

JANUARY 2013  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



MUNICIPAL  
**CENSUS 2012**  
Count Yourself In!





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Municipality conducted the census between April 30 and July 30, 2012. The enumeration process achieved 94.5% coverage of the total dwellings in the region, the highest completion rate over the last 20 years. The census was conducted in accordance with guidelines provided by Alberta Municipal Affairs; the results are now reflected in the official population list released by the provincial government in December 2012. The Municipality's goal was to gather more information on the regional demographic profile and a general count of the population. The data was collected using three primary methods: a door-to-door personal interview, online self-enumeration, and a telephone interview. Substantial gains in the quantity and quality of information were obtained that would help evidence-based decision making, efficient management of our economic and social affairs, and improved delivery of services to our communities.

**Table 1: Summary**

<b>Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo</b>	
2012 total population	116,407
Growth between 2007 and 2012	32.1%
Average annual growth rate between 2000 and 2012	7.0%
Overall growth since 2000	124.5%
<b>Fort McMurray</b>	
2012 total population	72,944
Growth between 2007 and 2012	11.5%
Average annual growth rate between 2000 and 2012	4.6%
Overall growth since 2000	71.2%
<b>Project Accommodation (Work Camps)</b>	
2012 total population	39,271
Average annual growth rate between 2000 and 2012	17.1%
<b>Rural Hamlets and Hinterland</b>	
2012 total population	4,192
Average annual growth rate between 2000 and 2012	1.9%

*Note: Average annual growth rate was calculated on a compound basis*

The overall population of the Municipality increased by 14.5%, from 104,338 in 2010 to 116,407 in 2012. The outcome of the Municipal Census 2012 (at 95.5% completion rate) shows that 62.7% (72,944) of respondents live within the Urban Service Area (USA); 3.6% (4,192) reside in the Rural Service Areas (RSA); and the remaining 33.7% (39,271) are located in project accommodations.

**Table 2: Population count for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**

	2010 Municipal Census <sup>1</sup>	2011 Federal Census <sup>2</sup>	2012 Municipal Census <sup>3</sup> (extrapolated to a 95.5% completion rate)	2012 Municipal Census (extrapolated to a 100% completion rate)
Urban Service Area <sup>4</sup>	76,797	61,374	72,944	76,009
Rural Service Area <sup>5</sup>	4,216	4,191	4,192	4,216
Project Accommodations <sup>6</sup>	23,325	N/A	39,271	39,271
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,338</b>	<b>65,565</b>	<b>116,407</b>	<b>119,496</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Municipal Census 2010, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

<sup>2</sup> Source: 2011 Census of Canada, Population and Dwelling Release, February 08, 2012. Note: First Nations Reserve population has been excluded from the count.

<sup>3</sup> The figures in this column represents the total population when the census results were extrapolated at 1% as required by the Alberta Municipal Affairs. The preliminary sub-total population numbers for the Urban and Rural Service Areas may not reflect those previously reported due to the redistribution of population. For example, the campgrounds' population has been split to properly reflect their geographic location in the Urban (125) and Rural Service Areas (525); the community of Grayling Terrace (335) has been included within the neighbourhood of Abasand Heights (4,763); and the community of Draper (197) has been reallocated from the Urban to Rural Service Area. The total population of the Municipality remains unchanged (116,407).

<sup>4</sup> Urban Service Area (Fort McMurray): Abasand Heights, Beacon Hill, Gregoire, Lower Townsite, Thickwood Heights, Timberlea, Waterways, hotels/motels, care facilities, and urban campgrounds.

<sup>5</sup> Rural Service Area: Anzac, Conklin, Draper, Fort Chipewyan, Fort Fitzgerald, Fort Mackay, Gregoire Lake Estates, Janvier, Saprae Creek Estates, and rural campgrounds.

<sup>6</sup> Project Accommodations: Work camps and work campgrounds

<sup>7</sup> The figures in this column represents the total population if full coverage (at 100%) of the population were achieved during the census. This figure may be adopted to plan for services.

