of Birth
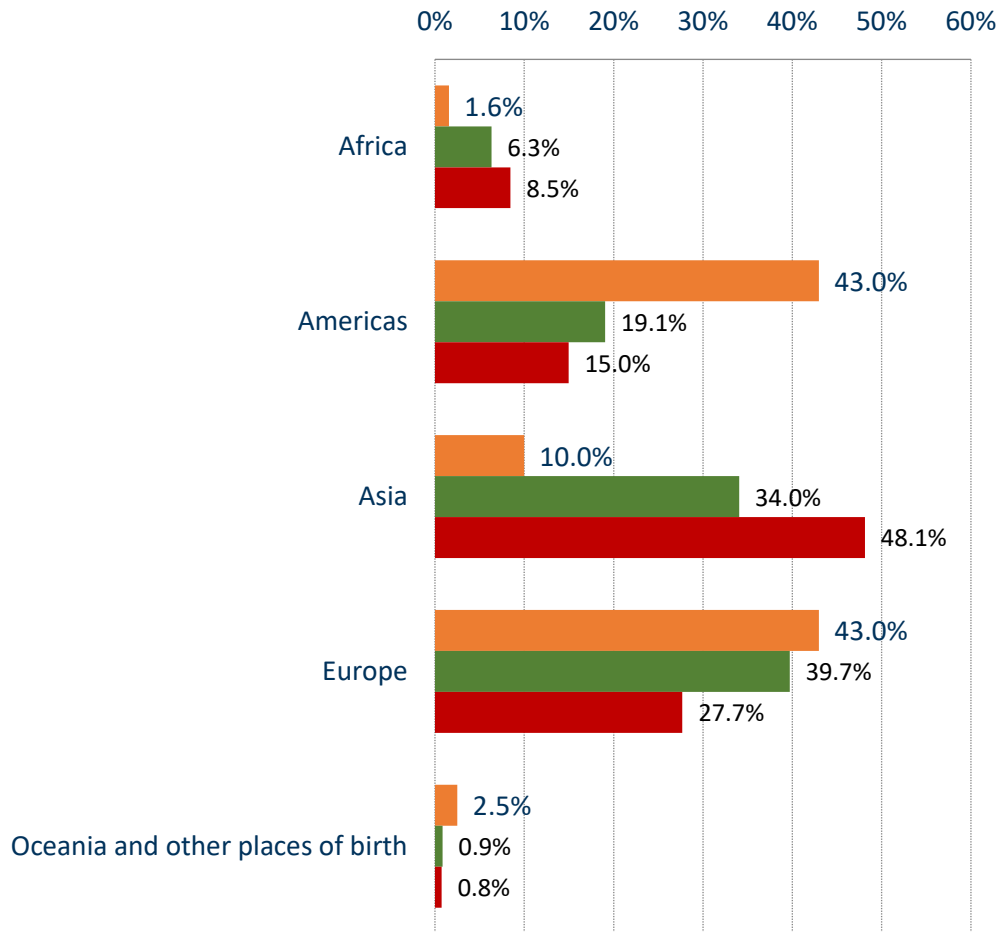
Total number of immigrants residing in the region = 1,605

Share of total population accounted for by immigrants = 3.3%

Chart data:

Place of Birth	Western Region, % share 2016	Nova Scotia, % share 2016	Canada, % share 2016
Africa	1.6%	6.3%	8.5%
Americas	43.0%	19.1%	15.0%
Asia	10.0%	34.0%	48.1%
Europe	43.0%	39.7%	27.7%
Oceania and other places of birth	2.5%	0.9%	0.8%

- Western Region, % share 2016
- Nova Scotia, % share 2016
- Canada, % share 2016

Education, Training and Occupation Profile of the Population

Share of the Region's Population (15+ years of age) by Highest Level of Education Attained

University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above
- Canada: 23%
- Nova Scotia: 21%
- Western Region: 11%

University certificate or diploma below bachelor level
- Canada: 3%
- Nova Scotia: 2%
- Western Region: 2%

College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma
- Canada: 19%
- Nova Scotia: 22%
- Western Region: 23%

Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma
- Canada: 10%
- Nova Scotia: 10%
- Western Region: 10%

Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate
- Canada: 26%
- Nova Scotia: 25%
- Western Region: 22%

No certificate, diploma or degree
- Canada: 18%
- Nova Scotia: 20%
- Western Region: 32%

■ Canada, % share 2016   ■ Nova Scotia, % share 2016
■ Western Region, % share 2016

Pie chart:
- No certificate, diploma or degree, 31.7%
- High School, 22.0%
- Postsecondary, 46.3%

Education, Training and Occupation Profile of the Population

Share of Population (25 to 64 years of age) by Field of Study
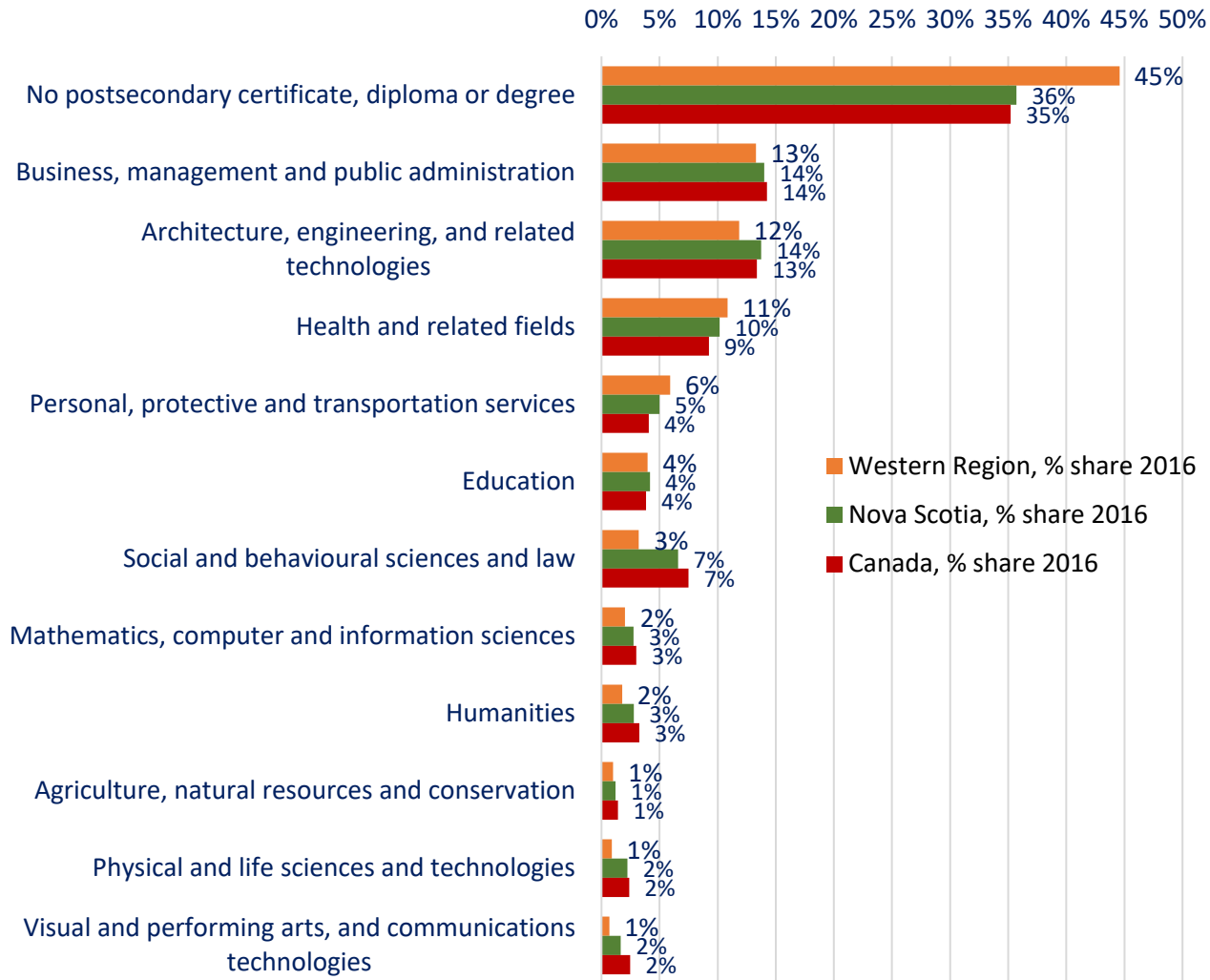
The region's top three fields of study (excluding no postsecondary), as shown in the accompanying chart, account for 36.0% of the '25 to 64 years of age' segment of the population.

