

ECONOMIC SECURITY

INDICATORS AROUND EMPLOYMENT, INCOME, & COST OF LIVING

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME¹

\$61,119 vs. **\$61,280**
CRD vs. CANADA

¹after-tax income, based on total population of 383,360 people

Source (refers to all data found in this section): Census 2016

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE²

3.7% vs. **5.8%**
CRD vs. CANADA

²calculated as a % by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labor force

POVERTY RATE³

13.3% vs. **13.9%**
CRD vs. CANADA

³after-tax poverty rate (Low Income Measure)

EMPLOYMENT

All the indicators below apply to civilian, non-institutionalized persons 15-65 years of age.



LABOUR FORCE

199,700

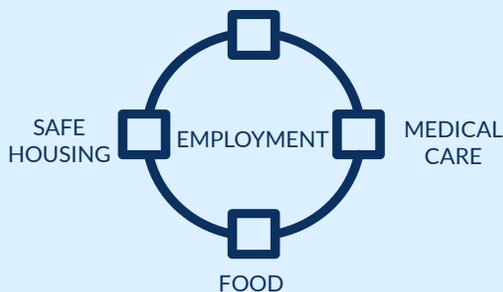
people

of persons who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed.

Employment is a critical social determinant of health.

Those who earn higher wages have more access to **safe housing, nutritious foods, social services and medical care** that provide pathways to better health.

SOCIAL SERVICES



PARTICIPATION RATE

64.5% vs. **65.1%**
CRD vs. CANADA

% of the population that is either employed or able, and seeking a job



How is this different from the unemployment rate?

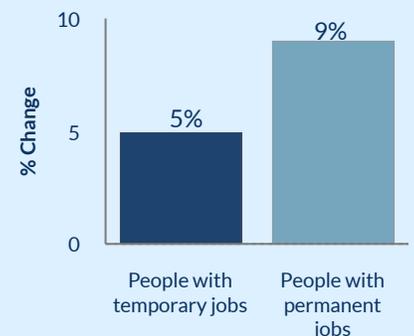
The denominator is the entire population (not just the labour force).

Also includes people who are not actively seeking employment but still actively contributing to society (i.e. students or retirees)



TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

The number of people holding permanent and temporary jobs in BC¹ has decreased has increased between 2014-2018.



Precarious employment² can impact **mental and family health**, and increase susceptibility to **chronic illnesses**.

¹A temporary job includes temporary, term or contract, or casual jobs.

²Precarious employment is defined as non-standard and temporary employment with fewer protections, often lower wages and no benefits

POVERTY MEASURES & COST OF LIVING

Each measure has pros and cons. Considering all three measures provides us with a better understanding of low-income. The chart below outlines the different measures, the poverty rates associated with each ones, and considerations to keep in mind.

Market Basket Measure (MBM) **14.8%** - amount required for a family to accommodate a modest, basic standard of living

fall below \$38,910

Source: Census 2016; CANSIM Table 206-0093

- identified as Canada's 1st official Poverty Line

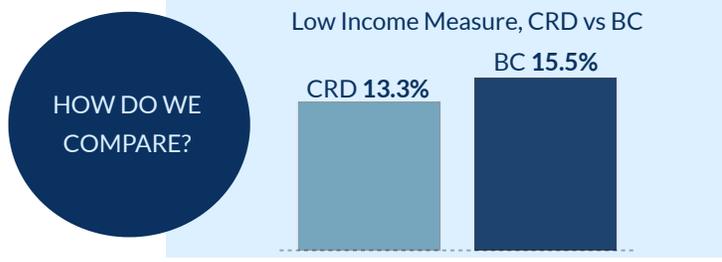
- ✓ - widely used across OECD countries (LICO and MBM are Canada-specific)
- ✗ - makes no adjustments for different provinces or community sizes

Low Income Measure (LIM) **13.3%** - half the median household income

fall below \$41,866

Source: Census 2016

- ✓ - widely used across OECD countries (LICO and MBM are Canada-specific)
- ✗ - makes no adjustments for different provinces or community sizes



Low Income Cut Off (LICO) **9%** - measures households that devote 20 percentage points more than the average family to pay for necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing

falls below \$32,596*

*based on family of 4
Source: Census 2016

- ✓ - most established measure of poverty in Canada (1st set established in 1959)
- ✗ - assumes the cost of essentials has increased at the same rate as costs in general
- ✗ - last LICO threshold was set in 1992 (outdated)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX¹

7% **\$125.90** (between 2014-2018)²

% change in CPI, 2012-2016

Region	% change in CPI, 2012-2016
Victoria CMA	7%
Canada	6%

¹calculates the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services
²for Victoria CMA (does not include Southern Gulf Islands)
Source: Statistics Canada. 2018

CHILD POVERTY³

1 IN 5 of BC children are poor. Child poverty rates are more than **5 times higher** for children in lone-parent families than children in couple families.

Child poverty rate, BC vs Canada

Region	Child poverty rate
BC	20.3%
Canada	19.6%

³uses the low income measure for those 0-17 years of age
Source: SPARC BC, 2018

AVERAGE COST OF FOOD

17% **\$1,019**/mth (between 2011-2017)⁴

This is the cost for a healthy diet for a family of 4.

1/2 MILLION British Columbians can't afford a basic healthy diet.

⁴BC data
Source: BC Centre for Disease Control, 2017

SENIOR POVERTY⁵

BC has the **HIGHEST** seniors poverty rate of any province or territory in Canada.

Senior poverty rate, BC vs Canada

Region	Senior poverty rate
BC	8.8%
Canada	6.6%

In the Victoria CMA, there are 2 Census tracts where **1 in 10 of seniors** lived in poverty.

⁵uses the low income measure for 65+ years of age
Source: SPARC BC, 2018

LIVING WAGE

What an individual needs to earn to enjoy an adequate quality of life in our region.

Approximately

27%

of 2-parent, 2 children families had incomes less than the living wage.



For 2019, in the Victoria CMA:

Living Wage*
\$19.39

This is an **8% increase** since 2011.

*compared to the BC minimum wage, which is \$12.65 (an increase from \$9.50 in 2011).

Wages (per hour) in Greater Victoria



While the living wage is more than a survival wage or minimum wage, it is not an affluent wage, and it is lower than what is needed to obtain much of what is considered normal in our community.



The living wage does not include:



Saving for children's education, purchase a home, holidays or retirement



Servicing debts or credit card bills



Being able to care for an elderly relative/a disabled family member



The Community Social and Planning Council of Greater Victoria calculates and releases the living wage each year. This calculation assumes 2 adults, working 35 hours/week each, while providing a home for 2 children; one in preschool and one in Grade 2.

Source (for entire section): Living Wage Report, 2019

Childcare Costs & Shelter Costs*

are the 2 largest household expenses in our region.



*Please refer to Thriving Children and Youth and Housing infographics for more information.

CREATED BY:

The Regional Outcomes Monitoring Collaborative (ROM) is a voluntary, multi-sector community health network (CHN) for the Capital Regional District. We are looking to create a comprehensive profile of community health and well-being for the region through the establishment of a regional set of data and indicators.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Capital Regional District
- Island Health
- Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
- Community Social Planning Council
- United Way of Greater Victoria
- Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island
- Greater Victoria Public Library
- University of Victoria
- The Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable

RESOURCES:

Data Sources

- [Census 2016](#)

Reports

- [Living Wage Report 2019](#)
- [Food Costing in BC 2017](#)

Networks

- [Greater Victoria Acting Together](#)
- [Community Social Services](#)
- [Social Enterprise Vancouver Island](#)



<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/community-health-wellbeing>