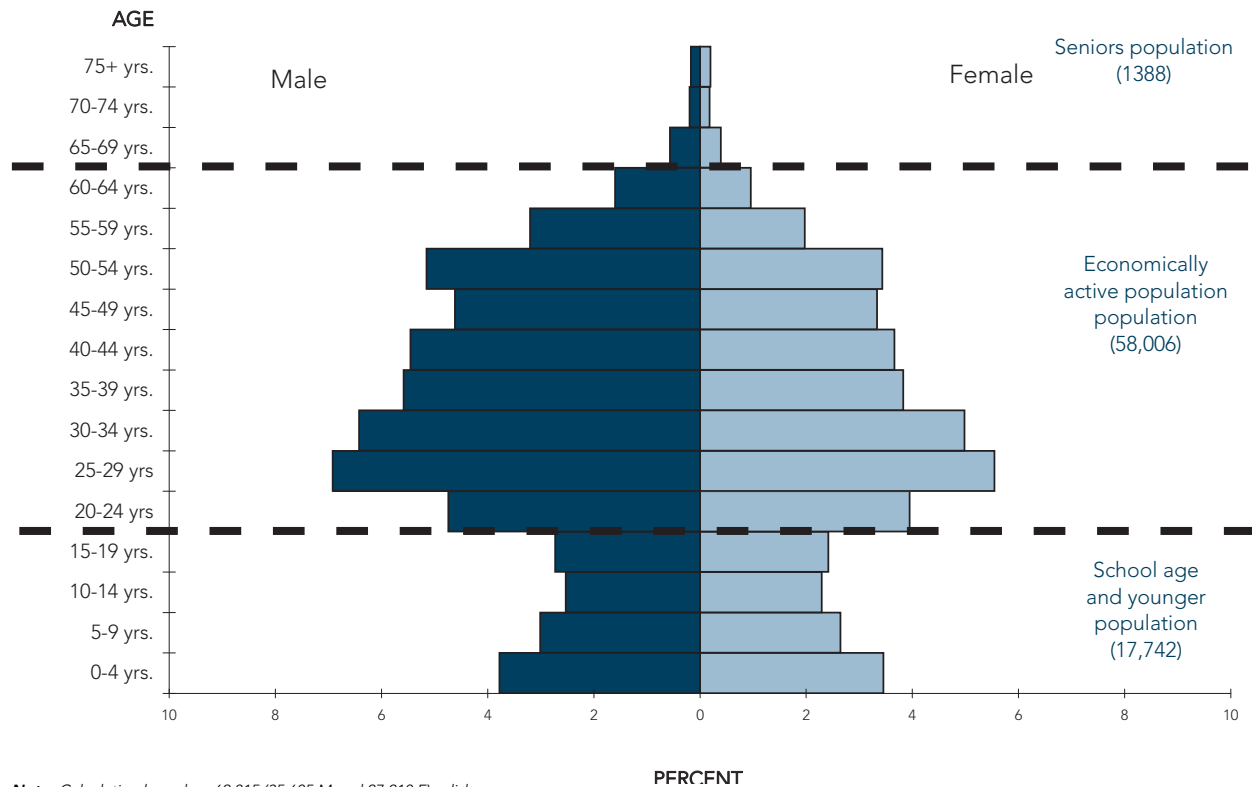
## Housing

The census covered 27,518 dwelling units. Single-detached homes are the most common in our community, at 73.3% in the Urban Service Area and 47.4% for the Rural Service Area. This is followed by apartments in the Urban Service Area at 27.7%. However, in the Rural Service Area, the next category is manufactured homes at 20.0%.

## Regional Demographic Profile

The census continues to record there are more males than females in our region. The gender gap remains relatively stable with 57.0% males and 43.0% females. The age structure of the population remains relatively constant with the outcomes of the Municipal Census 2010. The region continues to attract an economically active population with most residents in the region between ages 20 to 54 years (67.5%). The population of this age group increased by 3.7% from 2005. The proportion of seniors (65 years of age and older) increased by 55% from an estimated total of 896 in 2005 to 1,388 in 2012.