Field of Study	Western Region, % share 2016	Nova Scotia, % share 2016	Canada, % share 2016
No postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	45%	36%	35%
Business, management and public administration	13%	14%	14%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	12%	14%	13%
Health and related fields	11%	10%	9%
Personal, protective and transportation services	6%	5%	4%
Education	4%	4%	4%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	3%	7%	7%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	2%	3%	3%
Humanities	2%	3%	3%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1%	1%	1%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	1%	2%	2%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	1%	2%	2%

Education, Training and Occupation Profile of the Population

Share of Population by First Official Language Spoken (FOLS) and by Knowledge of Canada's Official Languages*
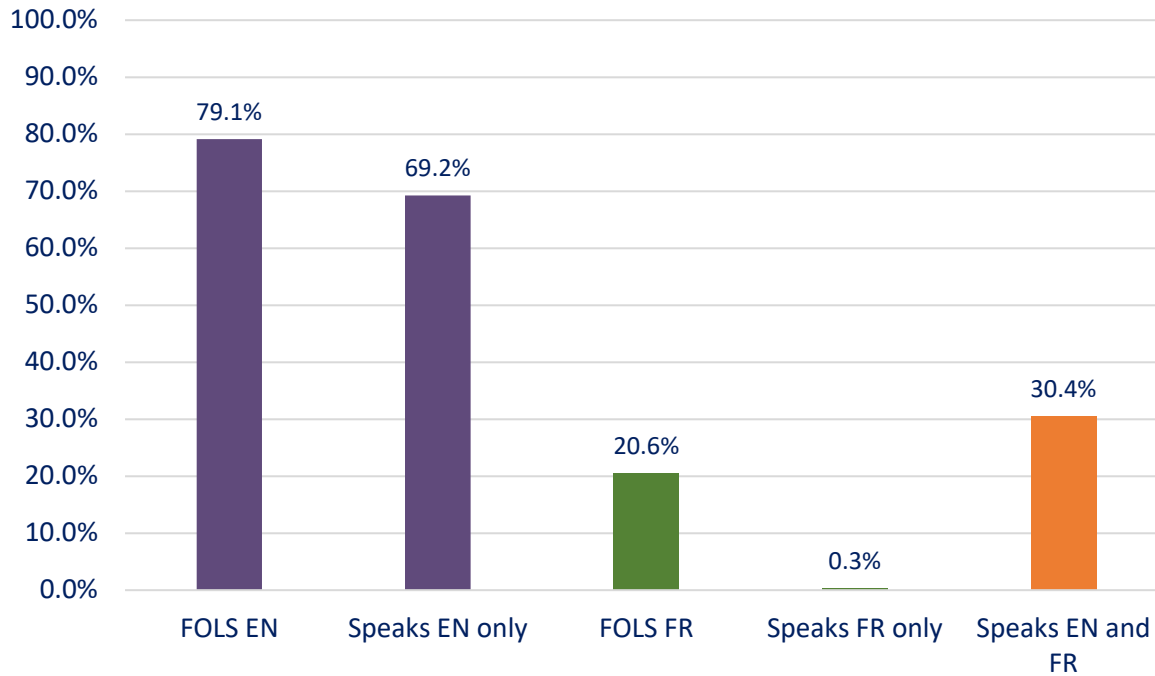
Share of Population by Mother Tongue*
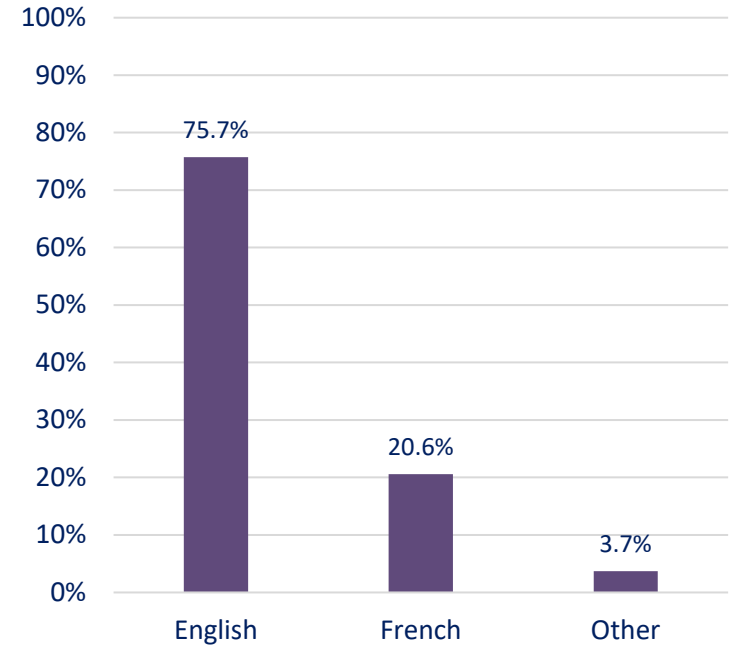
Notes:

(1) First Official Language Spoken (FOLS) refers to Canada's official languages, English (EN) and French (FR).

