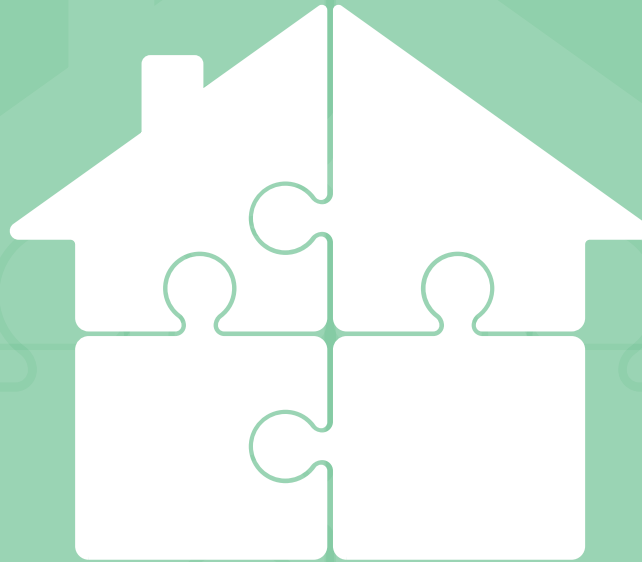




REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



census2018
you made it count

Executive Summary



Census 2018 Overview

Census 2018 was conducted between April 9 and July 31, 2018. It is the first population count conducted following the 2016 Horse River Wildfire. The goal of Census 2018 was to obtain an accurate count of the Municipality's population and housing stock. An accurate population count ensures the Municipality receives an equitable distribution of grants and funds from the federal and provincial governments. The information is also crucial for municipal strategic planning, conducting analyses and making informed decisions. Census 2018 enumerated all dwellings in the municipal dwelling inventory. This is only the second time that a 100% enumeration was achieved.

Census 2018 was conducted in accordance with all provincial census regulations stipulated in the *Determination of Population Regulation* (Alberta Regulation 63/2001) and the Municipal Census Manual. In addition, a rigorous quality assurance protocol was implemented to ensure the census data collected was accurate and complete. Three data collection methods including self (online) enumeration, door-to-door enumeration and telephone or email enumeration were used to enumerate all households and temporary workers' dwellings.

Demographic Overview

The total population of the Municipality is 111,687, which is a 10.67% decrease from the 2015 population. This is the first time in the last two decades the Municipality experienced a population decline. The population is unevenly distributed between the Urban Service Area (USA) of Fort McMurray, nine rural communities and temporary workers' dwellings (work camps). Table 1 provides a breakdown of the permanent and shadow population by area.

Between 2015 and 2018, many areas in the USA and rural communities experienced a decrease in population. The largest decrease occurred in three neighbourhoods that were significantly affected by the 2016 Horse River Wildfire: Abasand (-56.4%), Beacon Hill (-41.9%), and Waterways (-65.2%). An increase in population was observed in some areas: Gregoire, Parsons Creek, Saline Creek and Fort McKay. It is likely the increase in population in these areas is due to population migration from wildfire affected areas and new development. 19.3% of residents that lived in the Municipality prior to the wildfire reported to have moved within the Municipality since the wildfire.

Table 1 Census 2018 Permanent and Shadow Population Distribution by Area

Population	Urban Service Area (USA)	Rural Communities	Temporary Workers' Dwellings ¹	Total
Permanent Population	72,056	2,953	0	75,009
Shadow Population	3,559	264	32,855	36,678
Total	75,615 (67.7%)	3,217 (2.9%)	32,855 (29.4%)	111,687