**Figure 1: Age and gender pyramid for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**

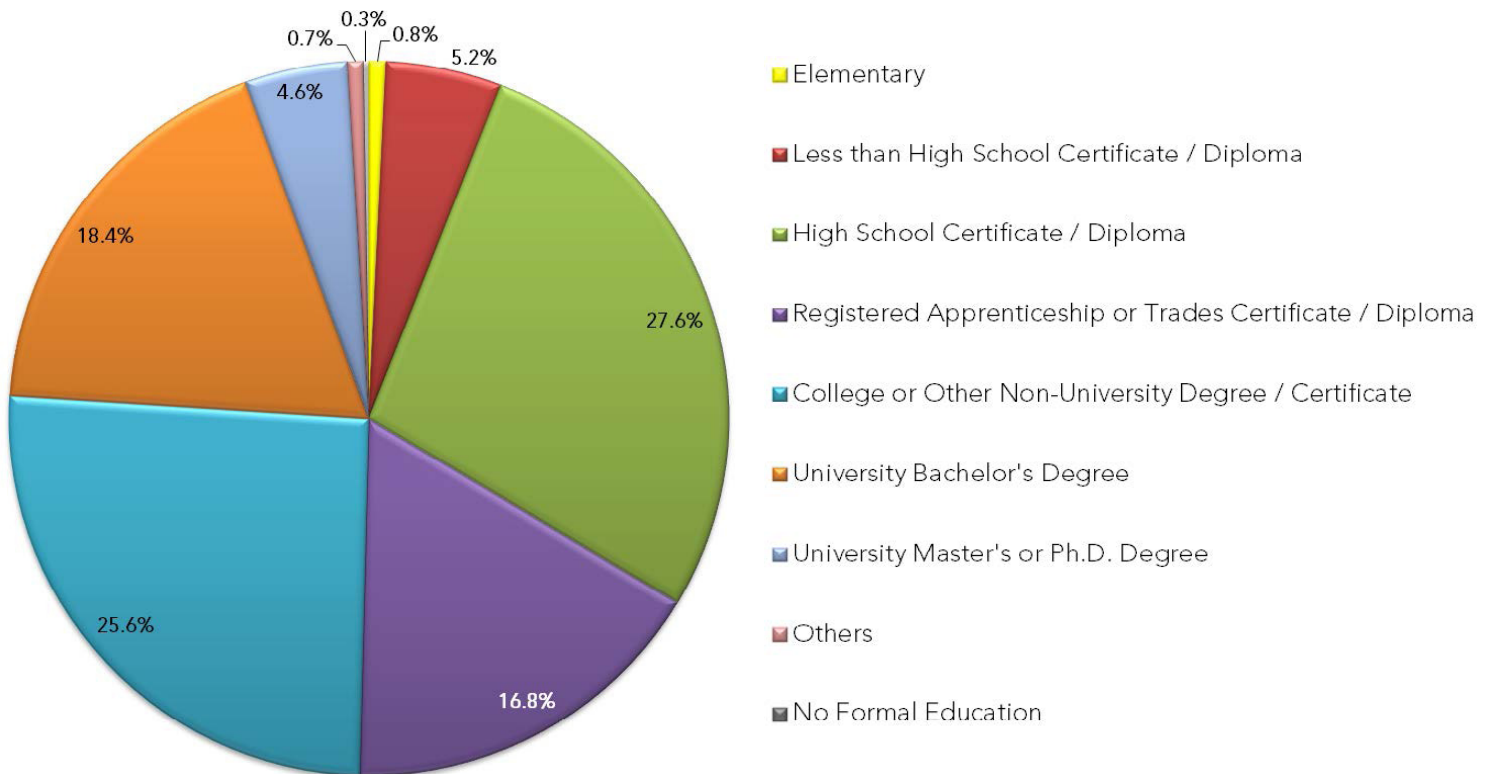




## Education

For respondents aged 20 and over, the majority of respondents have a high school diploma or higher education (93.7%). Approximately 23.0% have a bachelor's degree or higher degrees. Holders of a registered apprenticeship or trade certificate constitute 16.8% of the population. Figure 2 provides a percentage distribution of the population by level of education attained.