(2) Mother tongue English is a subset of FOLS English: e.g., the mother tongue of an individual who emigrated from Spain to Canada is most likely Spanish, but if he/she learned English – i.e., before learning French, if at all - then English is their FOLS within the Canadian context.

Education, Training and Occupation Profile of the Population

Knowledge of Official Languages

Official Language(s) Spoken	Western Region	Western Region, % share 2016
English and French	14,425	30.4%
English only	32,820	69.2%
French only	165	0.3%
Total	47,410	100.0%

First Official Language Spoken

Official Language(s) Spoken	Western Region	Western Region, % share 2016
English	37,515	79.1%
English and French	140	0.3%
French	9,745	20.6%
Total	47,400	100.0%

Note: Totals from these two tables may not match due to Statistics Canada's rounding methodology.

Knowledge of Official Languages by FOLS Group in the Region

Chart: FOLS English — EN only, 87.5%; Bilingual, 12.5%. FOLS French — FR only, 1.7%; Bilingual, 98.3%.
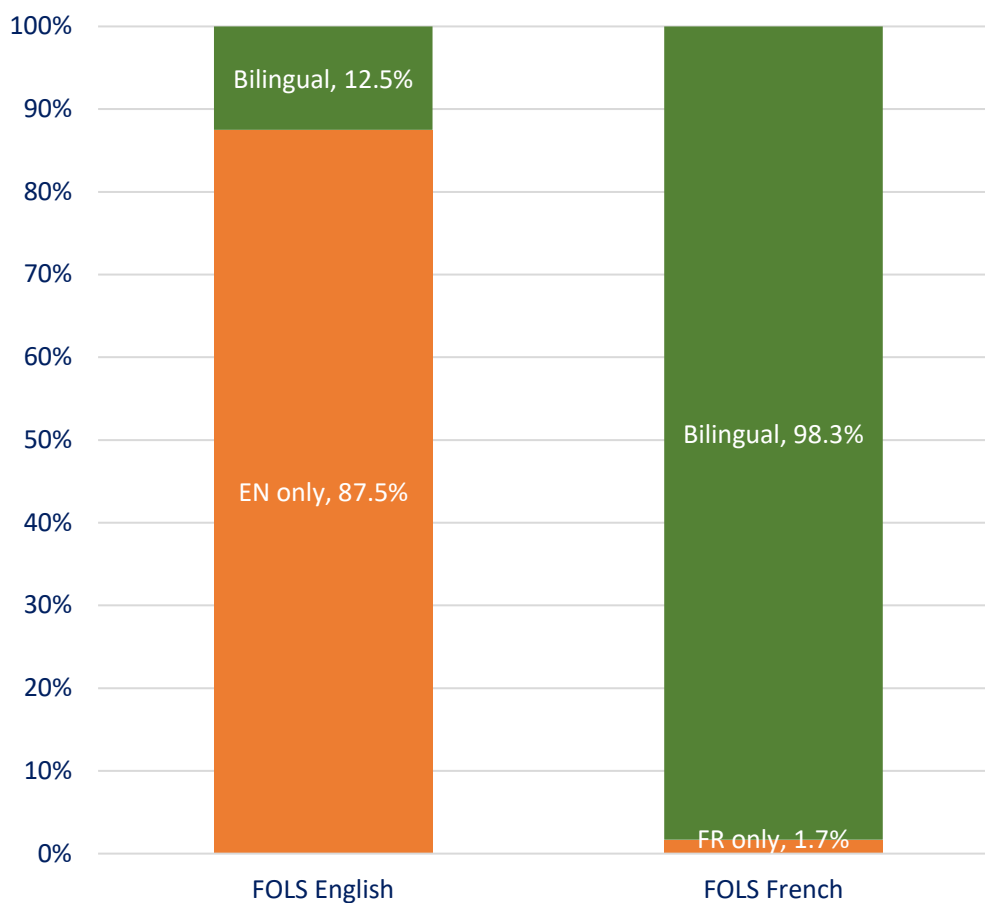
Economic Profile: Commercial Landscape

The community's top five sectors, in terms of number of enterprises, account for 65.6% of its total business registrations (businesses with and without employees).

Business Registrations by Sector

Sector	Percentage
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	36.3%
Retail trade	8.4%
Real estate and rental and leasing	7.2%
Construction	7.1%
Other services (except public administration)	6.5%
Health care and social assistance	5.1%
Manufacturing	4.1%
Finance and insurance	4.0%
Wholesale trade	3.8%
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.6%
Accommodation and food services	3.6%
Transportation and warehousing	3.4%
Management of companies and enterprises	2.4%
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	1.8%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.2%
Information and cultural industries	0.5%
Educational services	0.5%

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Economic Profile: Commercial Landscape

51.5% of registered businesses in the region have no employees and 98.8% of businesses enterprises that do have employees are categorized as small businesses - i.e., having fewer than one hundred employees.

Share of Total Business Registrations: Establishments with Employees vs. Establishments without Employees

- Total, with employees
- Without employees

49%
51%
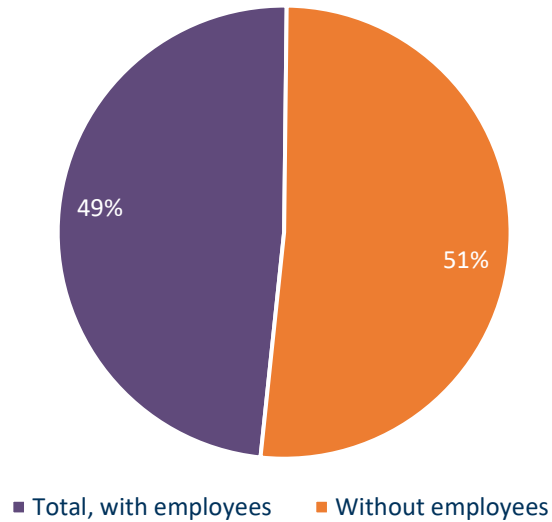
Share of Business Establishments by Employment Size Range

Size Range	Share
1-4	63%
5-9	17%
10-19	10%
20-49	6%
50-99	2%
100-199	1%
200-499	0%
500 +	0%

