

Strathcona County's Role in the Capital Region

Strathcona County is located in east central Alberta, adjacent to the City of Edmonton. The County is bordered by the North Saskatchewan River to the north, Lamont County and Elk Island National Park to the east and Leduc County and Beaver County to the south. Strathcona County encompasses 1265 square kilometres (488 square miles). At the time of creation of this Bylaw, it is the fourth largest municipality in Alberta in terms of population. In 2005, the total population was 80,232, with 25,169 individuals living in the Rural Service Area and 55,063 individuals residing in the Urban Service Area of Sherwood Park.

Strathcona County is an autonomous part of the Capital Region and will continue to accept its share of the growth which is shaping the physical and economic future of central Alberta. Strathcona County's goals within the Capital Region include maintaining effective working relationships with the Federal and Provincial governments, as well as neighbouring municipalities. The County will continue to play a leadership role relative to regional undertakings such as the Beaver Hills Initiative, the River Valley Alliance and heavy industrial risk management.

Strathcona County Today

The population of Strathcona County grew by almost 35% from 1991 to 2005. Along with the progressive filling in of Sherwood Park, the other dominant form of residential growth has been country residential development.

The Sherwood Park Urban Service Area, as identified at the time of writing this document, is projected to be fully built out by 2014. This will increase pressure on not only the rural environment, but also for the community to continue to provide further opportunities for urban development over the next several generations.

Shifts in Population in Strathcona County 1961 – 2005

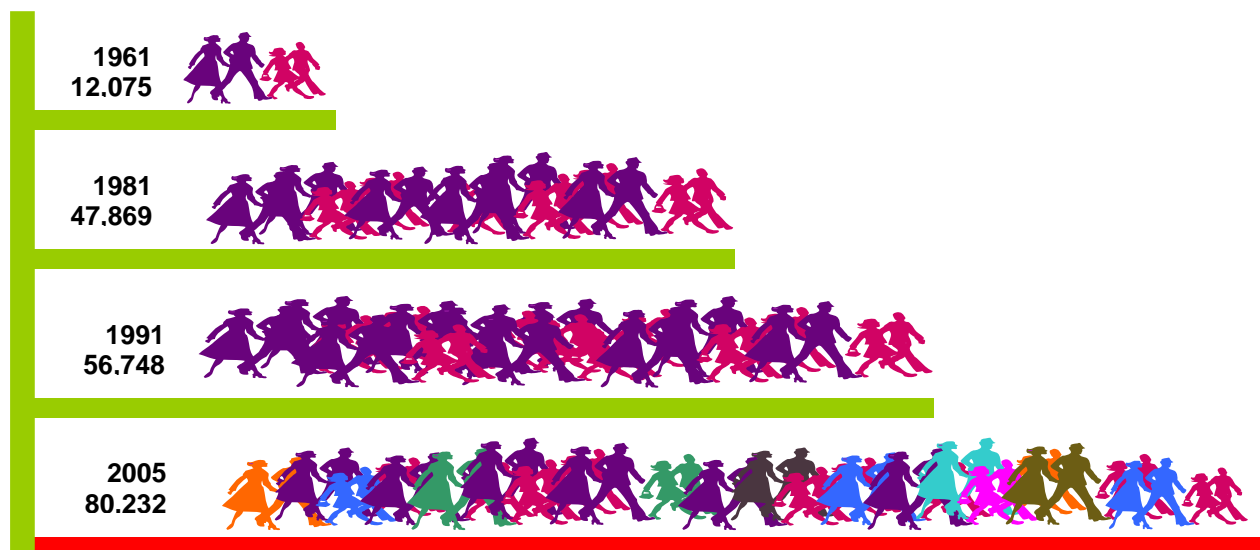


Figure 1: Shifts in Population in Strathcona County 1961-2005 (Source: Federal and Municipal Census)

Population Projection

Strathcona County's population within the urban service area is forecast to increase substantially for the rest of the decade and continue to increase at a rate of 2-3% each year for the next 15 years. Within the Rural Service Area, the population is forecast to increase at a lower rate of 1-2% each year for the next 15 years. By 2026, it is estimated that the total population of Strathcona County will be over 130,000.

Strathcona County Population Projections and Population Trends (2001 – 2026)

YEAR	Urban Service Area Population	Percent increase (from previous year)	Rural Strathcona County Population	Percent increase (from previous year)	Total Strathcona County Population	Percent increase (from previous year)
2001**	47,645		24,314		71,986	
2002	49,562	4.0%	24,134	-0.9%	73,696	2.4%
2003*	51,544	4.0%	24,405	1.1%	75,949	3.1%
2004	53,827	4.4%	25,070	2.7%	78,897	3.9%
2005*	55,063	2.3%	25,169	0.4%	80,232	1.7%
2006	57,641	4.7%	25,759	2.3%	83,400	3.9%
2007	60,449	4.9%	26,335	2.2%	86,784	4.1%
2008	62,975	4.2%	26,912	2.2%	89,887	3.6%
2009	65,221	3.6%	27,488	2.1%	92,709	3.1%
2010	67,467	3.4%	28,065	2.1%	95,532	3.0%
2011	69,712	3.3%	28,641	2.1%	98,354	3.0%
2012	71,678	2.8%	29,218	2.0%	100,895	2.6%
2013	73,643	2.7%	29,794	2.0%	103,437	2.5%
2014	75,608	2.7%	30,371	1.9%	105,979	2.5%
2015	77,573	2.6%	30,947	1.9%	108,520	2.4%
2016	79,538	2.5%	31,524	1.9%	111,062	2.3%
2017	81,503	2.5%	32,101	1.8%	113,603	2.3%
2018	83,468	2.4%	32,677	1.8%	116,145	2.2%
2019	85,433	2.4%	33,254	1.8%	118,687	2.2%
2020	87,398	2.3%	33,830	1.7%	121,228	2.1%
2021	89,363	2.2%	34,407	1.7%	123,770	2.1%
2022	91,328	2.2%	34,983	1.7%	126,311	2.1%
2023	93,293	2.2%	35,560	1.6%	128,853	2.0%
2024	95,258	2.1%	36,136	1.6%	131,395	2.0%
2025	97,223	2.1%	36,713	1.6%	133,936	1.9%
2026	99,189	2.0%	37,289	1.6%	136,478	1.9%

Figure 2: Strathcona County Population Projections and Population Trends (2001 – 2026)

Notes:

1. The numbers reported for 2003 & 2005 are actual counts based on data collected from the Strathcona County Municipal Census (based on the official population May 1st).
2. The numbers reported for 2001 are actual counts based on data collected from the Federal Census by Statistics Canada (based on the official population June 1st).
3. The population numbers for 2002 and 2004 are estimates based on average growth between the municipal census years.
4. Population projections for 2006 through 2026 are based on occupied dwellings and applying persons per dwelling unit factor of 2.85 in the urban area and 2.99 in the rural area. This unit factor remains constant for each consecutive year of the projection.
5. Projection numbers for the Urban Service Area are based on the assumption that a new urban service area will be built once Sherwood Park is full. It is estimated that Sherwood Park has a capacity of 75,000 people, which means that it will reach capacity by 2014.

Age

The age gender distribution of Strathcona County indicates that nearly 50% of residents are within the ages of 25-54. This age cohort also represents the majority of the working population. Within the rural area, it can be seen that there is a smaller percentage of residents between the ages of 20-34, as individuals move to urban areas for employment or educational opportunities.

Although the average age in Strathcona County is 36.2 years, there has been a significant increase among adults aged 55 and older within the past 10 years. The majority of adults over the age of 55 reside, or have relocated to, the Urban Service Area of Sherwood Park.

Age Breakdowns by Gender – Sherwood Park

Age Groups	Sherwood Park		Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-9	6,843	12.6%	3,545	13.3%	3,298	11.9%
10-14	4,219	7.8%	2,122	7.9%	2,097	7.6%
15-19	4,387	8.1%	2,214	8.3%	2,173	7.9%
20-24	3,411	6.3%	1,804	6.8%	1,607	5.8%
25-34	6,543	12.0%	3,126	11.7%	3,417	12.4%
35-44	8,813	16.2%	4,221	15.8%	4,592	16.6%
45-54	8,703	16.0%	4,274	16.0%	4,429	16.0%
55-64	6,495	12.0%	3,224	12.1%	3,271	11.8%
65-74	2,890	5.3%	1,403	5.3%	1,487	5.4%
75+	2,014	3.7%	775	2.9%	1,239	4.5%
Total	54,318	100.0%	26,708	100.0%	27,610	100.0%

Figure 3: Age Breakdowns by Gender – Sherwood Park (Source: 2005 Strathcona County Municipal Census)

Age Breakdowns by Gender – Rural Strathcona

Age Groups	Rural Strathcona		Males		Females	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-9	2,716	10.9%	1,388	10.9%	1,328	11.0%
10-14	2,144	8.6%	1,130	8.8%	1,014	8.4%
15-19	2,286	9.2%	1,175	9.2%	1,111	9.2%
20-24	1,381	5.5%	720	5.6%	661	5.5%
25-34	1,921	7.7%	942	7.4%	979	8.1%
35-44	4,332	17.4%	2,054	16.1%	2,278	18.8%
45-54	4,908	19.7%	2,560	20.0%	2,348	19.4%
55-64	3,220	12.9%	1,687	13.2%	1,533	12.6%
65-74	1,385	5.6%	786	6.2%	599	4.9%
75+	608	2.4%	333	2.6%	275	2.3%
Total	24,901	100.0%	12,775	100.0%	12,126	100.0%

Figure 4: Age Breakdowns by Gender – Rural Strathcona (Source: 2005 Strathcona County Municipal Census)

Education

Education plays an important role in the social, cultural, political and economic success of individuals and communities. Strathcona County is home to a satellite campus of Lakeland College and is located adjacent to the City of Edmonton, where a number of post secondary institutions, such as the University of Alberta, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and Grant MacEwan Community College are located.

The majority of Strathcona County residents have obtained further education after completing high school. Almost 55% of residents over the age of 20 are university, trades or college graduates.

Highest Level of Schooling of Strathcona County Residents Aged 20 or Older

	N	%
All residents aged 20 or older	49170	
Less than grade 9	1370	2.8%
Less than Grade 12	7795	15.9%
High School Graduate	5945	12.1%
Trades or College graduate	18070	36.8%
Some college courses	3405	6.9%
Some University	3730	7.6%
University Graduate	8855	18.0%

Figure 5: Highest Level of Schooling of Strathcona County Residents Aged 20 or Older (Source: 2001 Federal Census)

Income

The majority of residents in Strathcona County derive their income from wages, salaries and self-employment, as opposed to other sources of income, such as pension plans, employment insurance, social assistance and workers' compensation.

The average household income of residents in Strathcona County is generally, higher than that of Canada and Alberta. Over 25% of households have an income of \$100,000 or more, and over 50% of households have an income of \$70,000 or more. Although the average household income is relatively high in Strathcona County, low income households do exist. Nearly 25% of all one person households, earn between \$10,000 and \$20,000 per year.

All Private Household Income in Strathcona County (Total Number of households = 23,890)

Under \$10,000	1.9%
\$ 10,000 - \$19,999	4.2%
\$ 20,000 - \$29,999	5.8%
\$ 30,000 - \$39,999	6.0%
\$ 40,000 - \$49,999	8.1%
\$ 50,000 - \$59,999	9.6%
\$ 60,000 - \$69,999	10.1%
\$ 70,000 - \$79,999	8.9%
\$ 80,000 - \$89,999	9.1%
\$ 90,000 - \$99,999	8.6%
\$100,000 and over	27.6%

Figure 6: Household Incomes (Source: 2001 Federal Census)

All One-Person Households Incomes (Total Number of households = 2,740)

Under \$10,000	7.1%
\$ 10,000 - \$19,999	23.5%
\$ 20,000 - \$29,999	15.5%
\$ 30,000 - \$39,999	12.4%
\$ 40,000 - \$49,999	12.0%
\$ 50,000 - \$59,999	9.7%
\$ 60,000 - \$69,999	9.5%
\$ 70,000 - \$79,999	3.6%
\$ 80,000 - \$89,999	2.2%
\$ 90,000 - \$99,999	1.5%
\$100,000 and over	3.1%

Figure 7: All One-Person Households Incomes (Source: 2001 Federal Census)

Couples Incomes
(Total Number of households = 18,990)

Under \$10,000	1.0%
\$ 10,000 - \$19,999	1.3%
\$ 20,000 - \$29,999	4.2%
\$ 30,000 - \$39,999	4.9%
\$ 40,000 - \$49,999	6.8%
\$ 50,000 - \$59,999	9.1%
\$ 60,000 - \$69,999	10.0%
\$ 70,000 - \$79,999	9.7%
\$ 80,000 - \$89,999	10.6%
\$ 90,000 - \$99,999	10.2%
\$100,000 and over	32.2%

Figure 8: Couples Incomes (Source: 2001 Federal Census)

Note: "One-person households" and the "couple households" are subsets of the "all private households" data and are not additional households in Strathcona County.

Housing

The majority of housing in Strathcona County can be classified as single detached dwellings. There are very few apartments, duplexes or townhouse developments within the County. Of those that do exist, the majority are located within the urban service area of Sherwood Park.

Current Housing Inventory within Strathcona County

	Total Strathcona County		Sherwood Park		Rural Strathcona	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Single Detached	24,915	85.6%	16,299	80.8%	8,616	96.4%
Row House	1,284	4.4%	1,284	6.4%	0	---
Apartment	828	2.8%	820	4.1%	8	0.1%
Manufactured Homes	774	2.7%	575	2.8%	199	2.2%
Duplex	1,096	3.8%	1,091	5.4%	5	0.1%
Other Movable Dwellings	96	0.3%	2	---	94	1.1%
Collective Dwellings¹	91	0.3%	86	0.4%	5	0.1%
Suite in Single Detached	24	0.1%	16	0.1%	8	0.1%
Attached to non-Residential Structure	9	---	4	---	5	0.1%
Total Number of Dwellings	29,117	100.0%	20,177	100.0%	8,940	100.0%

Figure 9: Current Housing Inventory within Strathcona County (Source: 2005 Municipal Census)

Note: "N" refers to the Number of Dwellings available for habitation. Collective dwellings include structures such as nursing homes, senior citizen homes, Hutterite colonies and homes for physically and developmentally challenged people.

Employment

Residents of Alberta and Strathcona County are employed in a variety of industries, including oil and gas, agriculture, government and commercial services. Although the majority of residents in Alberta are employed within the retail industry, there has been a significant increase in the number of individuals employed within public administration, utilities and the oil and gas sector, in the past year. The majority of residents within Strathcona County are employed within the manufacturing, retail and health care/social assistance professions.

Employment Patterns of Strathcona County Residents Aged 15 or Older

	N	%
All industries	42,455	76.1%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1,140	2.7%
Mining and oil and gas extraction	1,035	2.4%
Utilities	450	1.1%
Construction	3,595	8.5%
Manufacturing	4,310	10.2%
Wholesale trade	2,065	4.9%
Retail trade	4,265	10.0%
Transportation and warehousing	2,105	5.0%
Information and cultural industries	1,060	2.5%
Finance and insurance	1,715	4.0%
Real estate and rental and leasing	960	2.3%
Professional, scientific and technical services	3,060	7.2%
Management of companies and enterprises	35	0.1%
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	1,260	3.0%
Educational services	3,410	8.0%
Health care and social assistance	4,110	9.7%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	840	2.0%
Accommodation and food services	2,120	5.0%
Other services (except public administration)	2,125	5.0%
Public administration	2,805	6.6%

Figure 10: Employment Patterns of Strathcona County Residents Aged 15 or Older (Source: 2001 Federal Census)