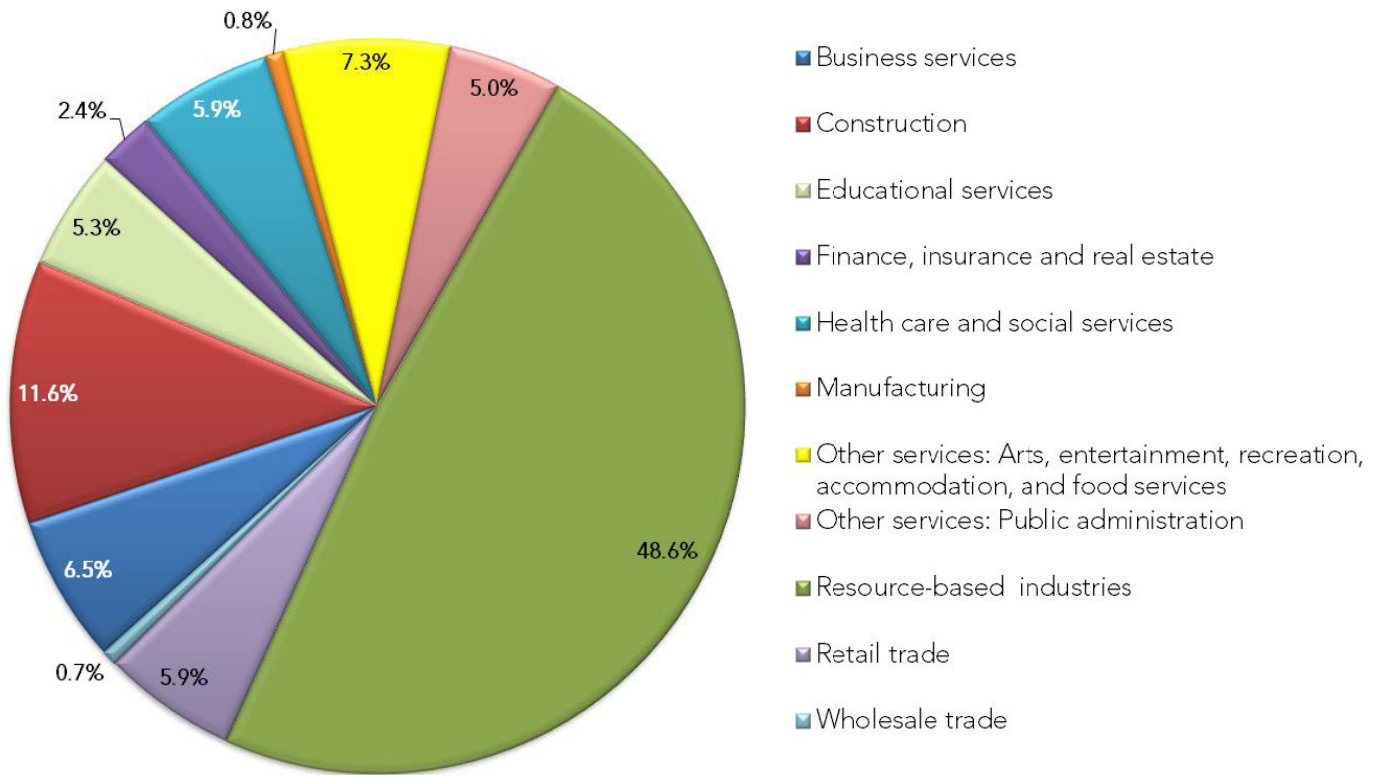
**Figure 2: Percentage of the population by level of education attained in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**



## Employment

A very high percentage of the adult working population is employed (82.7%). Almost half (48.6%) of this population is engaged in resource based industries, followed by employment in the construction industry (11.6%). Figure 3 illustrates the population distribution by industry of employment.