Size Range: Number of Employees
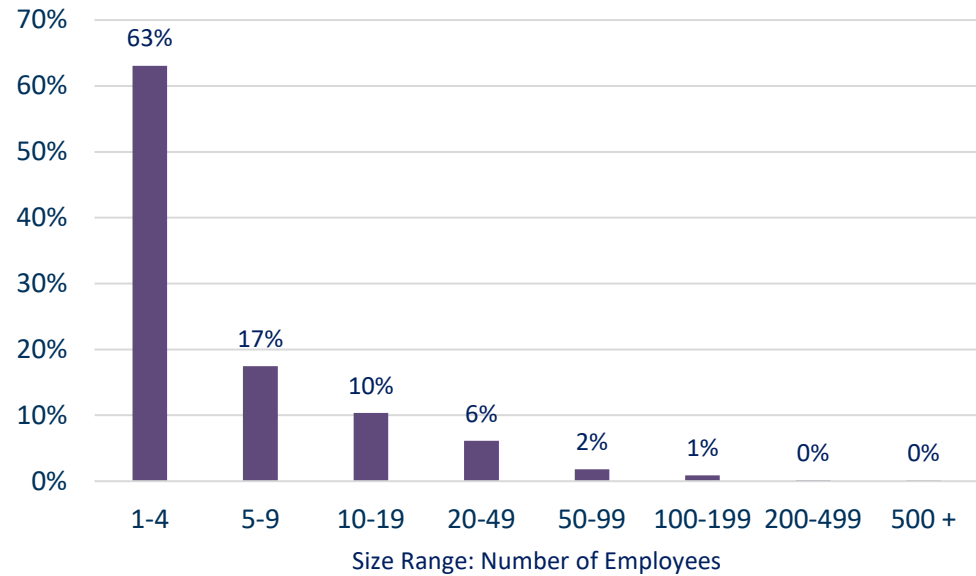
*Note: Small, medium-sized and large businesses are defined by their employment size: small = 1 to 99; medium-sized = 100 to 499; and large = 500 or more. Small and large firms play different roles in an economy. New firms that bring new products and ideas to markets are generally small at the beginning of their life cycle; later, as the industry focuses more on homogeneous products - i.e., specialize on a particular line of products - some firms begin to reduce their production costs and thereby improve their competitiveness by developing large-scale production processes.

Economic Profile: Employment by Type of Occupation

Share of Population by Type of Occupation*

Occupation	Western Region, % share 2016	Nova Scotia, % share 2016
6 Sales and service occupations	22%	24%
8 Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	16%	4%
7 Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	12%	14%
1 Business, finance and administration occupations	12%	14%
9 Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	9%	4%
4 Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	9%	12%
0 Management occupations	7%	10%
3 Health occupations	7%	8%
2 Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	3%	6%
Occupation - not applicable	1%	2%
5 Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	1%	3%

The region's top three occupations, as shown in the accompanying chart, account for 49.5% of the segment of the population that is 15 years of age and over.

* Segment of population that is 15 years of age and over.
   Numbers preceding text are occupation codes employed by Statistics Canada.

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Economic Profile: Employment by Sector

The region's top five sectors (see chart below), in terms of number of employees, account for 44.5% of its total employment.

