

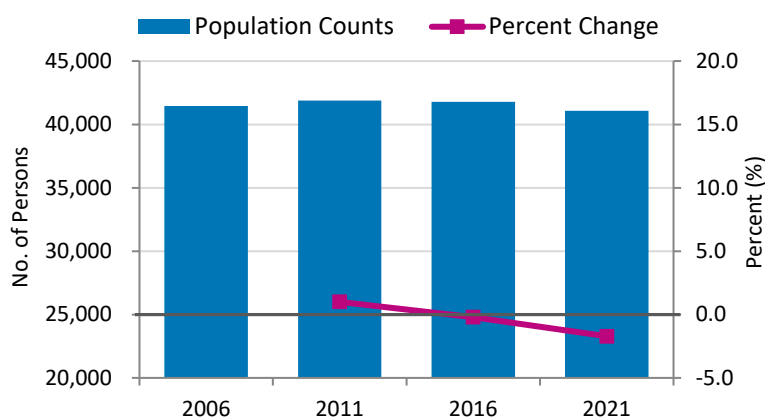
2021 Census Population and Dwelling Counts

Every five years, Statistics Canada conducts a national Census that counts the number of persons living in Canada at a particular point in time and collects information to get a complete picture of Canadians. Population and dwelling counts are the first release from the 2021 Census of population.

Overall Canada’s response rate for 2021 Census of Population collection was 98.0%. The Northwest Territories had 93.7% response rate, the second lowest after Nunavut (90.1%). Restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic posed some challenges for Statistics Canada in collecting data in the territory.

Please note that Census population counts released today are point in time counts and are not the same as population estimates¹.

Figure 1 Census Population Counts and Percent Change Northwest Territories

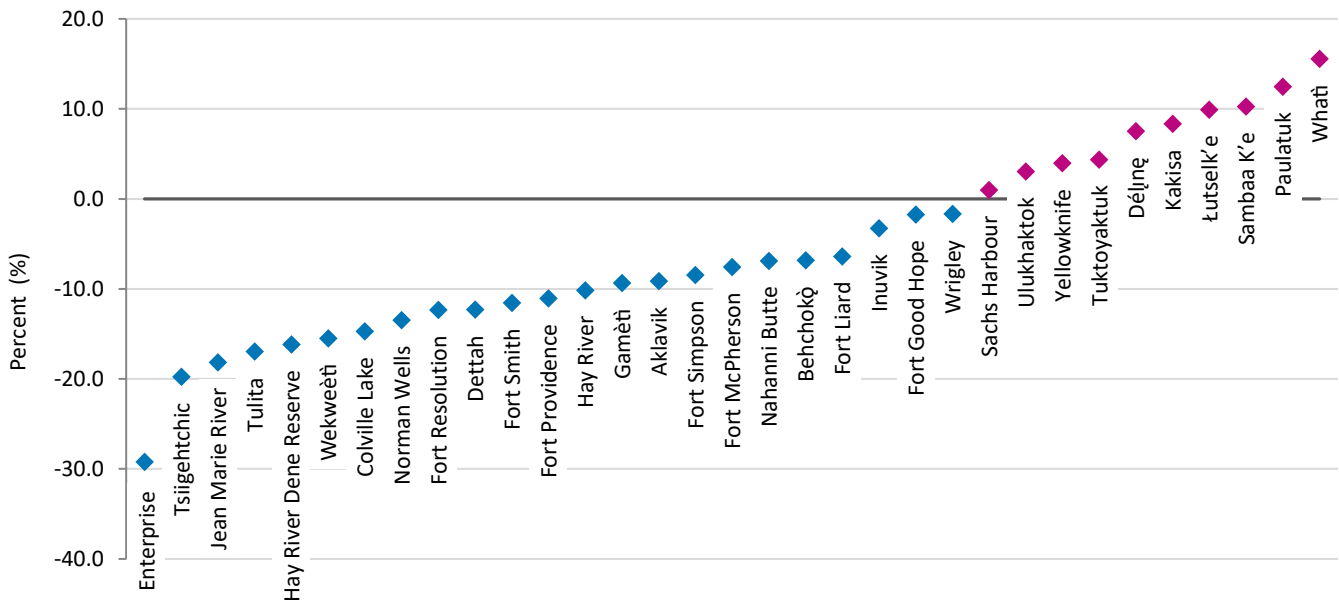


The population count for the Northwest Territories was 41,070 persons at the time of the 2021 Census, a decrease of 1.7% from 2016. By comparison, the population was nearly identical for 2011 and 2016 and grew by 1.0% between 2006 and 2011 (Figure 1).

Compared to 2016, over 70% of the 33 communities in the Northwest Territories experienced population declines, while the rest grew by varying degrees. Figure 2 presents growth rates by community; those with pink markers had positive growth in their populations while those with a decrease in population are in blue. The highest population growth rates occurred for Whatì, Paulatuk, and Sambaa K’e, where the populations increased by 15.5%, 12.5% and 10.2% respectively between 2016 and 2021.

¹ Although the Census of Population tries to enumerate the entire population, inevitably persons and dwellings are missed or counted more than once; coverage studies are conducted by Statistics Canada to estimate the extent of each issue. Population estimates incorporating the 2021 Census and results of coverage studies will be released in September 2023. Census counts themselves will not be adjusted for coverage.

Figure 2 Percent Change in Population by Community between 2016 and 2021 Northwest Territories



Over the past ten years, the proportion of the population living in regional centres compared to smaller communities within a region declined in four out of seven regional centres. Declines were recorded in Norman Wells (-4.1%), Behchokò (-3.8%), Inuvik (-2.0%), and Hay River (-1.6%), while Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Yellowknife saw marginal increases.

In 2021, approximately 50% of the Beaufort Delta population lived in Inuvik, while over 65% of the Tłı̄chų Region lived in Behchokò. The Sahtu region had the lowest proportion of people living in a regional centre with 29.8% living Norman Wells (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Percent of the Population in Regional Centres Northwest Territories, 2021 Census

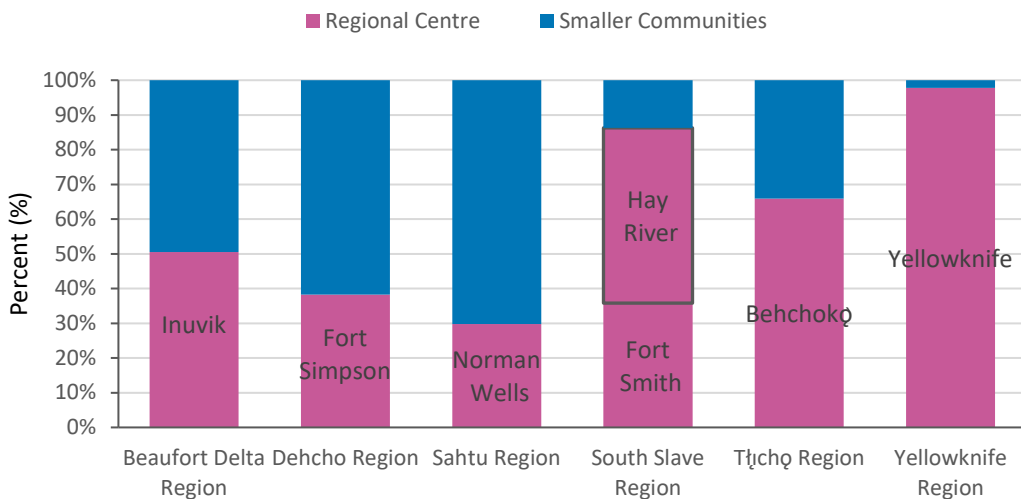
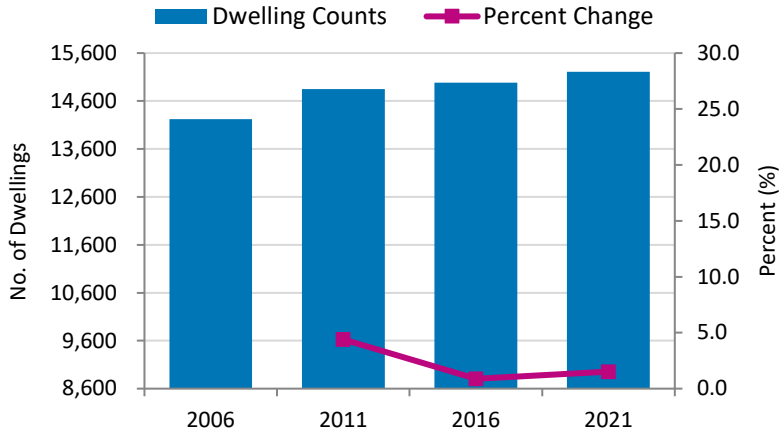


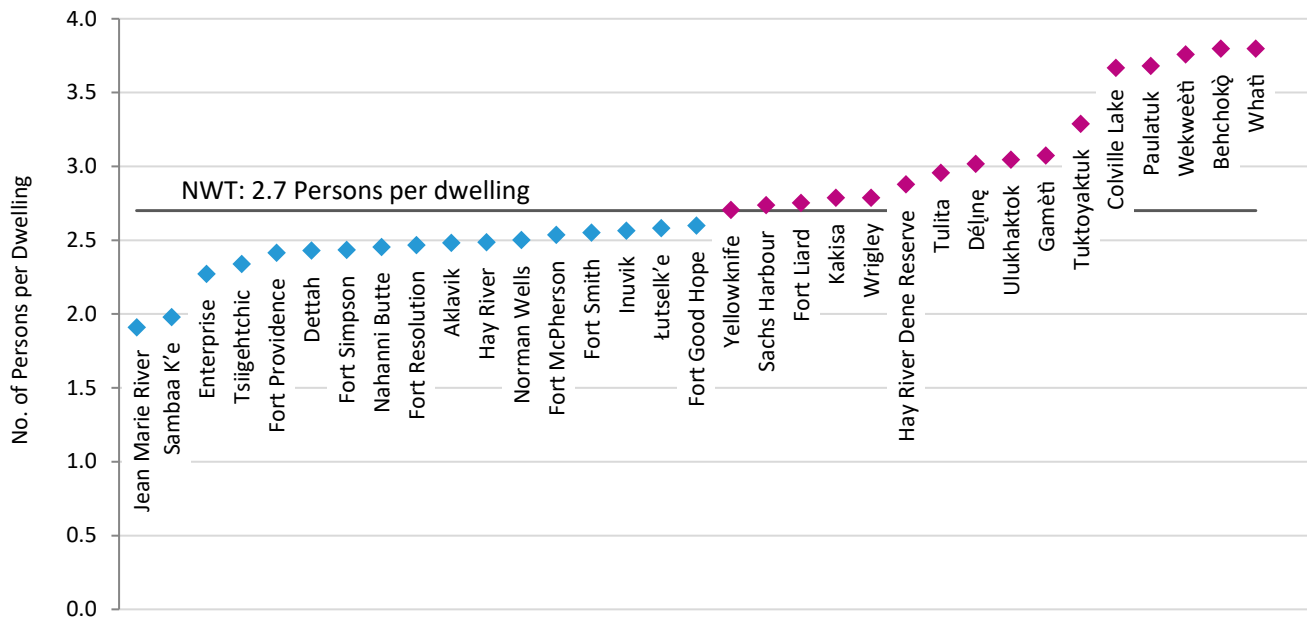
Figure 4 Occupied Private Dwelling Counts and Percent Change Northwest Territories



The number of occupied private dwellings in the Northwest Territories in 2021 was 15,207, an increase of 1.5% compared to 2016 following a 0.9% increase in the previous intercensal period. By comparison, the number of occupied private dwellings increased by 4.4% between 2006 and 2011 (Figure 4).

Even though the NWT population decreased since the last census, the number of occupied private dwellings increased resulting in a decrease in persons per dwelling from 2.8 in 2016 to 2.7 persons in 2021. Persons per dwelling varies by community; the number of persons per dwelling was generally higher than the NWT average in Tłı̄chǰ and Sahtu communities as indicated by the pink markers (Figure 5).

Figure 5 Number of Persons per Dwelling Northwest Territories, 2021 Census



Nationally, in Canada, the population and dwelling counts increased by 5.2% and 6.4% respectively between 2016 and 2021 Census years. Yukon was the fastest growing jurisdiction with the population growth of 12.1%. Newfoundland and Labrador was the only other jurisdiction besides Northwest Territories that saw their population decrease (-1.8%). The average household size in Nunavut was highest in Canada at 3.7 persons per dwelling.

Table 1: Census Population and Occupied Private Dwelling Counts, by Province and Territory Census Years, 2016 and 2021

	Population Counts			Occupied Private Dwellings			Persons Per Dwelling	
	2021 Census	2016 Census	% Change	2021 Census	2016 Census	% Change	2021 Census	2016 Census
Canada	36,991,981	35,151,728	5.2	14,978,941	14,072,079	6.4	2.5	2.5
Northwest Territories	41,070	41,786	-1.7	15,207	14,981	1.5	2.7	2.8
Nunavut	36,858	35,944	2.5	9,926	9,819	1.1	3.7	3.7
Yukon	40,232	35,874	12.1	17,181	15,215	12.9	2.3	2.4
British Columbia	5,000,879	4,648,055	7.6	2,041,834	1,881,969	8.5	2.4	2.5
Alberta	4,262,635	4,067,175	4.8	1,633,220	1,527,678	6.9	2.6	2.7
Saskatchewan	1,132,505	1,098,352	3.1	449,581	432,622	3.9	2.5	2.5
Manitoba	1,342,153	1,278,365	5.0	518,054	489,050	5.9	2.6	2.6
Ontario	14,223,942	13,448,494	5.8	5,491,201	5,169,174	6.2	2.6	2.6
Quebec	8,501,833	8,164,361	4.1	3,749,035	3,531,663	6.2	2.3	2.3
New Brunswick	775,610	747,101	3.8	337,651	319,773	5.6	2.3	2.3
Nova Scotia	969,383	923,598	5.0	428,228	401,990	6.5	2.3	2.3
Prince Edward Island	154,331	142,907	8.0	64,570	59,472	8.6	2.4	2.4
Newfoundland & Labrador	510,550	519,716	-1.8	223,253	218,673	2.1	2.3	2.4

Table 2: Population and Occupied Private Dwelling Counts, by Community and Region
Northwest Territories, Census Years 2016 and 2021

	Population Count			Dwelling Count			Persons Per Dwelling	
	2021 Census	2016 Census	% Change	2021 Census	2016 Census	% Change	2021 Census	2016 Census
Northwest Territories	41,070	41,786	-1.7	15,207	14,981	1.5	2.7	2.8
Beaufort Delta Region	6,205	6,372	-2.6	2,291	2,248	1.9	2.7	2.8
Aklavik	536	590	-9.2	216	214	0.9	2.5	2.8
Fort McPherson	647	700	-7.6	255	270	-5.6	2.5	2.6
Inuvik	3,137	3,243	-3.3	1,223	1,181	3.6	2.6	2.7
Paulatuk	298	265	12.5	81	88	-8.0	3.7	3.0
Sachs Harbour	104	103	1.0	38	39	-2.6	2.7	2.6
Tsiigehtchic	138	172	-19.8	59	62	-4.8	2.3	2.8
Tuktoyaktuk	937	898	4.3	285	268	6.3	3.3	3.4
Ulukhaktok	408	396	3.0	134	125	7.2	3.0	3.2
Region 1, Unorganized	-	5	-100.0	-	1	-100.0	...	5.0
Dehcho Region	2,872	3,160	-9.1	1,152	1,138	1.2	2.5	2.8
Fort Liard	468	500	-6.4	170	164	3.7	2.8	3.0
Fort Providence	618	695	-11.1	256	247	3.6	2.4	2.8
Fort Simpson	1,100	1,202	-8.5	452	471	-4.0	2.4	2.6
Hay River Dene Reserve	259	309	-16.2	90	87	3.4	2.9	3.6
Jean Marie River	63	77	-18.2	33	23	43.5	1.9	3.3
Kakisa	39	36	8.3	14	12	16.7	2.8	3.0
Nahanni Butte	81	87	-6.9	33	34	-2.9	2.5	2.6
Sambaa K'e	97	88	10.2	49	32	53.1	2.0	2.8
Wrigley	117	119	-1.7	42	45	-6.7	2.8	2.6
Region 4, Unorganized	30	47	-36.2	13	23	-43.5	2.3	2.0
Sahtu Region	2,259	2,433	-7.2	818	858	-4.7	2.8	2.8
Colville Lake	110	129	-14.7	30	37	-18.9	3.7	3.5
Délnę	573	533	7.5	190	188	1.1	3.0	2.8
Fort Good Hope	507	516	-1.7	195	165	18.2	2.6	3.1
Norman Wells	673	778	-13.5	269	314	-14.3	2.5	2.5
Tulita	396	477	-17.0	134	154	-13.0	3.0	3.1
Region 2, Unorganized	-	-	...	-	-
South Slave Region	6,279	6,980	-10.0	2,502	2,692	-7.1	2.5	2.6
Enterprise	75	106	-29.2	33	44	-25.0	2.3	2.4
Fort Resolution	412	470	-12.3	167	190	-12.1	2.5	2.5
Fort Smith	2,248	2,542	-11.6	881	957	-7.9	2.6	2.7
Hay River	3,169	3,528	-10.2	1,274	1,383	-7.9	2.5	2.6
Łutselk'e	333	303	9.9	129	110	17.3	2.6	2.8
Reliance	-	-	...	-	1	-100.0	...	-
Salt Plains 195	5	-	...	4	1	300.0	1.3	-
Region 5, Unorganized	37	31	19.4	14	6	133.3	2.6	5.2
Tłı̄chǫ Region	2,650	2,751	-3.7	714	705	1.3	3.7	3.9
Behchokǫ	1,746	1,874	-6.8	460	471	-2.3	3.8	4.0
Gamèti	252	278	-9.4	82	76	7.9	3.1	3.7
Wekweèti	109	129	-15.5	29	30	-3.3	3.8	4.3
Whati	543	470	15.5	143	128	11.7	3.8	3.7
Region 3, Unorganized	-	-	...	-	-
Yellowknife Region	20,805	20,090	3.6	7,730	7,340	5.3	2.7	2.7
Dettah	192	219	-12.3	79	74	6.8	2.4	3.0
Yellowknife	20,340	19,569	3.9	7,519	7,131	5.4	2.7	2.7
Region 6, Unorganized	273	302	-9.6	132	135	-2.2	2.1	2.2

Note: Yellowknife includes Ndilo

There will be several releases of the results from 2021 Census of Population by topic. Please see a full schedule of upcoming releases below.

Planned Release Dates for 2021 Census Information

February 9, 2022	Population and Dwelling Counts
April 27, 2022	Age Sex at Birth and Gender Type of Dwelling
July 13, 2022	Families, Households, and Marital Status Canadian Military Experience Income
August 17, 2022	Language
September 21, 2022	Indigenous Peoples Housing
October 26, 2022	Immigration, Place of Birth and Citizenship Ethnocultural and Religious Diversity Mobility and Migration
November 30, 2022	Education Labour Language of Work Commuting Instruction in the Official Minority Language

Note: The release dates may change.

For more information, please visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at <http://www.statsnwt.ca> or call (867) 767-9169.