**Figure 3: Percentage of the population employed by industry for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**

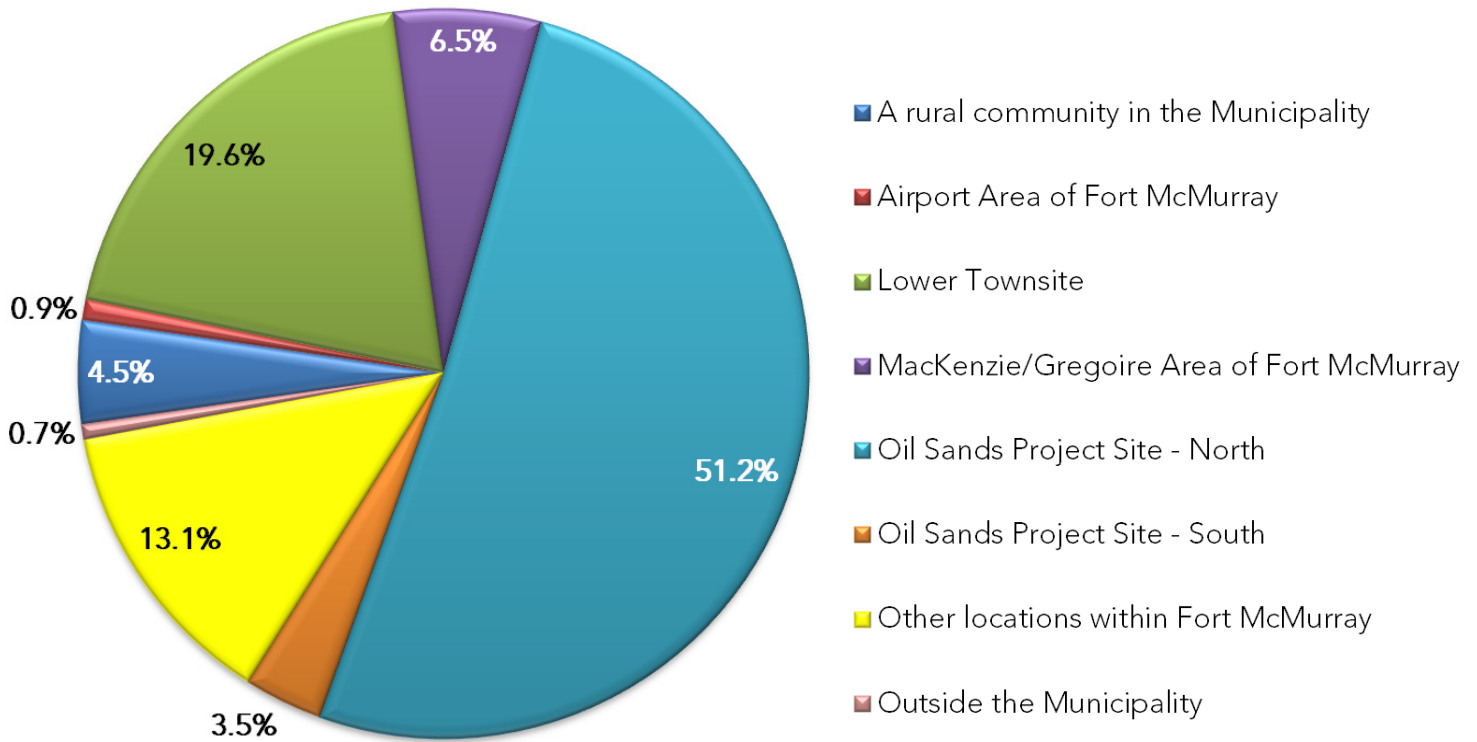




## Employment Location

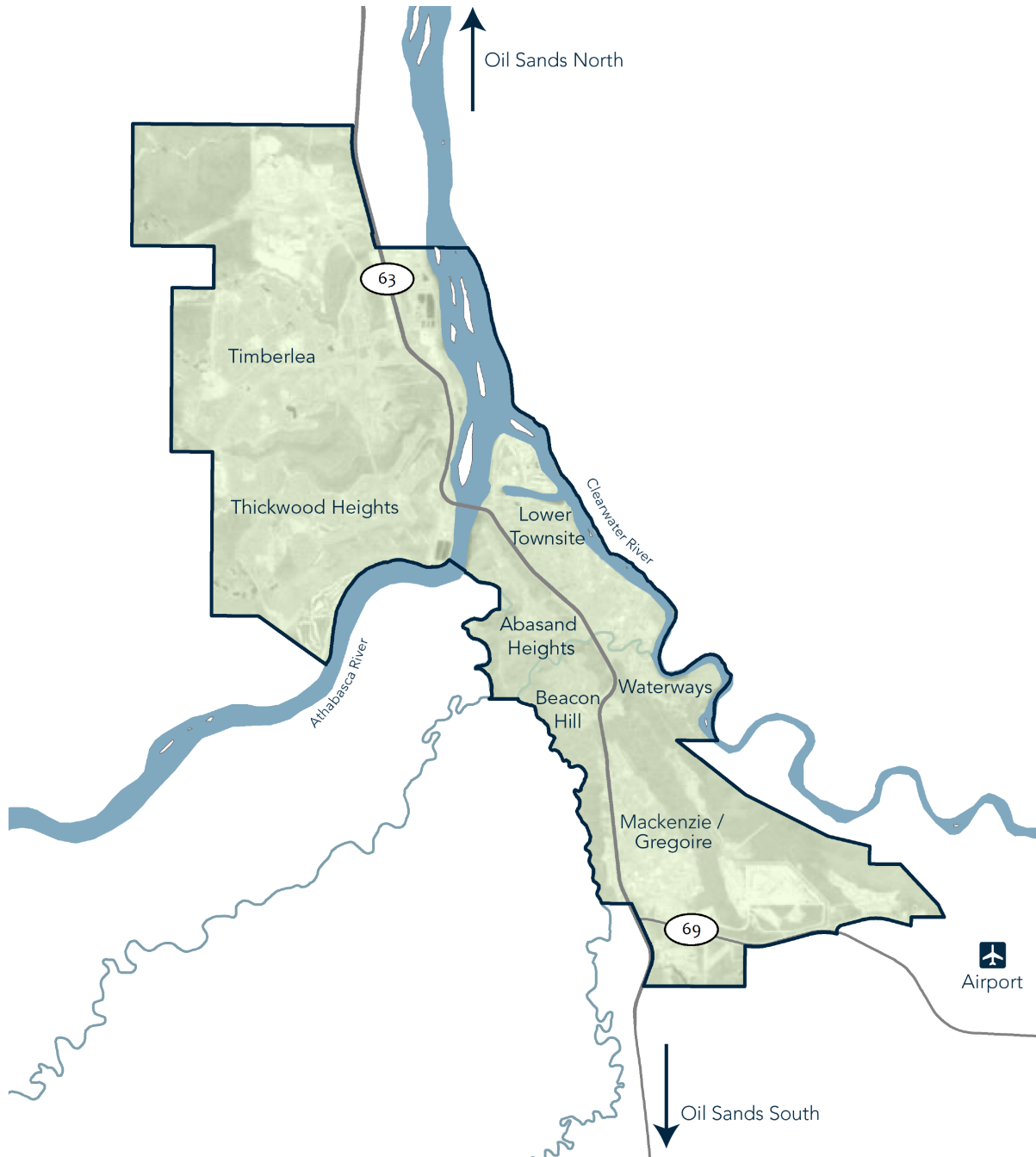
The majority of workers in the Municipality work in oil sands projects north of Fort McMurray (51.2%). Other significant work locations include the Lower Townsite (19.5%). Figure 4 below provides the geographic breakdown.