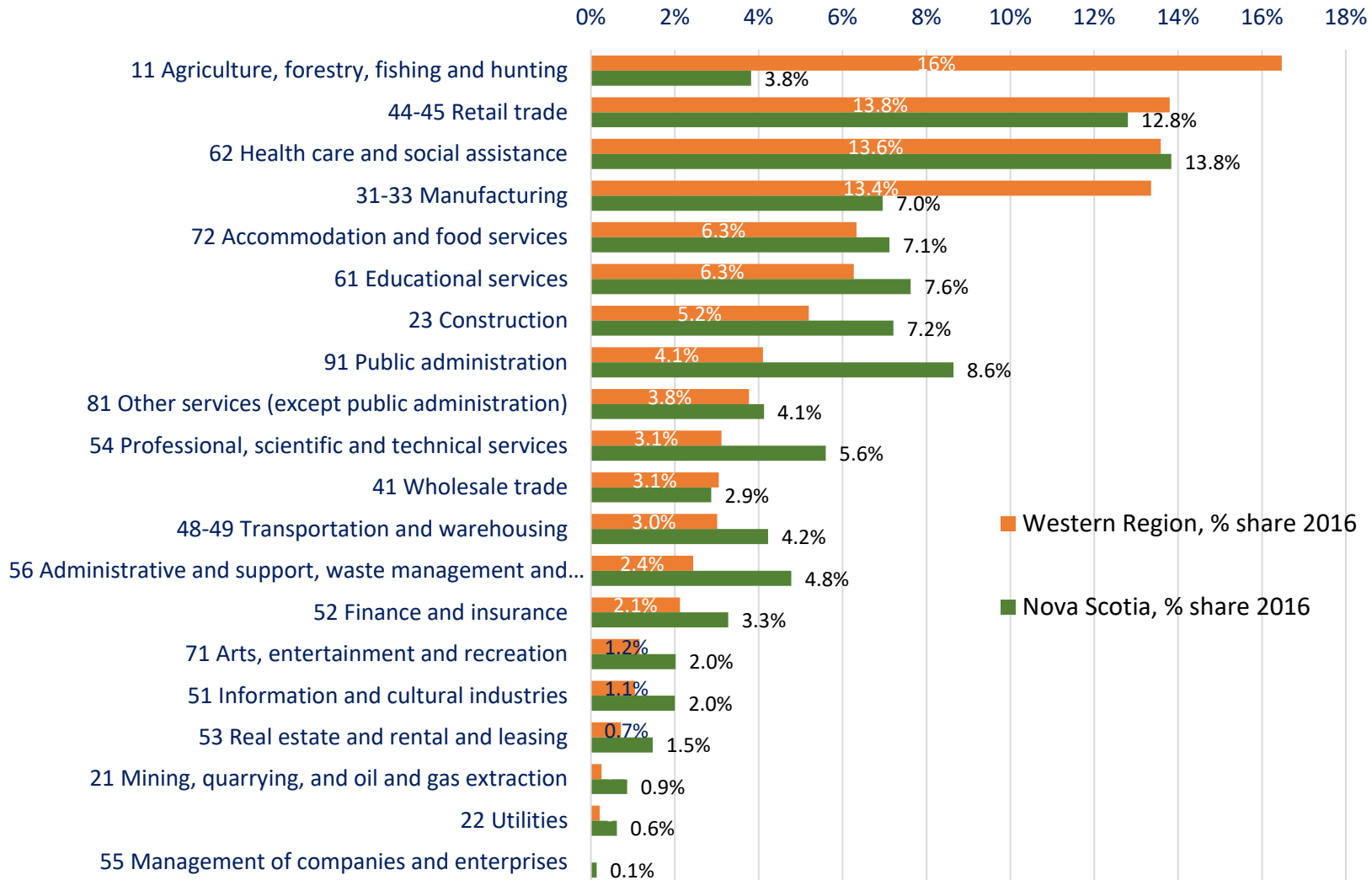## Share of Total Employment by Sector

Sector	Western Region, % share 2016	Nova Scotia, % share 2016
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	16%	3.8%
44-45 Retail trade	13.8%	12.8%
62 Health care and social assistance	13.6%	13.8%
31-33 Manufacturing	13.4%	7.0%
72 Accommodation and food services	6.3%	7.1%
61 Educational services	6.3%	7.6%
23 Construction	5.2%	7.2%
91 Public administration	4.1%	8.6%
81 Other services (except public administration)	3.8%	4.1%
54 Professional, scientific and technical services	3.1%	5.6%
41 Wholesale trade	3.1%	2.9%
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	3.0%	4.2%
56 Administrative and support, waste management and…	2.4%	4.8%
52 Finance and insurance	2.1%	3.3%
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.2%	2.0%
51 Information and cultural industries	1.1%	2.0%
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	0.7%	1.5%
21 Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction		0.9%
22 Utilities		0.6%
55 Management of companies and enterprises		0.1%

* Numbers preceding sector names are North American Industry Classification (NAICS)

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Economic Profile: Employment by Sector

Share of Total Employment by Sector

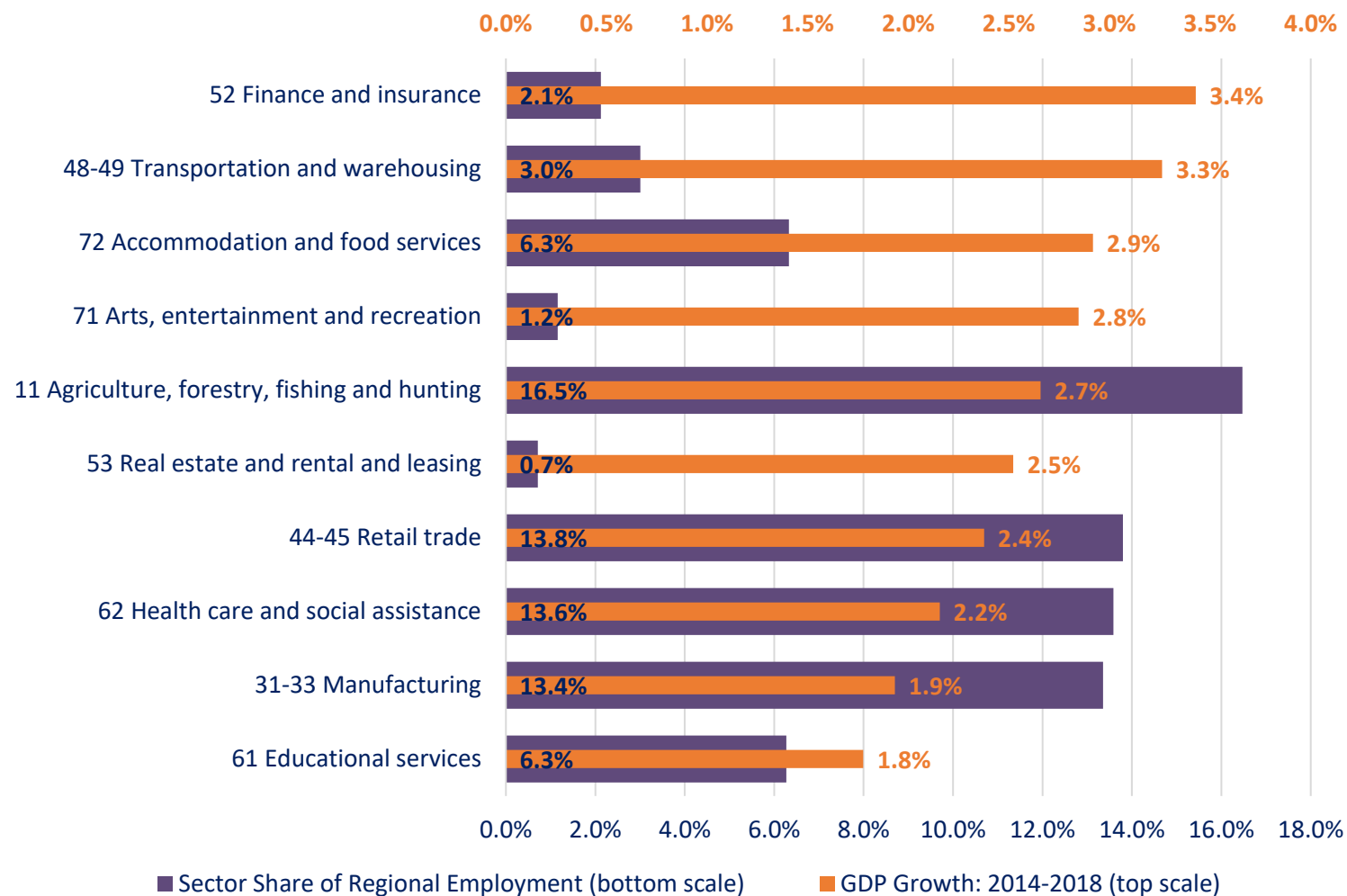|	Western Region	Western Region, % share 2016	Nova Scotia, 2016	Nova Scotia, % share 2016
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	3,915	16%	17,775	4%
44-45 Retail trade	3,280	13.8%	59,570	13%
62 Health care and social assistance	3,230	13.6%	64,390	14%
31-33 Manufacturing	3,175	13.4%	32,375	7%
72 Accommodation and food services	1,505	6.3%	33,115	7%
61 Educational services	1,490	6.3%	35,480	8%
23 Construction	1,235	5.2%	33,555	7%
91 Public administration	975	4.1%	40,225	9%
81 Other services (except public administration)	895	3.8%	19,195	4%
54 Professional, scientific and technical services	740	3.1%	26,065	6%
41 Wholesale trade	725	3.1%	13,345	3%
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	715	3.0%	19,660	4%
56 Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	580	2.4%	22,240	5%
52 Finance and insurance	505	2.1%	15,240	3%
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	275	1.2%	9,385	2%
51 Information and cultural industries	250	1.1%	9,310	2%
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	170	0.7%	6,870	1%
21 Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	60	0.3%	4,025	1%
22 Utilities	50	0.2%	2,880	1%
55 Management of companies and enterprises	0	0.0%	625	0%
Total	23,770	0.0%	465,325	100%

* Numbers preceding sector names are North American Industry Classification (NAICS) codes employed by Statistics Canada.