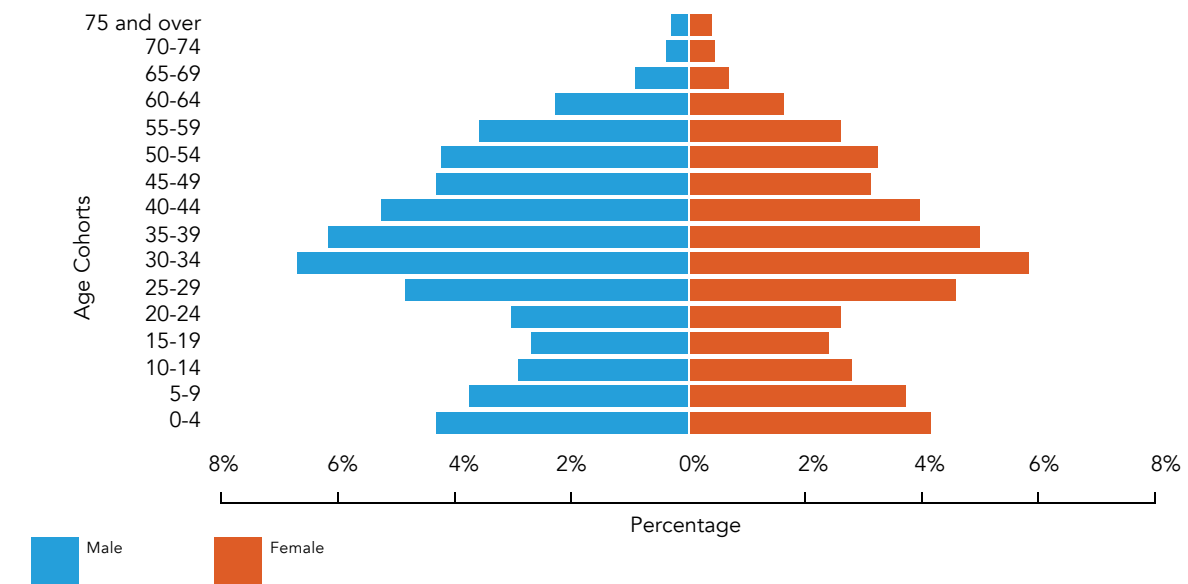
¹Not all 109 temporary workers' dwellings that exist in the Municipality are associated with the oil sands industry.

The Municipality has a young population with slightly over 47% of the population between the ages of 20 and 44. The proportion of children and youth (0-24 year-olds) in the population increased by 7.4 percentage points between 2015 and 2018. The largest population cohort is the 30-34 age group which accounts for 12.3% of the total population. In contrast, seniors (65 years of age and over) account for only 2.8% of the population. Figure 1 illustrates the age and gender distribution of the population.

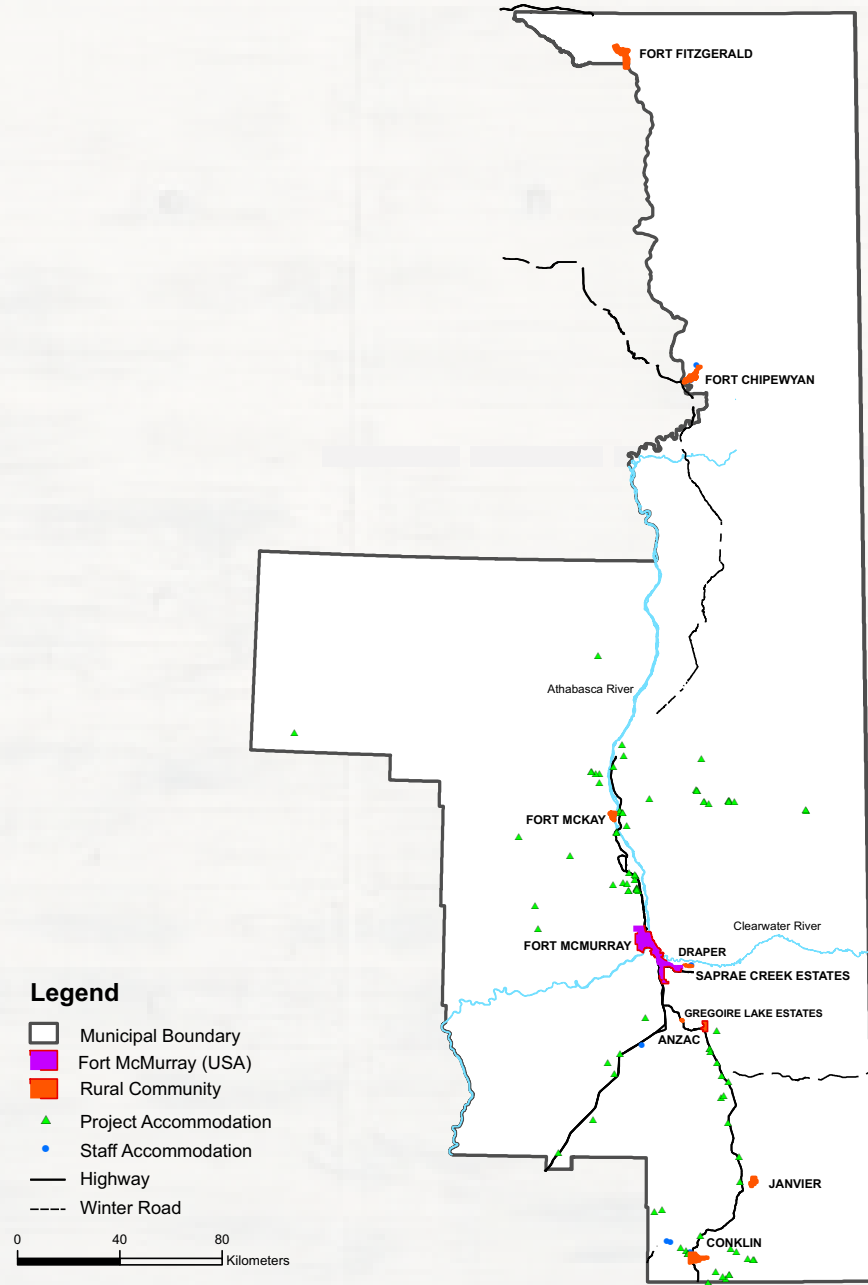
There is an imbalance in the distribution of males and females across all age cohorts. Overall, there are more males (54.9%) than females (45.1%) in the population. Census 2018 was the first time residents had the option of reporting their gender as either transgender or gender diverse. 26 people self-identified as transgender and 16 people self-identified as gender diverse.

The total shadow population is 36,678, which represents a 14.9% decrease from 2015. Temporary workers' dwellings account for the majority (89.6%) of the shadow population. A total of 109 temporary workers' dwellings exist in the Municipality and 74 were occupied at the time of conducting Census 2018 (see Map 1).

Figure 1 Age and Gender Population Pyramid, 2018



Map 1: Temporary workers' dwellings, 2018²



²The locations of project accommodations and staff accommodation are approximate.



Housing Overview

The 2016 Horse River Wildfire had an enormous impact on the Municipality’s housing stock destroying over 2,500 dwelling units and damaging many more. The total number of dwelling units enumerated was 28,281, which is an 8.4% decrease from 2015. Table 2 provides a breakdown of dwelling units in 2015 and 2018 by area. As in past years, the majority (95.7%) of the housing stock is found in the USA. In the rural communities, Fort Chipewyan has the highest number of dwelling units (356) followed by Anzac (264) and Saprae Creek Estates (233).

Table 2 Dwelling Count by Area, 2015 and 2018

Dwellings	USA		Rural Communities		Total		Total Change (2015 - 2018)
	2015	2018	2015	2018	2015	2018	
Occupied Dwellings	27,371	24,447	1,220	1,079	28,591	25,526	-10.7%
Vacant Dwellings	2,196	2,040	95	118	2,291	2,158	-5.8%
Non-contacted Dwellings	2,254	585	54	12	2,308	597	-74.1%
Total Count of Dwellings	29,567	27,072	1,315	1,209	30,882	28,281	-8.4%

Single-detached dwellings continue to be the dominant form of housing in the Municipality accounting for 48.3% of all occupied dwellings. More than half (55.9%) of the population lives in this type of dwelling. Apartments/condos are the second most common (25.7%) dwelling type, followed by manufactured/mobile homes (10.8%) and town/row housing (8.4%).

The Municipality has an average household size of 3.01 people per dwelling unit, which is a slight increase from 2015 when it was 2.95 people per dwelling unit. The average household size is higher than the 2016 national (2.4) and provincial (2.6) averages³. In contrast to past trends, the rural communities have a slightly lower (2.9) average household size than the USA (3). Two-person households are the most common household type making up 29.4% of all households. This is followed by three-person (20.6%) and four-person (19.3%) households.

The majority (63.3%) of households own their homes. Homeownership is also higher in the rural communities (69.1%) compared to the USA (63.1%). However, the Municipality’s homeownership rate is lower than the 2016 national (67.8%) and provincial (72.38%) homeownership rates⁴.

³Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population.

⁴IBID

Conclusion

The 2015 - 2018 period was a noteworthy period for the Municipality, as it experienced a population decline (negative growth) for the first time in the last two decades. Further, the total number of dwellings also decreased over this period. These decreases can largely be attributed to the downturn in the region's economy and the 2016 Horse River Wildfire. While a lot has changed in the Municipality since 2015, the structural composition of the population has not. The Municipality continues to have a fairly young population with a higher proportion of males to females across all age cohorts. The permanent population continues to be unevenly distributed between the USA and rural communities, with the vast majority living in the USA.

The Municipality wishes to once again thank all those who made "Census 2018 count" and to everyone who took time to learn about the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The Municipality continues to focus on building a vibrant, sustainable region, residents are proud to call home.