**Figure 4: Employed population by location of employment for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**





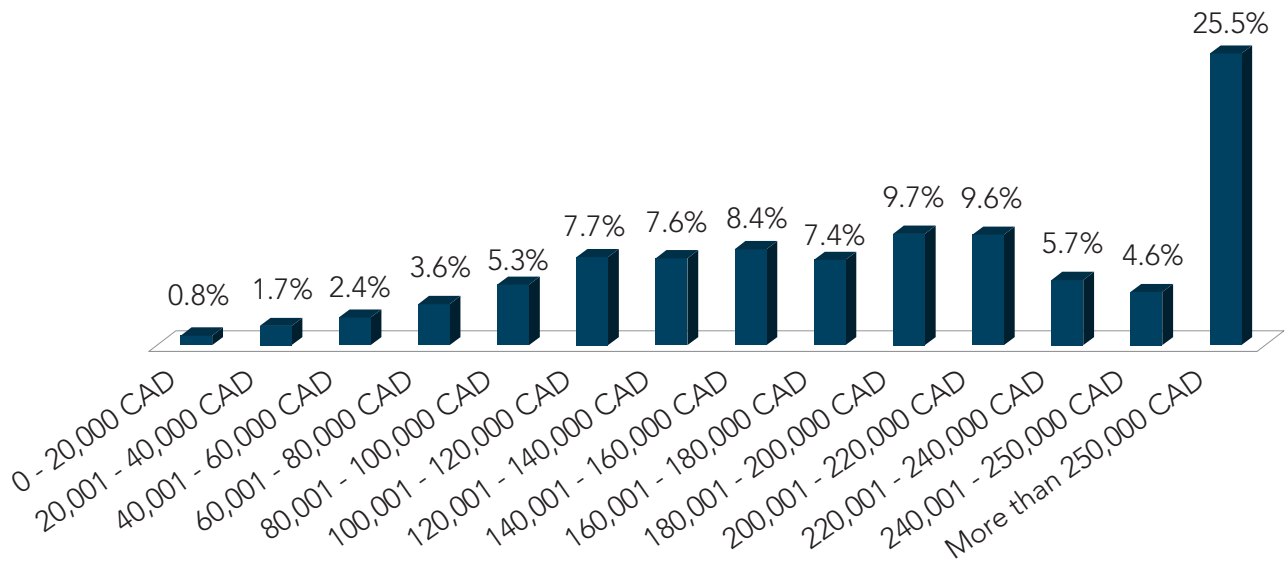
Map 1: Location of Employment



## Household Income

The average household income in the region increased from \$177,634 in 2011 to \$210,852. More than 25% of respondents reported an annual household income of over \$250,000. The median income is \$190,470.