Economic Profile: Regional Performance and Income

Approximately 52.2% of the region's working age population (15+ years of age) is employed (i.e., the region's employment rate), and roughly 71% of that segment of the population is employed in sectors that grew on par with or faster than the overall Canadian economy over the period 2014-2018. Note: The corresponding Canada-wide benchmark employment rate is 60.2%.

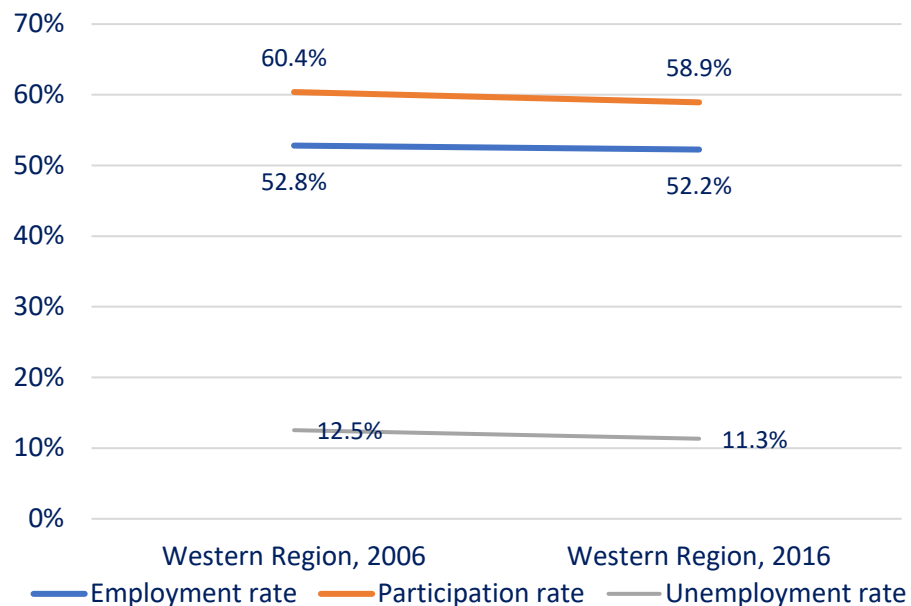## Share of Regional Employment in Top Performing Sectors by GDP Growth*

Chart data — top scale 0.0% to 4.0% (GDP Growth), bottom scale 0.0% to 18.0% (Sector Share):

Sector	Sector Share of Regional Employment	GDP Growth: 2014-2018
52 Finance and insurance	2.1%	3.4%
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	3.0%	3.3%
72 Accommodation and food services	6.3%	2.9%
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.2%	2.8%
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	16.5%	2.7%
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	0.7%	2.5%
44-45 Retail trade	13.8%	2.4%
62 Health care and social assistance	13.6%	2.2%
31-33 Manufacturing	13.4%	1.9%
61 Educational services	6.3%	1.8%

■ Sector Share of Regional Employment (bottom scale) ■ GDP Growth: 2014-2018 (top scale)

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*National growth rates are employed as benchmarks for performance of sectors that are present in the region.
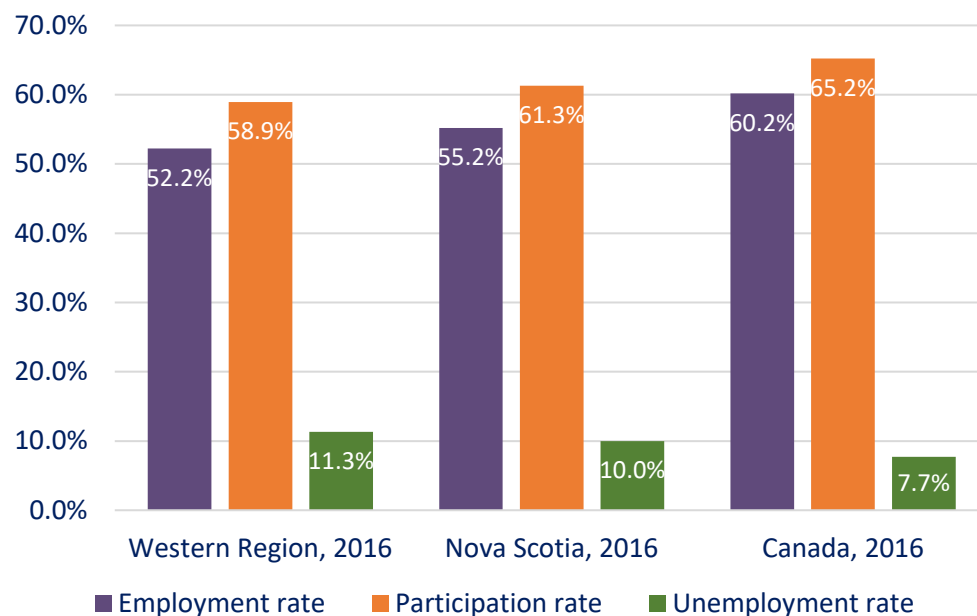
Economic Profile: Regional Performance and Income

Figures pertaining to the region's current labour force status are not available. Nevertheless it is worth noting that, over the ten-year period separating the 2006 and 2016 censuses, the area's rate of unemployment decreased from, 12.5% to 11.3%, and the region's rate of unemployment was higher than the national rate, 7.7%, as of Census 2016.

Labour Force Status*

Western Region, 2006 — Western Region, 2016

60.4% → 58.9%
52.8% → 52.2%
12.5% → 11.3%

— Employment rate — Participation rate — Unemployment rate

Labour Force Status Comparisons Across Regions, 2016*

Western Region, 2016 | Nova Scotia, 2016 | Canada, 2016

Western Region, 2016: 52.2%, 58.9%, 11.3%
Nova Scotia, 2016: 55.2%, 61.3%, 10.0%
Canada, 2016: 60.2%, 65.2%, 7.7%

■ Employment rate ■ Participation rate ■ Unemployment rate

* Definitions:

Labour force: Civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who are employed or unemployed but actively seeking work.

Participation rate: Total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over.

Employment rate: Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over.

Unemployment rate: Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment rate for a particular group (for example, age, sex, marital status) is the number unemployed in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that group.

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Economic Profile: Regional Performance and Income
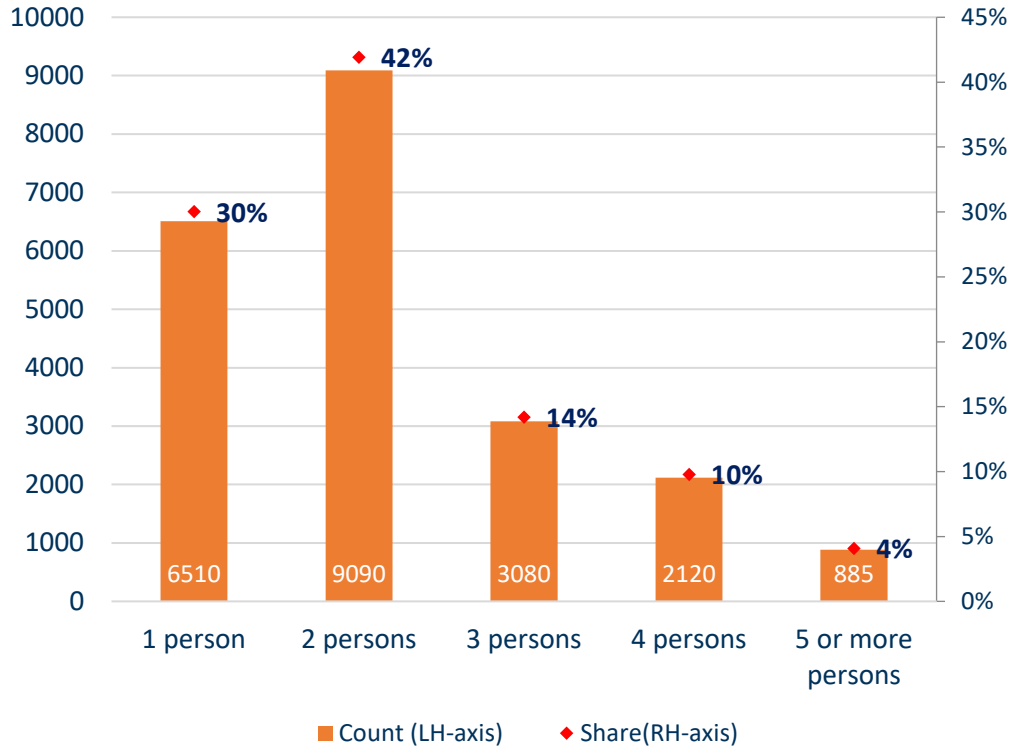
Income Profile: share of population by income bracket
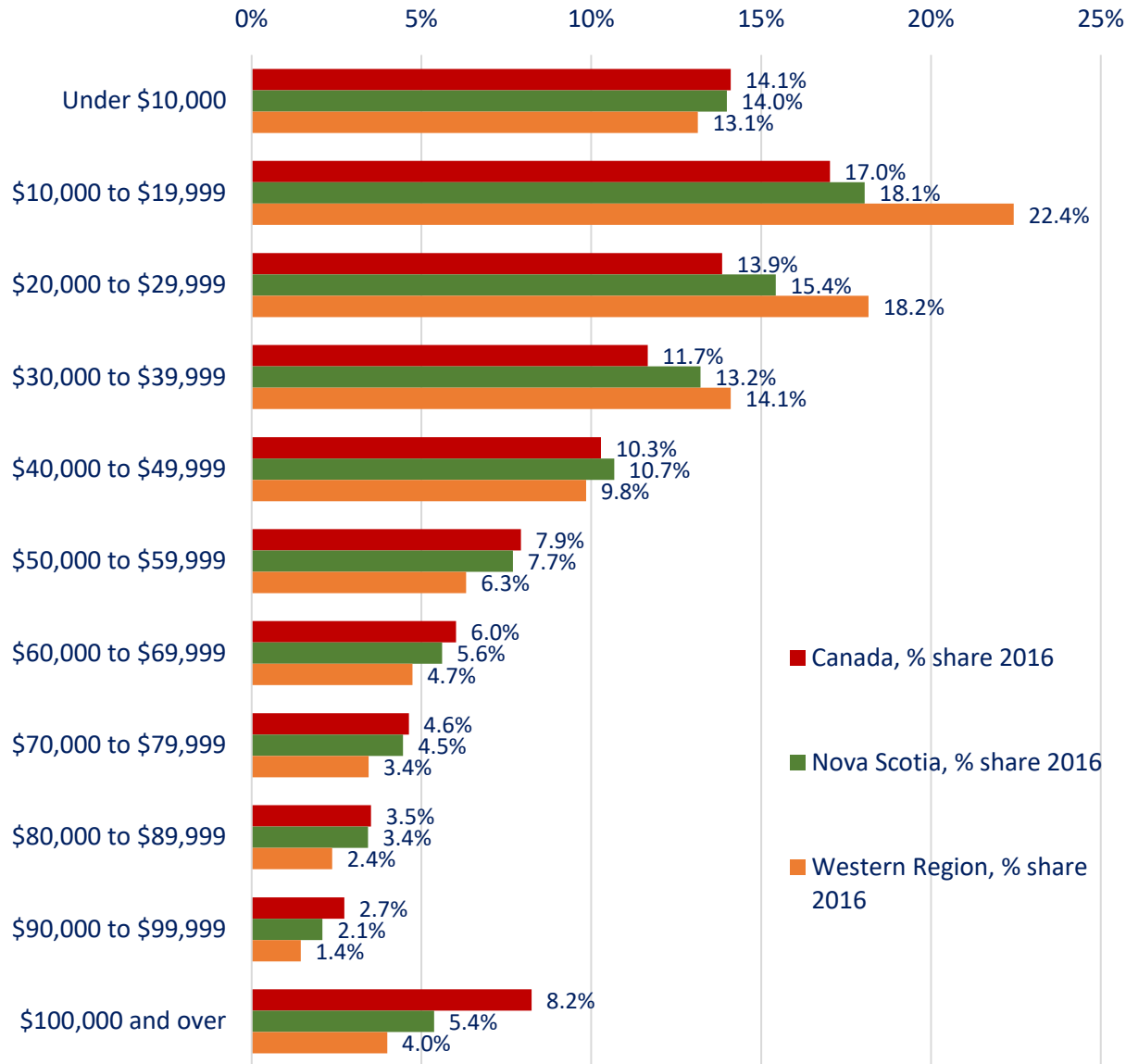
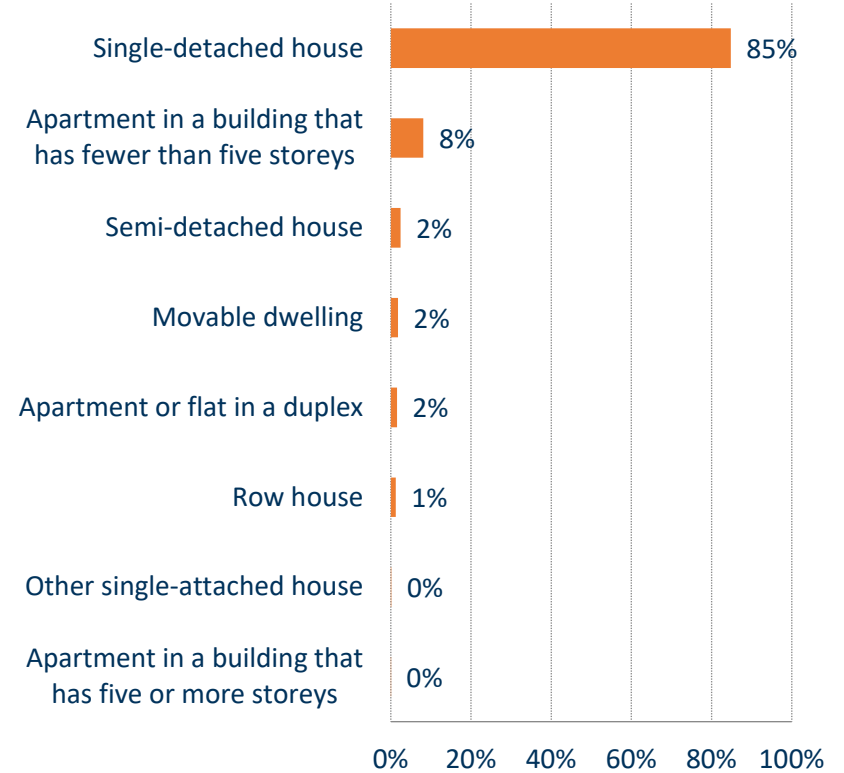The share of the region's population by broad income bracket is as follows:

< $40,000	67.8%
$40,000 to $100,000	28.2%
>$100,000	4.0%

Under $10,000
- 14.1%
- 14.0%
- 13.1%

$10,000 to $19,999
- 17.0%
- 18.1%
- 22.4%

$20,000 to $29,999
- 13.9%
- 15.4%
- 18.2%

$30,000 to $39,999
- 11.7%
- 13.2%
- 14.1%

$40,000 to $49,999
- 10.3%
- 10.7%
- 9.8%

$50,000 to $59,999
- 7.9%
- 7.7%
- 6.3%

$60,000 to $69,999
- 6.0%
- 5.6%
- 4.7%

$70,000 to $79,999
- 4.6%
- 4.5%
- 3.4%

$80,000 to $89,999
- 3.5%
- 3.4%
- 2.4%

$90,000 to $99,999
- 2.7%
- 2.1%
- 1.4%

$100,000 and over
- 8.2%
- 5.4%
- 4.0%

- Canada, % share 2016
- Nova Scotia, % share 2016
- Western Region, % share 2016

Housing Market

Count & Share of Households by Number of Occupants

Count (LH-axis) ◆ Share(RH-axis)

Total number of households = 21,685

Share of Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Structural Type of Dwelling

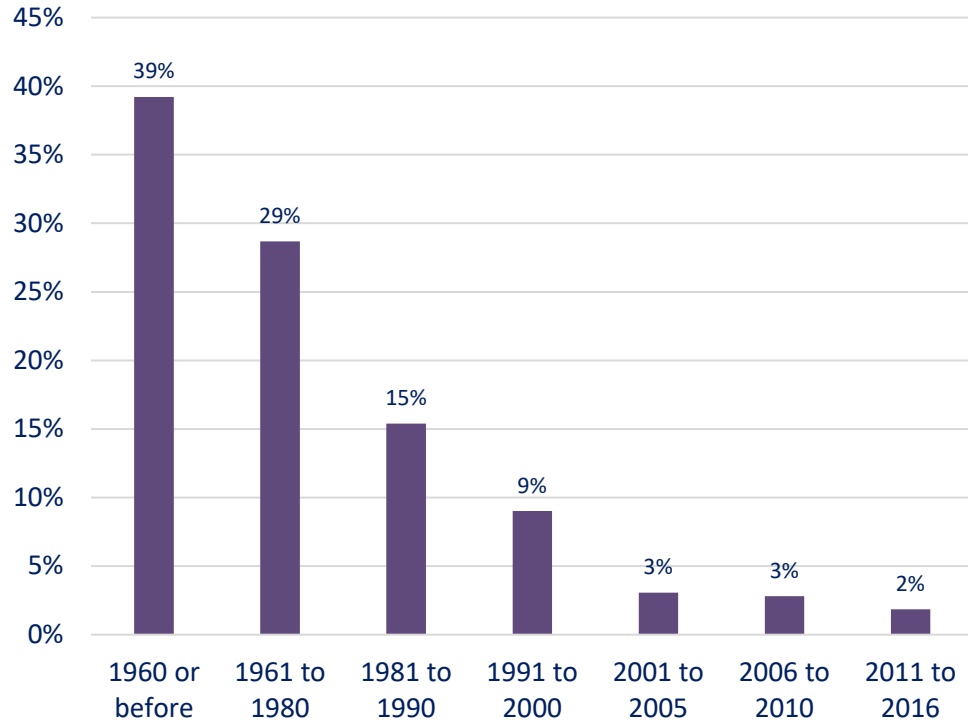|	
Single-detached house	85%
Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	8%
Semi-detached house	2%
Movable dwelling	2%
Apartment or flat in a duplex	2%
Row house	1%
Other single-attached house	0%
Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	0%

Total number of private occupied dwellings = 21,675

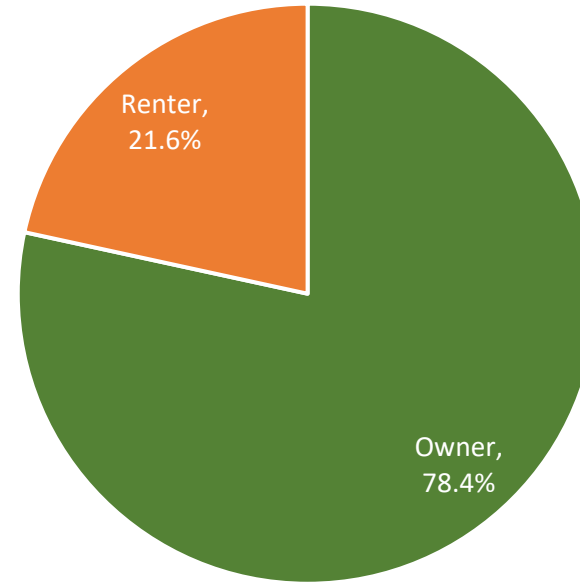**Home …**

Housing Market

Age Profile of Residential Housing: Share (%) of total housing stock by year of construction

Bar chart values:
- 1960 or before: 39%
- 1961 to 1980: 29%
- 1981 to 1990: 15%
- 1991 to 2000: 9%
- 2001 to 2005: 3%
- 2006 to 2010: 3%
- 2011 to 2016: 2%

Share of Households by Tenure: Rent vs. Own

- Renter, 21.6%
- Owner, 78.4%