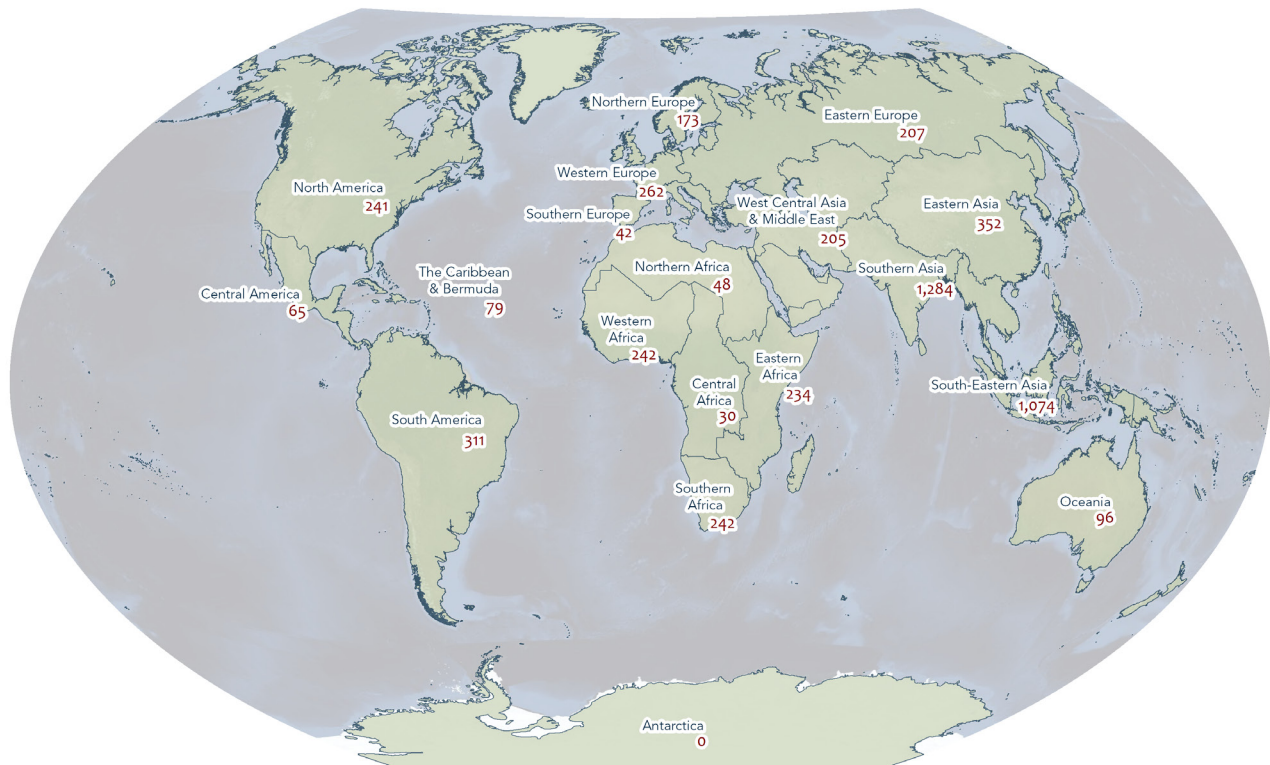
**Figure 5: Percentage of households by income group for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**



## Migration and Diversity

Our region is culturally rich with diverse population groups. In terms of sources of migration, 85.4% identified Canada as their country of origin while 14.6% stated their origin was from another country. Among residents who identified Canada as their country of origin, 56.2% are from Alberta. Other top provinces include Newfoundland and Labrador (15.2%), Ontario (7.8%), and British Columbia (6.5%). Among those who identified other countries of the world as their country of origin, 56.3% are from Asia and the Middle East, 15.4% are from Africa, 13.3% are from the Americas and the Caribbean, 13.1% are from Europe and 1.9% are from Oceania. The following figure provides more details of the percentages of the population by regions of origin.

**Map 2: Population by region of origin in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**

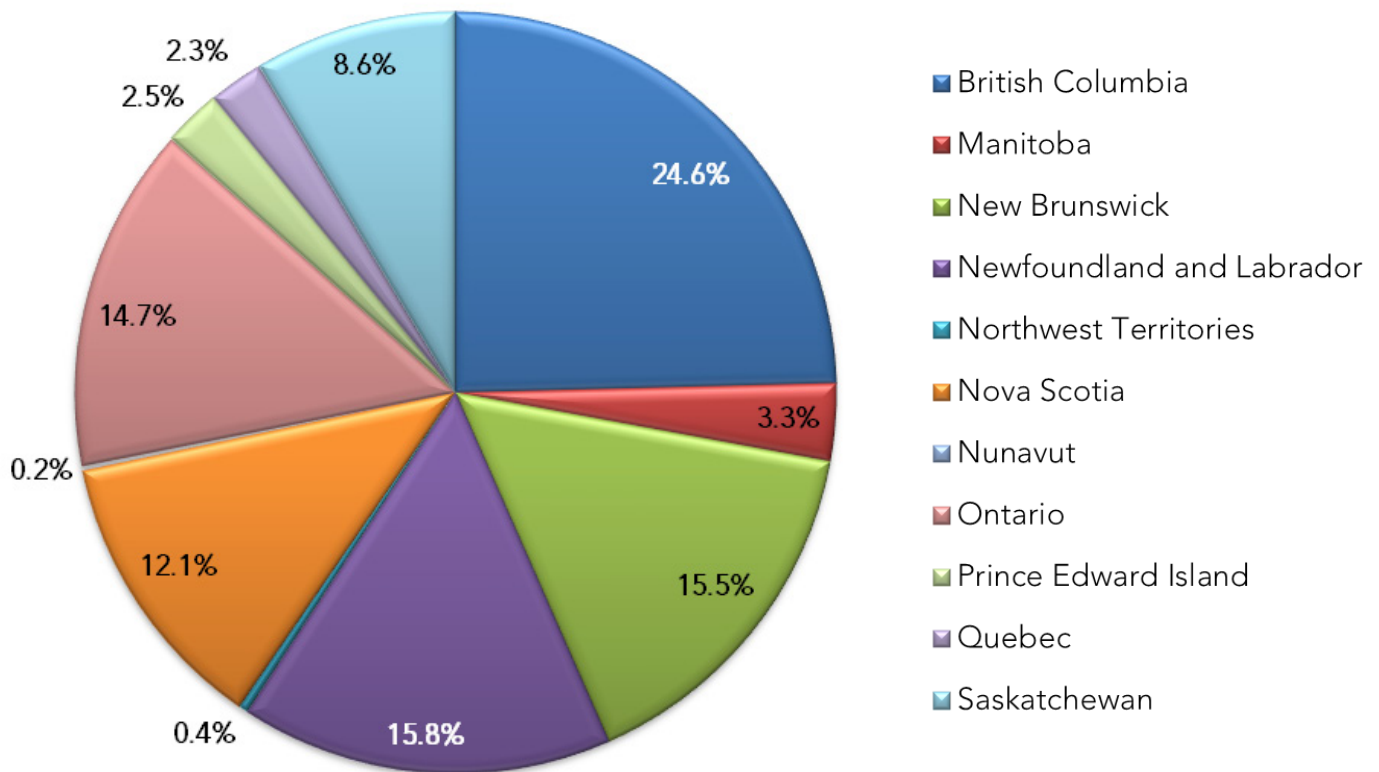


About 10% of respondents moved to the Municipality within the last year; 5.2% of them were from outside of Alberta. English continues to be the primary language spoken in most homes (90.0%). Other top primary languages spoken are French (1.3%), Hindi (1.0%), Chinese (1.0%), and Spanish (0.9%).

## Project Accommodations Demographic Profile

Project accommodations provide temporary lodging for staff working in oil sands and related projects in the region. The residents of project accommodations in the Municipality are unique in gender and other diverse characteristics. They are mostly males (82.9%) between the ages of 25 and 59 years with primary residence outside of Alberta as shown in Figure 7. Forty-three percent are drawn from other cities and municipalities within Alberta. The majority of project accommodations are located north of the Urban Service Area with a total population of 30,323. Project accommodations located to the south of the Urban Service Area have a population of 8,948. It is important to note that census was conducted in a period considered to be low-occupancy season for project accommodation. Occupancy during the winter months is usually higher than total residency recorded in census 2012. The total number of beds approved by the Municipality at the time of census was 82,825.

**Figure 7: Percentage of the sampled population that are residing in project accommodations by province**



A further analysis of census results with focus on neighbourhood profiles is ongoing and will be released at a later date. Requests for further information can be directed to the Socio-Economic Unit, Planning and Development.

### **Contact Information**

Socio-Economic Unit  
Planning and Development  
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo  
9909 Franklin Avenue  
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4  
Telephone: 780-743-7000  
Toll Free: 1-800-973-9663  
Website: [www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca](http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca)