

SQUAMISH'S

VitalSigns[®]



**SQUAMISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

DATA AND SOURCES

2022-2023

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

[The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Where census data is used in this report, we generally used the Census agglomeration unit which includes the following census subdivisions:

- [Kowtain 17, Indian reserve \[Census subdivision\]](#)
- [Seaichem 16, Indian reserve \[Census subdivision\]](#)
- [Squamish, District municipality \[Census subdivision\]](#)
- [Stawamus 24, Indian reserve \[Census subdivision\]](#)
- [Waiwakum 14, Indian reserve \[Census subdivision\]](#)
- [Yekwaupsum 18, Indian reserve \[Census subdivision\]](#)

Population Growth

From 2016 to 2021, Squamish has seen a 21.8% growth in total population. This compares to the provincial average of 7.6% and the national average of 5.2%. The 2021 population of Squamish is 24,232, up from 19,893 in 2016.

Sources: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=squamish&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&HEADERlist=0> (accessed June 11, 2023).

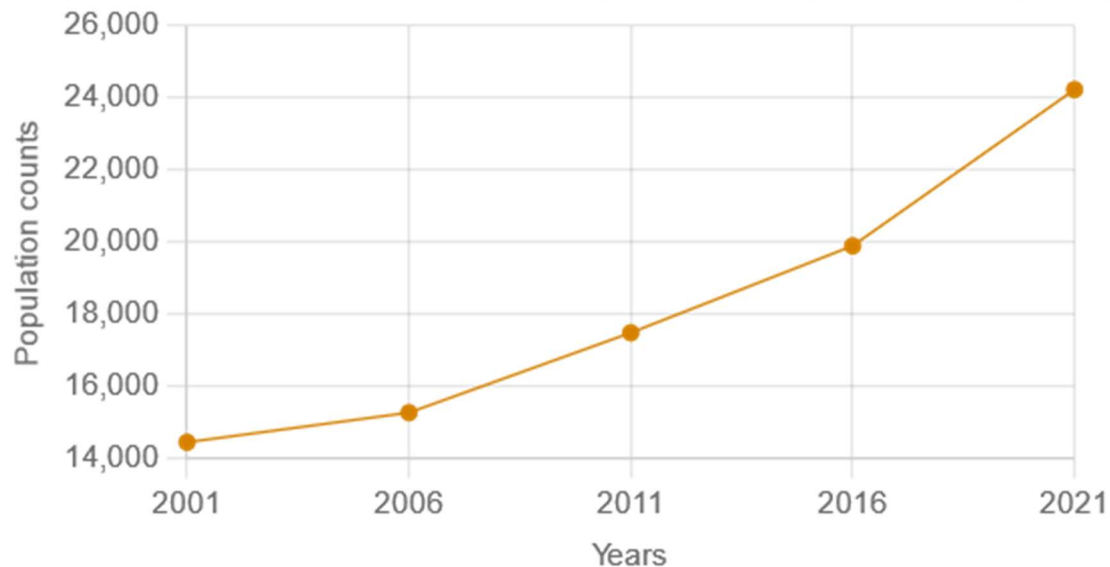
Statistics Canada. 2023. Focus on Geography Series. 2021 Census of Population. Squamish, Census agglomeration. Available at: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=1&lang=E&dguid=2021S0504934>. (accessed June 11, 2023)

In comparison, the population grew by 13.8% between 2011 and 2016.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2017. *Squamish [Census agglomeration], British Columbia and Alberta [Province] (table)*. *Census Profile*. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed July 17, 2023).

Population in the last 20 years, Squamish (CA)



Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. Focus on Geography Series. 2021 Census of Population. Squamish, Census agglomeration. Available at: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=1&lang=E&dguid=2021S0504934>. (accessed June 11, 2023)

For the past five years, Squamish has seen an annual population growth rate of 4%.

Source: City Spaces Consulting. March 2023. Housing Needs Report. District of Squamish. Available at <https://squamish.civicweb.net/FileStorage/17CAF699019B44E88D8B45313EC1285B-RTC%20-%202023%20District%20of%20Squamish%20Housing%20Needs%20Repo.pdf> (accessed June 1, 2023)

Indigenous People

In 2021, there were 1,285 people in Squamish who identify as First Nations (North American Indian, Métis and/or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who report being Registered or Treaty Indians, making up 5.4% of the population.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,21,19&SearchText=squamish> (accessed July 16, 2023).

Population by Age Group

Age Group	2016	2021
0-14	19.7 %	18.8 %
15-29	15.8 %	15.5 %
30-44	28.3 %	30.2 %
45-59	20.1 %	19.6 %
60-74	11.8 %	11.4 %
75+	4.3 %	4.7 %

Sources:

Statistics Canada. 2017. *Squamish [Census agglomeration], British Columbia and British Columbia [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census.* Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed June 12, 2023).

Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population.* Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed June 12, 2023).

In 2021, 4,555 children aged 0 to 14 were enumerated in Squamish (CA), representing respectively 18.8% of the total population. In comparison, for Canada, the proportion of children was 16.3% in 2021.

The working age population (15 to 64) represented 69.4% of the total population. In comparison, for Canada, the proportion of the population aged 15 to 64 was 64.8% in 2021.

In 2021, 2,850 persons aged 65 and over were enumerated in Squamish (CA), representing respectively 11.8% of the total population. In comparison, for Canada, the proportion of seniors was 19.0% in 2021.

Although Squamish has a lower proportion of people 65+ than the national average, the over 65 age group grew by 28.7% since 2016. This makes it the largest segment of growth over the working age segment and children 0-14.

Growth rate from 2016 to 2021, by age category:

Age Group	2016 Population	2021 Population	% Change
0-14 years	3,925	4,555	16.1%
15-64 years	13,755	16,825	22.3%
65+ years	2,215	2,845	28.4%

Statistics Canada. Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population. Squamish, Census agglomeration. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=2&lang=E&dguid=2021S0504934>

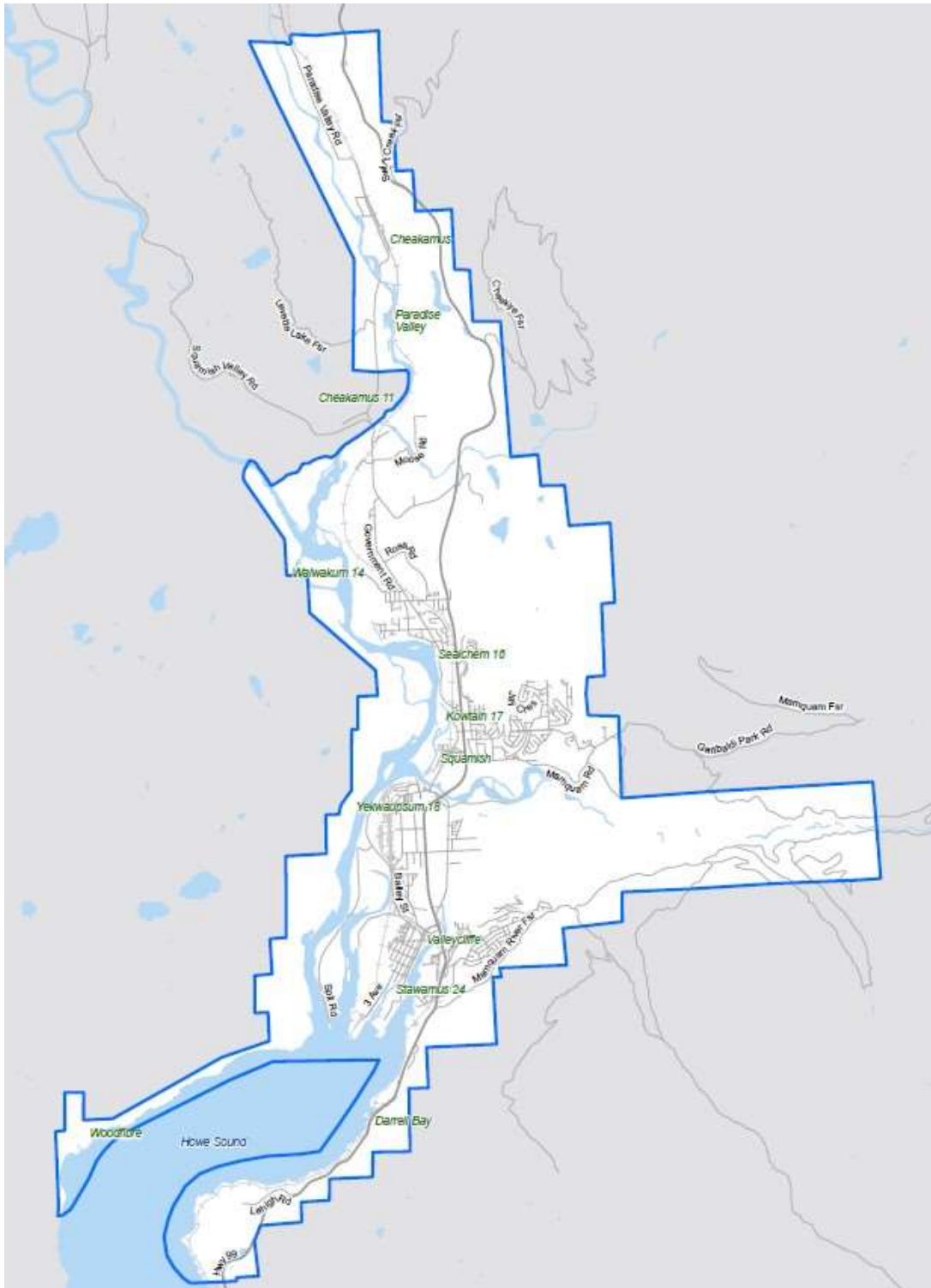
Projected Population Growth

Under a high growth scenario, the number of residents is projected to increase by 11,750 people (or 49.3%) between 2021 and 2031. This means that Squamish's population is forecast to reach 35,570 people by 2031. This is based on population projections outlined in the Official Community Plan and is reflective of the 4.1% annual growth rate Squamish has experienced in recent years.

Source: City Spaces Consulting. March 2023. Housing Needs Report. District of Squamish.
Available at <https://squamish.civicweb.net/FileStorage/17CAF699019B44E88D8B45313EC1285B-RTC%20-%202023%20District%20of%20Squamish%20Housing%20Needs%20Repo.pdf> (accessed June 1, 2023)

BC Statistics data for the Squamish Community Health Service Area provides an indication of possible demographic changes that may occur over the next ten years. Between 2021 and 2031, the Squamish Community Health Service Area will experience an increase of 8% in the proportion of people between the ages of 25 to 64, as well as an increase of 100% in the proportion of the population older than 85 years.

Source: City Spaces Consulting. March 2023. Housing Needs Report. District of Squamish.
Available at <https://squamish.civicweb.net/FileStorage/17CAF699019B44E88D8B45313EC1285B-RTC%20-%202023%20District%20of%20Squamish%20Housing%20Needs%20Repo.pdf> (accessed June 1, 2023)



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021; Hydrography from Natural Resources Canada, Topographic Data of Canada, CanVec, 2019. Available at <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/geo/maps-cartes/static-statique/pdf/alternative-eng.cfm?dguid=2021S0504934>

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND BELONGING

Immigrants

According to the 2021 Census, 4,775 people, that is, 19.9% of the population were foreign-born (immigrants), 18,495 (77.2%) were Canadian-born (non-immigrants) and 685 (2.9% were non-permanent residents.

Among immigrants in 2021, 985 came between 2016 and 2021. These recent immigrants made up 20.6% of the immigrant population.

The top three places of birth among immigrants living in Squamish (CA) in 2021 were the United Kingdom, India, and the United States of America.

The top 3 non-official language spoken most often at home by the immigrant population are Punjabi, Tagalog, and Spanish.

175 refugees were in Squamish as of 2021.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,28,24,22,27,23,29,25,26&SearchText=squamish> (accessed July 17, 2023)

Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population. Squamish, Census agglomeration.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=9&lang=E&dguid=2021S0504934> (accessed July 17, 2023)

Ethnic or Cultural Origins

15% of the population in private households identified as racialized (visible minority).

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,31,32,30&SearchText=squamish> (accessed July 17, 2023)

In 2021, the largest racialized group was South Asian, with about 1,530 persons representing 6.4% of the total population. The second group was Filipino, with about 445 persons representing 1.9% of the total population. The third group was Latin American, with about 345 persons representing 1.4% of the total population.

In 2021, the most frequently reported ethnic or cultural origin was English, with about 6,085 persons representing 25.4% of the total population. The second origin was Scottish, with about 4,965 persons

representing 20.7% of the total population. The third origin was Irish, with about 4,050 persons representing 16.9% of the total population.

Source: Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population. Squamish, Census agglomeration. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=10&lang=E&dguid=2021S0504934> (accessed July 17, 2023)

Sense of Belonging

In North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area, 76 % of the population reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020. In 2019/2020 77 % of males reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging, while 75.2 % of females reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging.

In 2019/2020, the percent of the population who reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging was decreased 2.8 % from 2015/2016. The percent of males reporting having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020 was 2.8 percentage points **greater** than in 2015/2016, while the percent of females reporting having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020 was 7.8 percentage points **lower** than in 2015/2016.

Youth Sense of Belonging

In North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area, 89.6% of youth ages 12 to 17 reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020. In 2019/2020 94.8% of male youth reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging, while 84.8 % of females reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging.

In 2019/2020, the percent of the youth population who reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging was decreased 2.6 % from 2015/2016. The percent of males reporting having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020 was 4.1 percentage points **greater** than in 2015/2016, while the percent of females reporting having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020 was 8.9 percentage points **lower** than in 2015/2016.

In comparison, the percent of female youth in the province who reported having a strong somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020 was increased by 3.9 percentage points from 2015/2016.

Elderly Sense of Belonging

In North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area, 87.4 % of seniors ages 65+ reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020. In 2019/2020 85.8 % of male seniors reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging, while 88.7% of females reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging.

In 2019/2020, the percent of seniors who reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging was 2.9 percentage points greater than that of 2015/2016. The percent of senior males reporting having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020 was 6.9 percentage points **greater** than in 2015/2016, while the percent of females reporting having a strong

or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in 2019/2020 was 2.9 percentage points **greater** than in 2015/2016.

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 13-10-0805-01 Health Characteristics, two-year period estimates. From the Canadian Community Health Survey.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1110013001>

Voter Rate

In the most recent 2022 Squamish General Election, the voter turnout rate was 39.7%, a decrease of 8% points below the previous 2018 municipal election voter turnout of 47.8%. This measure tracks the voter turnout rate in general local elections, as a percentage relative to the total number of eligible voters on voting day.

It is helpful to compare voter turnout in Squamish to other communities in British Columbia to understand whether voters are less engaged than in other areas. Generally speaking, voter turnout for municipal elections is significantly lower than for provincial or federal elections. Voter turnout for the 2022 municipal elections across B.C. was 29.2%, which was a drop from 35.6% in 2018.

Source: District of Squamish. Squamish 2040 OCP Indicators.

<https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/engaged#indicator1>

In the most recent 2021 federal election, the voter turnout rate for eligible voters in the West Vancouver Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky federal electoral district was 64.6%. Voter turnout was down 9 percentage points from the 2015 federal election.

Source: Elections Canada Voter Turnout Tables.

<https://elections.ca/content.aspx?section=ele&dir=pas&document=index&lang=e>

Accessibility

DOS Accessibility report highlighted the following gaps:

- accessible public washrooms
- accessible parking
- suitable accessible/universal housing
- lack of tactile and visible markers
- side walk slopes and grades
- lack of regional transit
- HANDYDART service
- programs for children with disabilities

Source: District of Squamish Accessibility Plan. 2023. District of Squamish Accessibility Committee. Kidner, Keely, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator

<https://squamish.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/?expanded=10877,222111,13126&preview=227147&attachmenturl=%2FFileStorage%2FE97B9BC1BC664B91B122AC91F3757D5A-RTC%252520Accessibility%252520Plan.pdf>

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

In 2019 Squamish declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to transition off fossil fuels.

Source: <https://squamish.ca/yourgovernment/projects-and-initiatives/completed-projects/2022-completed-projects/climate-emergency-resolution/>

Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound Biosphere Region

<https://www.howesoundbri.org/>

A short distance from Vancouver, the biosphere reserve encompasses the fjord and islands of Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound over a 218,723 ha, of which 16% are marine areas. This mountainous coastal ecosystem of great altitudinal range influenced by the Pacific Ocean, is home to high levels of biodiversity, with some 721 native terrestrial animal species including grizzly bears, wolverines and bald eagles. It also sustains thousands of marine species, including living glass sponge reefs, which were long thought to have gone extinct 40 million years ago. Átl'ka7tsem (pronounced At-Kat-sum) is the Skwxwú7mesh/Squamish word for paddling up the Sound and First Nation people have prospered in the region since time immemorial.

Biosphere reserves are 'learning places for sustainable development'. They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity. They are places that provide local solutions to global challenges. Biosphere reserves include terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. Biosphere Reserves are designated under the intergovernmental MAB Programme by the Director-General of UNESCO following the decisions of the MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB-ICC). Their status is internationally recognized.

Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/biosphere/atlka7tsem/howe-sound-biosphere-reserve-canada>

The Great Flood Story

The people of Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw have been long-time environmental stewards for this community. The [Great Flood Story](#), handed down through generations, illustrates the Skwxwú7mesh connection to Nch'kay' (Mt. Garibaldi), the raw power of nature, and the fragility of society.

Source: Squamish Nation. Nch'kay' <https://www.nchkay.com/great-flood-story/>

Biodiversity

Citizen science helps collect data that drives decision making. “Biodiversity Squamish” is a project of the Át’ka7tsem Howe Sound Biosphere Region. The boundary is the Howe Sound Watershed. Using iNaturalist community members have documented 3,453 species

Source: Squamish Environment Society. Biodiversity Squamish.

<https://www.squamishenvironment.ca/projects/biodiversity-squamish/>

Biodiversity Squamish iNaturalist project. <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/biodiversity-squamish> [accessed July 22, 2023]

EAGLES

2023 Eagle Count 916 eagles

Average annual counted between 1986 and 2023: 1362

Source: Squamish Environment Society.

<https://www.squamishenvironment.ca/programs/winter-eagle-count/eagle-counts-by-year-by-area/> [Accessed on June 23, 2023]

ELK

Did you know that Roosevelt elk, a provincial blue-listed species, were re-introduced into the Squamish Valley in 2006 and into the Mamquam River watershed in 2011.

Squamish Estuary

The Squamish Estuary provides over \$12.6 million/year in ecosystem goods and services: this includes fish, nutrient cycling, waster treatment, climate regulation, wildlife habitat, clean water, indigenous values, and recreation and tourism.

Source: Natural Capital Assets: The Squamish Estuary. 2021 Squamish River Watershed Society.

Available at: https://11216935-386899620145607689.preview.editmysite.com/uploads/1/1/2/1/11216935/squamish_estuary_natural_capital_assets_report_srws.pdf

Chinook salmon in the estuary once numbered 15,000 a year. In the 1980s this plummeted to about 500 a year. With restoration work, this has increased to about 5000 a year.

Source: Amanda Tollett Hosgood. The Tye. A new Squamish Study put an Actual Price on Nature. October 6, 2021. Available at: <https://thetyee.ca/News/2021/10/06/New-Squamish-Study-Puts-Actual-Price-Nature/>

Today, less than 50% of the original estuary remains. Salt marshes cover 180 ha of the Squamish estuary. Salt march ecosystems are recognized as carbon sinks and their protection and restoration can help offset greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: Squamish Estuary: reconnecting ocean and river. Tobe, E. and Miller A. Ocean Watch. Átl'ka7tsem / Txwnéwu7ts / Howe Sound 2020. Available at: <https://ocean.org/app/uploads/2022/03/OceanWatch-HoweSoundReport2020-online.pdf>

Skwelwil'em Squamish Estuary Wildlife Management Area

A Wildlife Management Area is conservation land designated under the *Wildlife Act* for the benefit of significant species and their habitat.

The area is 673 ha of valuable habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, passerines, fish, deer, bear, cougar etc. Endangered species here include peregrin falcon, marbled murrelet and keen's long-eared myotis.

Source: Province of BC. Wildlife Management Areas. Available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-habitats/conservation-lands/wma/wmas-list/skwelwil-em-squamish-estuary>

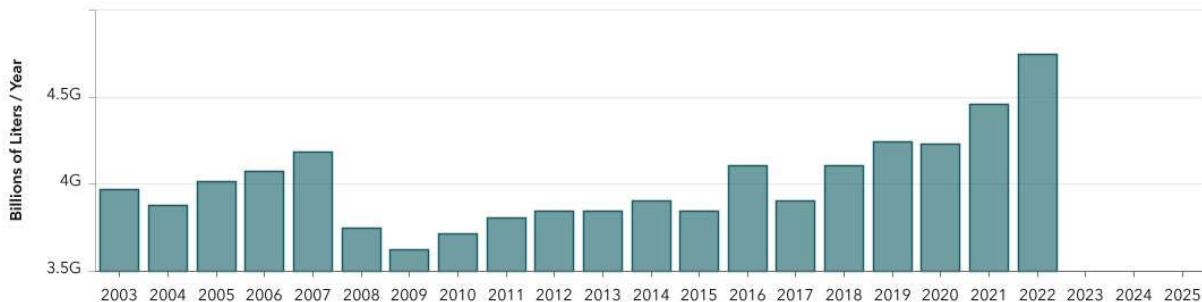
Water

Squamish's Water Use:

- 516 litres per person per day in 2022.
- 504 litres per person per day in 2021
- 492 liters/person/day in 2020

Community growth and development, as well as exceptionally hot and dry summers are driving increases in water consumption

Total Annual Water Consumption



Source: DOS Operations Data; BC Stats Population (Squamish CA)
Last Updated: 12/2022

Additional Measures Links:
[Squamish Water Conservation Program and Plan](#)
[Squamish Outdoor Water Use Bylaw 2254](#)

↓

Source: District of Squamish: <https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/resilient#indicator6>
[Accessed June 17, 2023]

Waste

Waste Diverted from Landfill

Portion of waste diverted from landfill in 2022: 55 %

Down from 61 % in 2019 showing that the community is off track. The target is 90% by 2040.

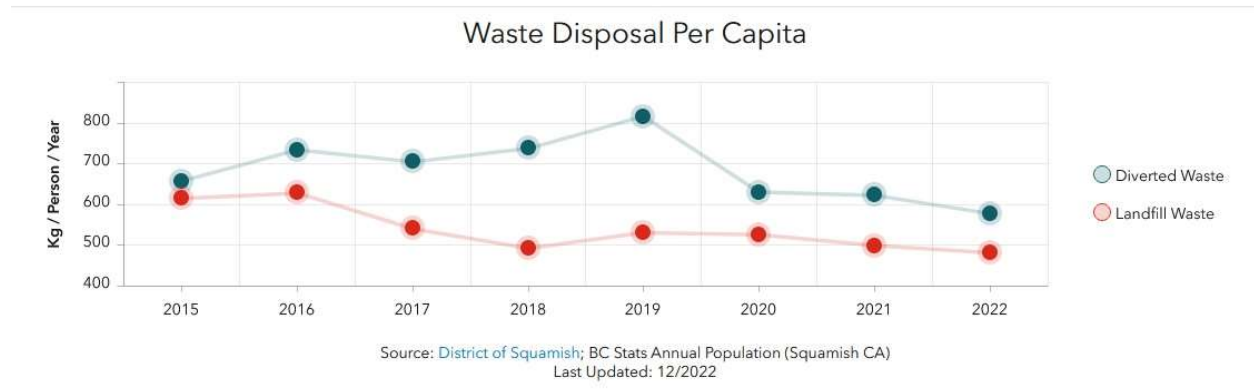
Source: District of Squamish. <https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/resilient#indicator8> [Accessed June 17, 2023] also at <https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/resilient#indicator8>

Landfill Waste Per Person

2020: 581 kg/year per person

2021: 513 kg/year per person

2022: 520 kg/year per person (from the 2022 Waste Composition Study)



Source: District of Squamish <https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/resilient#indicator8> [Accessed June 17, 2023]

Solid Waste Report to Council. March 14, 2023.

<https://squamish.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/222111/?preview=223578&attachmenturl=%2FFileStorage%2F57D503F307944FAD9745088C3FBBB797-RTC%252520Solid%252520Waste%252520Update.pdf> [Accessed on June 17, 2023]

The Squamish Landfill is on track to reach capacity in 2030. The District of Squamish is working to expand to the Landfill laterally.

Squamish's recycling stream has an 8% contamination rate

Solid Waste Report to Council. March 14, 2023.

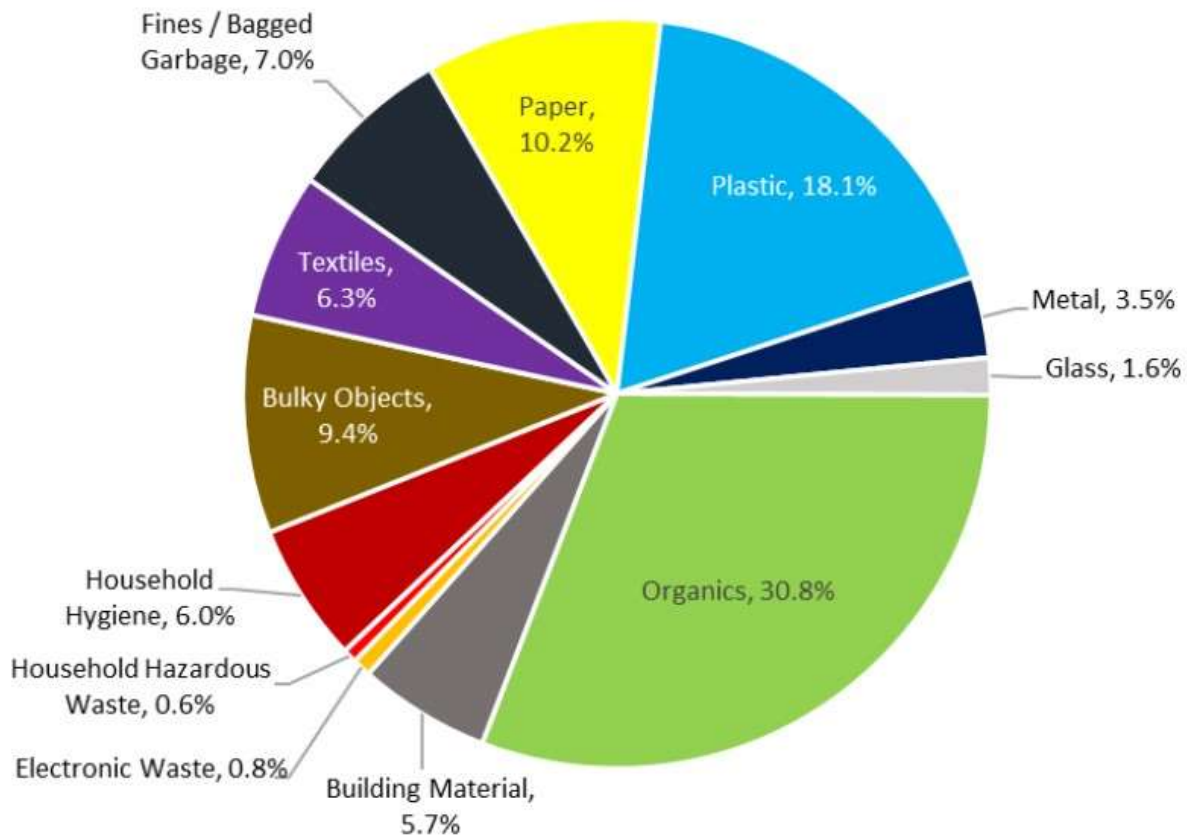
<https://squamish.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/222111/?preview=223578&attachmenturl=%2FFileStorage%2F57D503F307944FAD9745088C3FBBB797-RTC%252520Solid%252520Waste%252520Update.pdf> [Accessed on June 17, 2023]

District of Squamish 2022 Waste Composition Audit:

In 2022 it was found that almost 57% of the material found in the landfill could have been diverted. Among this, about 30% was organic material, 21% could have been recycled at the Drop off Depot, 20% could have been composted, 6.4% could have been recycled.

It is estimated that nearly 2.5 million plastic takeout cups were disposed of in the landfill in 2022. 1.8 million paper cups and 1.8 million plastic utensils.

Source: District of Squamish 2022 Waste Audit. Tetra Tech. Available at: <https://ln5.sync.com/dl/472bdebf0/gc8yzxf4-8etpb2j4-mfy5rkde-iazsvr3f/view/doc/11999140010004> [Accessed on June 17, 2023]



District of Squamish 2020 Combined Waste Composition

In comparison, the District of Squamish 2020 Waste Audit showed that

- 72.6% of material could have been diverted from the landfill
- 30% of garbage could have been composted
- 11 % could have been recycled
- 23% could have been Recycled at the Drop off Depot
- 40 % of waste from the construction and demolition sector is wood\

FOOD SECURITY

Definition

“Food security means that everyone has equitable access to food that is affordable, culturally preferable, nutritious and safe; everyone has the agency to participate in, and influence food systems; and that food systems are resilient, ecologically sustainable, socially just and honour Indigenous food sovereignty.”

Source: BC Centre for Disease Control. (2023). *Food Costing in BC 2022: Assessing the affordability of healthy eating*. Vancouver, B.C.: BC Centre for Disease Control, Population and Public Health Program.

http://www.bccdc.ca/Documents/Food_Costing_in_BC_2022_Report_FINAL.pdf

Neighbourhood Food Assets

In 2021, Squamish had 80 food assets. Food assets are resources, facilities, services, or spaces where people can grow, prepare, share, buy, and receive or learn about food.

Food Assets in 2021 consisted of:

- 10 community organizations
- 14 Schools
- 7 Kitchens and Food Programs
- 18 for Growing food
- 6 Free or subsidized Grocery Items
- 6 Free or low-cost meals
- 19 Food Retail Stores & Markets

Source: District of Squamish. Squamish 2040 OCP Indicators. Available at <https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/healthy#indicator9> [Accessed July 23, 2023]

Cost of Food

Prices for food purchased from stores increased 11.3 % from February 2022 to February 2023.

Annual Percent change in Food cost in BC

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	0.6	1.7	3.9	2.7	2.4	8

Source: Consumer Price Index (CPI) BC. Annual Averages, selected items. Statistics Canada, Table 18-10-0005-01. Available at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/economy/consumer-price-index>. Accessed June 11, 2023

The Average monthly cost of a nutritious diet for a family of four in 2022 in the Coast Garibaldi Health Area (Sunshine Coast, Powell river, Howe Sound) was \$1,441. In comparison, the average monthly cost for the Vancouver Coastal Health region was \$1,311. The average for all of BC was \$1,263.

Source: BC Centre for Disease Control , Population and Public Health program, Provincial Health Services Authority. Prepared for Vancouver Coast Health Authority. 2023. Food Costing in BC 2022. Available at:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Documents/Food_Costing_in_BC_2022_Report_FINAL.pdf

Results from selected Local Health Areas provided by Alison Westwood. Public Health Dietician, Vancouver Coastal Health.

Agricultural Land

- 4,066 ha: Total land in the Agricultural Land Reserve in the Squamish Valley
- 47 ha: Area farmed within the Agricultural Land Reserve
- 551 ha of ALR land have potential for agricultural activities

Source: Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan 2020. District of Squamish and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. Available at:

http://www.squamishfoodpolicycouncil.com/uploads/1/2/5/1/125138143/squamish_valley_ag_plan.pdf

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Air Quality

AIRBOURNE PARTICULATE MATTER (PM 2.5)

PM2.5 includes all microscopic particles smaller than 2.5 micrometres in diameter. The major sources of PM2.5 and its precursors are: smoke from biomass burning, including residential wood burning, industrial boilers, outdoor pile burning, prescribed fires and wildfires; transportation exhaust; and industrial and agricultural emissions. PM2.5 levels are influenced by weather, emissions and changes in monitoring technology. Wildfires in British Columbia (BC) and beyond have been a large influence in recent years. The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy monitors PM2.5 throughout the province at monitoring stations equipped with continuous beta attenuation monitors. The BC air monitoring station is located in Squamish at Ecole Squamish Elementary (38370 Buckley Avenue).

Fine particulate matter is an air pollutant that can be harmful to human health from both short-term (i.e. within first 24-hours) and longer-term exposure.

The provincial Ambient Air quality objective for PM 2.5 is 8 µg/m³ over an annual averaging period.

The Provincial Air Quality objective for PM 2.5 within a 24-hour period is 25 µg/m³

	Annual Daily Average Airborne Particulate Matter	PM 2.5 BAM	Max	Days per year that the PM 2.5 levels exceeded air quality objectives	
2016	3.7				
2017	7.2	7.2			
2018	7.4 µg/m ³	6.9	163 on Aug 20, 2018		
2019	5.9	4.7	78.5 December 22, 2019		
2020	3.5		186.3 September 14, 2023		The day the cable was cut on the Sea to Sky Gondola
2021	5.2		211.1 October 13, 2023		
2022	6.2		80.4 September 12, 2023		

Source: BC Air Data Archive. Ministry of Environment. Available at:

<https://envistaweb.env.gov.bc.ca/> [Accessed on June 26, 2023]BC Ministry of Environment.

British Columbia Ambient Air Quality Objectives. Ambient Air Quality Objectives. December 17,

2019. Available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/air/reports-pub/aqotable.pdf> [Accessed on June 26, 2023]

Number of days per year that PM 2.5 air quality objectives are exceeded:

2022	136
2021	69
2020	61
2019	116
2018	125
2017	118
2016	55

Source: The World Air Quality Project. <https://aqicn.org/city/british-comlumbia/squamish-elementary/>

Health Care Facilities and Practitioners

Source: Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0113-01 Health characteristics, two-year period estimates

Stress

In 2019/2020 in the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area 22.6% of people reported perceiving that most days in their life were a bit or extremely stressful. This is 1.8 percentage points higher than the provincial average of 20.6 percent.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 13-10-0805-01 Health characteristics, two-year period estimates, census metropolitan areas and population centres](#)

Smoking

In the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area, 5.5% of the population 12+ was classified as a daily or occasional smoker in 2019/2020. This is much lower than the national rate of 14% and the provincial rate of 10.6. The percent of the population that was classified in 2019/2020 as a daily or occasional smoker decreased 8% from 2015/2016.

Back in 2007/2008 the smoking rate in our region was 15.6%. * This is going in the right direction.

*some differences in data collection methods

This does not take into account the number of cigarettes smoked or the use of electronic cigarettes.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 13-10-0805-01 Health characteristics, two-year period estimates, census metropolitan areas and population centres](#)

Obesity

In 2019/2020, in the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area, 15.8% of people fell under the classification of obese. This is less than the provincial average of 23% and the national average of 28%. The obesity rate in our health region in 2019/2020 was only 0.4 higher than in 2015-2016.

Of interest is that our obesity rate has increased from 10.7% in 2007/2008*

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and Health Canada guidelines, health risk levels are associated with each of the following BMI categories: normal weight = least health risk; underweight and overweight = increased health risk; obese, class I = high health risk; obese, class II = very high health risk; obese, class III = extremely high health risk.

Body mass index (BMI) is calculated by dividing the respondent's body weight (in kilograms) by their height (in metres) squared.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and Health Canada guidelines, the index for body weight classification for the population aged 18 and older is: less than 18.50 (underweight); 18.50 to 24.99 (normal weight); 25.00 to 29.99 (overweight); 30.00 to 34.99 (obese, class I); 35.00 to 39.99 (obese, class II); 40.00 or greater (obese, class III). The population aged 12 to 17 is classified as "severely obese", "obese", or "overweight" according to age and sex specific cut-off points defined by the World Health Organization.

*some differences in data collection methods

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 13-10-0805-01 Health characteristics, two-year period estimates, census metropolitan areas and population centres](#)

Heavy Drinking

In the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area, 21.2% of the population was classified as a heavy drinker in 2019/2020. In 2019/2020 the rate of males who were heavy drinkers was 28.2%, while the rate of females who were heavy drinkers was 14.6 percent. In 2019/2020 the percent of the population classified as a heavy drinker was 2.6% higher from 2015/2016. In 2019/2020 the percent of the population classified as a heavy drinker in our health service delivery area is 3.6 percentage points higher than the provincial rate of 17.6 percent.

Heavy drinking refers to males who reported having 5 or more drinks, or women who reported having 4 or more drinks, on one occasion, at least once a month in the past year.

Access to Doctors

In the North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Service Delivery Area, 84.4% of the population had a regular healthcare provider in 2019/2020. In 2019/2020 79.1% of males had a regular healthcare provider, while

89.5% of females had a regular healthcare provider. In 2019/2020 the percent of the population who had a regular healthcare provider was decreased by 5.9% from 2015/2016.

Statistics Canada. [Table 13-10-0805-01 Health characteristics, two-year period estimates, census metropolitan areas and population centres](#)

Births

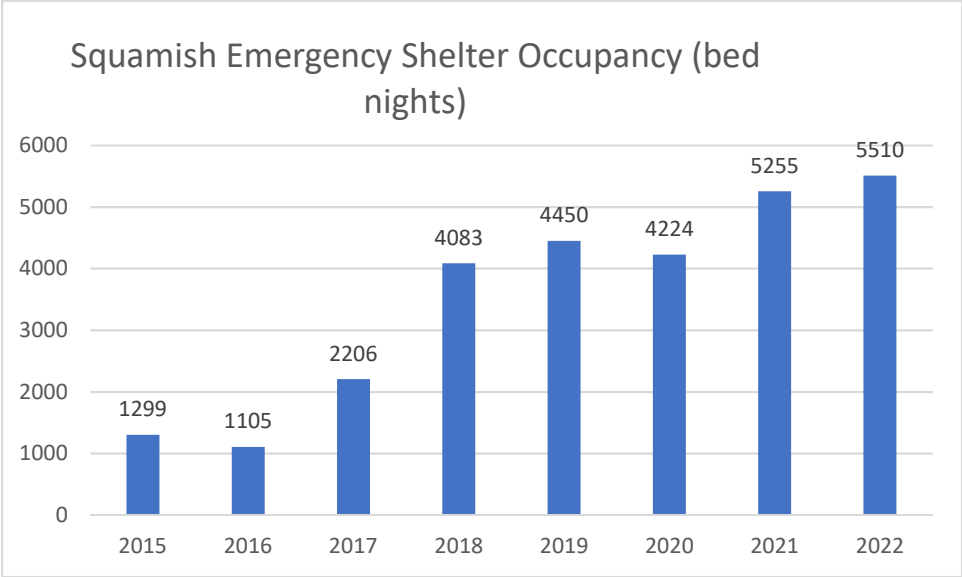
Year	Number of Births	Squamish Population	Birth Rate
2022	286		
2021	317	24161	13.1
2020	299	23569	12.7
2019	270	22839	11.8
2018	290	22162	13.1
2017	284	21528	13.2
2016	287	20910	13.7
2015	2687	20212	13.2

Source: BC Government Data Catalogue. Vital Statistics Agency.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/statistics-reports/births>

HOUSING

Emergency Shelter



Source: Squamish Helping Hands Society. Personal Communication. Carol Coffey, Administration and Funding Manager. July 2023.

Housing Starts

In 2021 there were 303 total housing starts in Squamish. Among all housing starts, 81 were single-detached units, 4 were semi-detached units, 97 were row units, and 121 were apartment and other unit types. In 2021 the number of housing starts was 405 percent greater from 2011.

The number of housing starts (all dwelling types) in a given area. A start is defined as the beginning of construction work on a building, usually when the concrete has been poured for the whole of the footing around the structure, or an equivalent stage where a basement will not be part of the structure.

Statistics Canada. [Table 34-10-0134-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, under construction and completions in selected census metropolitan areas, annual CMA, CSD, CA](#): Statistics Canada. [Table 34-10-0125-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, under construction and completions in large urban areas, annual Canada, Province or territory](#): Statistics Canada. [Table 34-10-0126-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, under construction and completions, all areas, annual](#)

Housing Needs and Availability

Under a high growth scenario, 6,840 new homes are projected to be needed by 2031; 43% of these new homes will need to accommodate families with three or more bedrooms and 24% will need to serve households earning less than \$45,000 per year. (Under a high growth scenario, Squamish's population is forecast to reach 35,570 people by 2031.)

Spreading the numbers over a decade, from 2021 to 2031, 685 units need to be completed each year. That is roughly double the town's latest output of an average of 386 dwelling units created each year between 2016 and 2021.

Source: City Spaces Consulting. Squamish Housing Needs Report for the District of Squamish. 2023. Available at:

<https://squamish.civicweb.net/FileStorage/17CAF699019B44E88D8B45313EC1285B-RTC%20-%202023%20District%20of%20Squamish%20Housing%20Needs%20Repo.pdf>

Housing Costs and Spending on Housing

Renter versus Owner Household in 2021

Number of Households: 9300

Number of Owner Households: 6460 or 70%

Number of Renter Households: 2745 or 30%

In 2021, 25.4% of all households in Squamish spent 30% or more of income on shelter costs.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023. Available at <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=20&SearchText=Squamish>

The average monthly shelter cost for owner households in 2021 was \$2,166, up from \$1,732 in 2016.

The average monthly shelter cost for renter households in 2021 was \$1864, up from \$1304 in 2016.

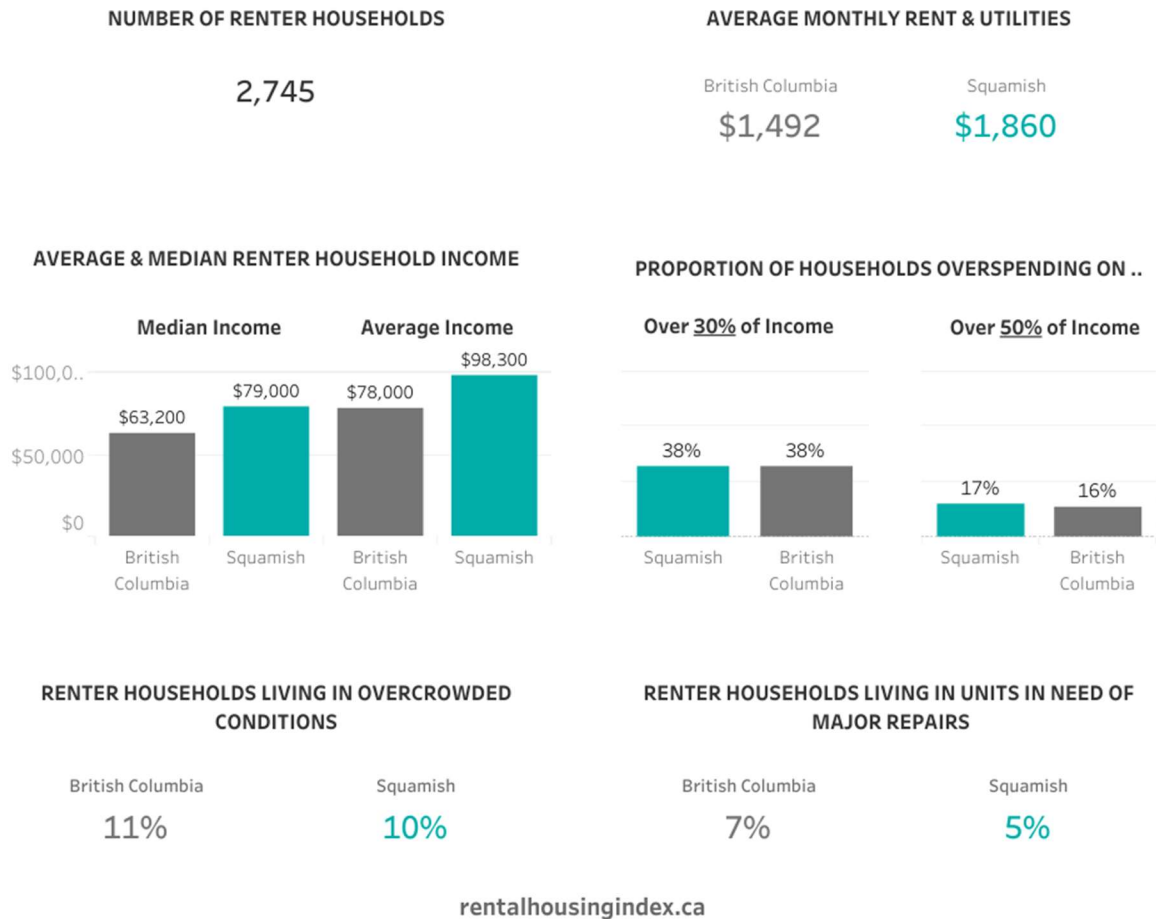
Shelter cost refers to the average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households. Shelter costs for owner households include, where applicable, mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees, along with the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services. For renter households, shelter costs include, where applicable, the rent and the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. Focus on Geography Series. 2021 Census of Population. Squamish, Census agglomeration. Available at: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=1&lang=E&dguid=2021S0504934>. (accessed June 11, 2023)

Renter Households

Below is a snapshot of renters in Squamish in 2021

A Snapshot of Renters in Squamish



Source: Canadian Rental Housing Index. Based on 2021 Canadian Census Data. Available at: https://rentalhousingindex.ca/en/#comp_csd. [Accessed June 22, 2023]

Renter Households by Racialized Group:

Non-Racialized Renter Households: 2390

Median Non-racialized Renter Household Income \$81,000,

Proportion of non-racialized households living in over crowded conditions 8 % (185 of 2390)

Racialized Rental Households: 350

Median Renter Household Income \$72,500.

Proportion of racialized households living in over crowded conditions 27% (95 of 350)

Non-racialized renter households NOT living in overcrowded conditions	2205
Non-racialized renter households who ARE living in overcrowded conditions	185
Racialized renter households NOT living in overcrowded conditions	255
Racialized renter households who ARE living in overcrowded conditions	95
TOTAL	2740

19% of Racialized households spending over 50% of income on rent and utilities

17% of Non-Racialized households spending over 50% of income on rent and utilities

Source: Canadian Rental Housing Index. Based on 2021 Canadian Census Data. Available at: https://rentalhousingindex.ca/en/#comp_csd. [Accessed June 22, 2023]

Average rents for Townhouse and Apartments in Squamish:

	October 2021	October 2022
Bachelor	998	1065
1 Bedroom	1335	1421
2 Bedroom	1720	1930
3 Bedroom +	1969	1974
TOTAL Average	1608	1770

The average rental price of \$1770 is the highest among the 34 regions reported on by the CMHC.

Estimated 7.4% increase in average rent from 2021 to 2022

Average rental price in 2022:

Squamish	\$1770
Vancouver	\$1675
Victoria	\$1467
Nanaimo	\$1355
Penticton	\$1214
Cranbrook	\$1065

Powell River	\$885
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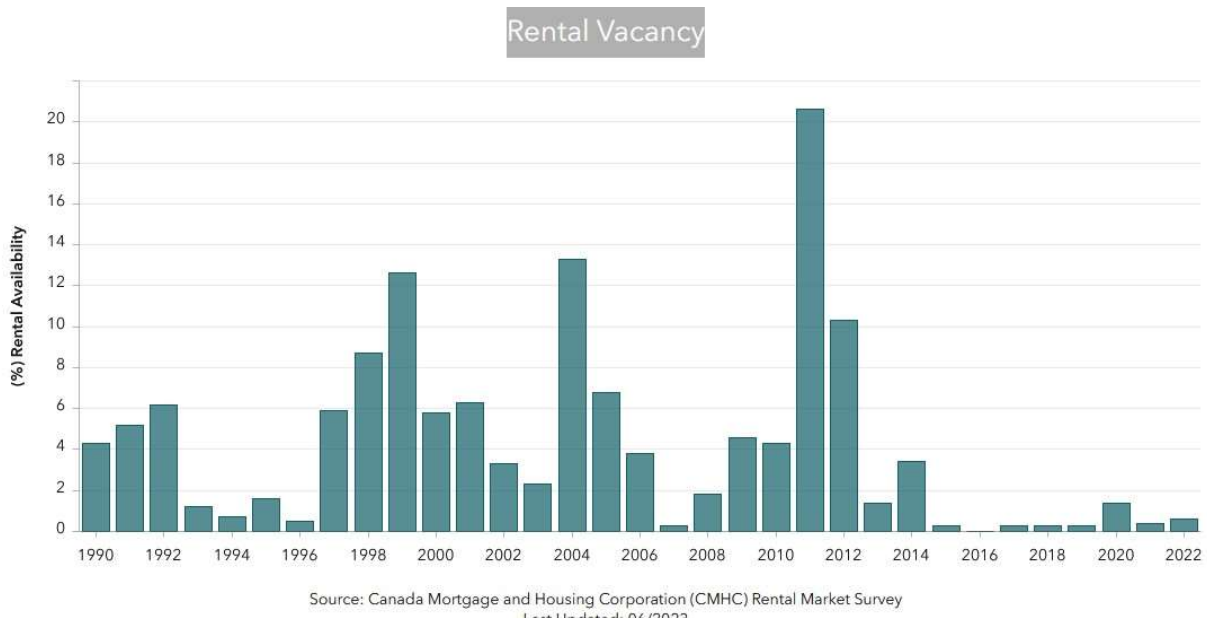
Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. 2022 Rental Market Survey. British Columbia Data Tables. Available at: https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/professionals/housing-markets-data-and-research/housing-data/data-tables/rental-market/rental-market-report-data-tables?utm_source=squamish%20chief&utm_campaign=squamish%20chief%3A%20outbound&utm_medium=referral [Accessed on June 22, 2023]

Average rent for a one-bedroom unit in Squamish”

2015	939
2016	883
2017	1036
2018	1143
2019	1128
2020	1260
2021	1335
2022	1421

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0133-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, average rents for areas with a population of 10,000 and over

Rental Vacancy Rate



Rental Vacancy rate in 2022 0.6%

Rental Vacancy rate in 2021 0.4%

Source: District of Squamish. Squamish 2040 OCP Indicators. Available at <https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/liveable#indicator6>. Sourced from: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Rental Market Survey.

Housing Suitability and Adequacy

5.1% of households in 2021 were living in unsuitable housing, a slight increase from 4.4 % in 2016. Suitable housing has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of private households according to the National Occupancy Standard.

5.7 % of households in 2021 were living in inadequate housing, a decrease from 7.1% in 2016. Adequate housing refers to housing where the dwelling does not require major repairs.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. Focus on Geography Series. 2021 Census of Population. Squamish, Census agglomeration. Available at: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=1&lang=E&dguid=2021S0504934>. (accessed June 11, 2023)

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS & STEPS TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

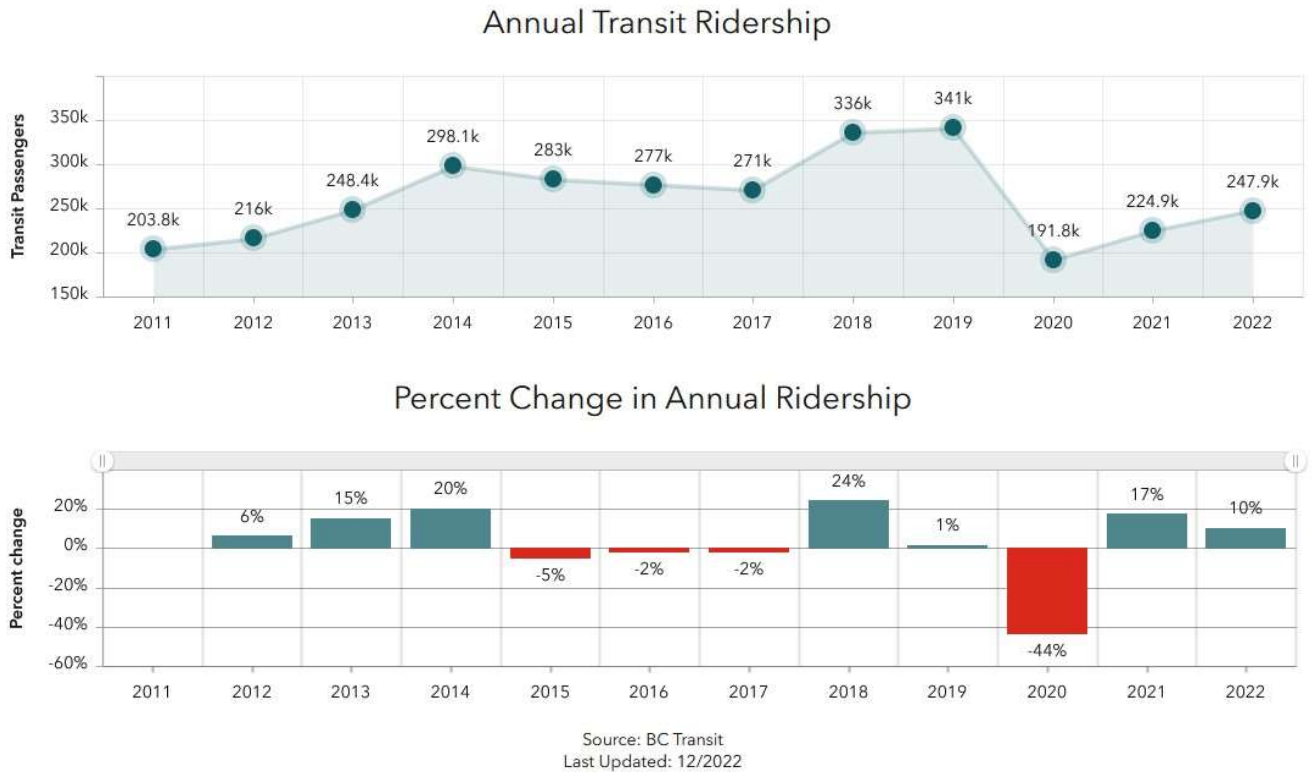
Source: Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation). <https://www.squamish.net>

Source: Christine Baker, Personal Communication

TRANSPORTATION

Transit Ridership

From 2015 to 2019 Squamish's public transit ridership increased by 21%. In 2020/2021 public transit ridership dropped considerably by 44% due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the fall 2021, ridership had rebounded to between 70% and 80% of pre-pandemic levels which was a more rapid rebound than most other BC communities



Source: District of Squamish. Squamish OCP Indicators. Transit Ridership
<https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/climate#indicator2> [Accessed June 17, 2023.]

Brackendale moves the most people in the system.

Of those surveyed in 2021, 49% of those who do not use transit felt that the bus is not frequent enough, 38.55% indicated that the times do not align with their schedule, and 37.35% indicated that the bus does not go where they need to go. When asked what would encourage people to use transit, people said:

- Desire for service to more destinations, including regional transit, service to Furry Creek and service to nearby parks
- Desire for more frequent service
- Improved fare technology

- Desire for real-time tracking of buses (better promotion of NextRide and Transit App)
- More bus shelters
- Faster transit service

Respondents were asked about improvements to service currently on the road. The top priority for respondents was to improve Brackendale service, focusing on morning and evening peak frequency. Other comments included regional service as being a priority.

Source: BC Transit. Squamish Transit Future Action Plan. Public Engagement Summary Report. June 2021. Available at https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/e907891bd393394ce5ed92f9ea479f24ef1f015c/original/1624387323/392558f4c5a55fdab80813dd9b2d1ed3_Squamish_Transit_Future_Action_Plan_Engagement_Summary_Report.pdf?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIA4KKNQAKIOR7VAOP4%2F20230723%2Fca-central-1%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20230723T213231Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=12bbde19504b83d680161eed4f98983330571c9ba658fc082efc1c425ce89d8e [Accessed on July 23, 2023]

Transit Mode Share

Transit Mode Share is the percentage of all trips that are made by transit in a given community. In 2015 the average mode share in Squamish was 1.3%. In 2019 it was 1.5% and in 2020 decreased to 0.8% due to the pandemic. The target is 5% transit mode share by 2025.

Source: BC Transit. Squamish Transit Future Action Plan 2022. Available at <https://www.bctransit.com/documents/1529718144883> [accessed on July 23, 2023]

Carbon Emissions

Transportation accounts for 52% of our community carbon emissions (50,000 tonnes CO₂ equivalent). Buildings account for 29% of community emissions (28,000 tonnes Co₂ equivalent) Waste accounts for 20% of community emissions (19,000 tonnes CO₂ equivalent). This is baseline inventory emissions established in 2017.

'Decarbonize Transportation' is one of 6 Big Moves in the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). Our CCAP goal for 2030 is for 50% of passenger vehicles and 10% of fleet vehicles to be electric by 2030.

Squamish's Climate Action plan includes strategies to:

- Invest in Active Transportation
- Invest in Transit
- Enhance public EV Charging Infrastructure

Source: District of Squamish Community Climate Action Plan. April 2020. <https://squamish.ca/assets/5a46b62375/CCAP-Update-January-2020-v2.pdf> [Accessed July 23, 2023]

Mode of Commuting

Of those employed who work outside of the home:

- 78.5 % drive a vehicle (car, truck or van) to work
- 6.7% ride as a passenger in a vehicle (car, truck or van) to work
- 1.9 use public transit
- 5.4% Walked
- 4.4 commute by bicycle
- 3 commute by other methods

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023. Available at <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,49,51,50,48,52&SearchText=Squamish> [Accessed on July 23, 2023]

Squamish has 7735 Commuters. 36.6% of these commute outside of Squamish for employment.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023. Available at: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,49,51,50,48,52&SearchText=Squamish>. [Accessed on July 23, 2023]

8% of people living in Squamish commute to Whistler to work. By contrast, 5% of those living in Squamish commute to Vancouver.

Source: Chua, S. Is Squamish the bedroom community of Whistler? The Squamish Chief. January 16, 2023. Available at <https://www.squamishchief.com/local-news/is-squamish-the-bedroom-community-of-whistler-6387329> [Accessed on July 23, 2023]

Active Transportation

Active Transportation is human powered transportation. [Cycling](#), [walking](#), rolling in a wheelchair, and skateboarding are some common examples of active transportation in Squamish. Active forms of transportation increase physical activity and health while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources.

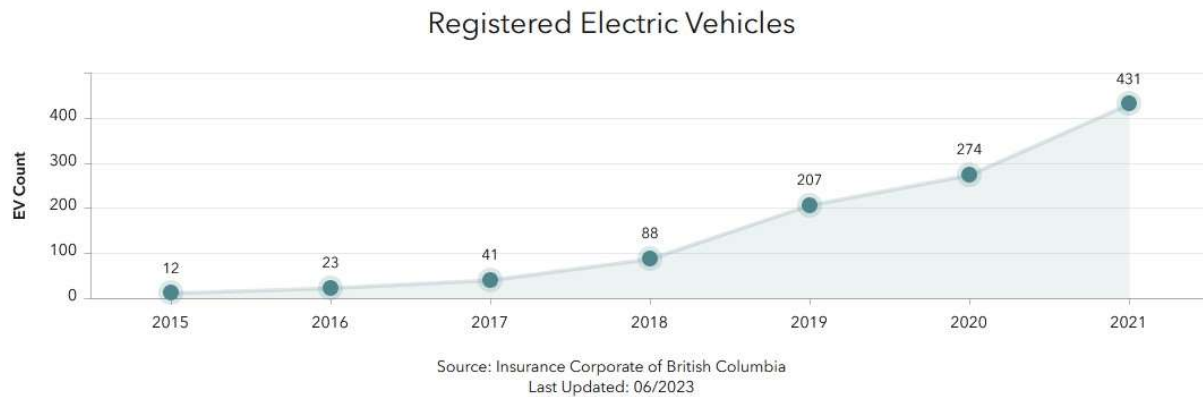
Approximately 10% of all trips to work in Squamish are made by walking or cycling in 2021. This has changed slightly from 2011 when 8.7% of all trips were made by walking or cycling.

Source. District of Squamish. Squamish 2040 OCP Indicators. Available at <https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/healthy#indicator5> [Accessed on July 23, 2023]

Electric Vehicles

As of 2022 there were 41 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Squamish.

AS of 2021 there were 431 Registered Electric Vehicles in Squamish, up from just 23 in 2016.



The target is 50% of vehicles in Squamish to be electric or similarly low carbon by 2023. This approximately correlates to 5000 vehicles.

Source: District of Squamish. Squamish OCP Indictors.

<https://indicators.squamish.ca/pages/climate#indicator4> [Accessed on July 23, 2023]

Commute Times

47% of the labour force employed outside the home commutes less than 15 minutes tow work.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023. Available at

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,49,51,50,48,52&SearchText=Squamish> [Accessed July 23, 2023]

WORK AND LABOUR MARKET

Squamish was ranked BC's most economically resilient city by BC Business Magazine in 2023

Source: BC Business Magazine <https://www.bcbusiness.ca/BCs-Most-Economically-Resilient-Cities-in-2023>

Squamish was also ranked BC's Best City for Work in 2019 and 2020 by BC Business Magazine.

<https://www.bcbusiness.ca/The-Best-Cities-for-Work-in-BC-2020>

Squamish Key Growth Sectors

- Clean Technology and Environmental Services
 - This includes renewable energy, clean transportation, responsible waste treatment
- Craft Food and Beverage, and Agriculture
 - With 120 local companies reported in 2019, the sector grew 21% from 2014 to 2019, out-performing the provincial growth rate of 13%.
 - The sector is also a Squamish leader when it comes to diversity and inclusion in entrepreneurship, with 55% of business owners reporting that they identify with one or more minority groups.
- Innovative Construction, Wood Products and Forestry
 - Currently, Squamish is home to over 70 small and medium-sized companies specializing in sustainable building solutions, prefabricated tiny home production, laneway and modular homebuilding, prefabricated building panel manufacturing, timber products and production services, wood and wood products coating, and custom timber frame home design.
- Recreation Technology and Performance Apparel Design
 - Nearly 30% of our local workforce are trained in design, engineering or technology-related fields, and we're Canada's outdoor recreation capital. The synergy of high-performance athletes, the natural environment and recreational entrepreneurs provides a perfect testing ground for piloting or field-testing new products.
 - Squamish is home to over 30 recreational clubs and associations, and hosts internationally recognized annual recreational events including the Kite Clash (kite boarding), Squamish Enduro (mountain biking), Squamish 50 (trail running), the Climbing Academy (rock climbing) to name a few.
- Creative Industries and Adventure-based Media and Film
 - Adventure-based media and marketing are emerging as a niche industry here in Squamish with many specialized photographers, videographers, digital marketing and design agencies choosing to operate here.

- Fiber optic cable is available throughout Squamish ensuring efficient access to a global audience and easy distribution of recreational digital media, film, and entertainment.
- Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality
 - 256 local businesses employ 661 local workers.
 - The economic impact of the tourism industry in Squamish includes 788 jobs and \$95.2 million in visitor spending (2018 economic impact)

Source: District of Squamish. Economic Development Team. Available at: <https://investsquamish.ca/key-sectors/> [Accessed on July 23, 2023]

Squamish labour force

Growth

Labour Force 2016= 11,835

Labour Force 2021= 14,825

This is a growth of 25.2%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2017. *Squamish [Census agglomeration], British Columbia and British Columbia [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census.* Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CMACA&Code1=934&Geo2=PR&Code2=59&SearchText=British+columbia&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&B1=Labour&TABID=1&type=0>

[Accessed July 23, 2023]

Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population.* Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,49,51,50,48,52,,42,44,40,43,41&SearchText=Squamish> [Accessed July 23, 2023]

The over all 2021 participation rate for Squamish, in the group aged 15 year and over, is 76.4%

The participation rate is the total labour force in a group, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that group. It shows the percentage of people who are either employed or actively looking for work. A growing participation rate signals more people coming into the labour force whether younger people looking for first jobs, people of working age switching careers or jobs, or people re-entering the job market after job disruptions. Migration can significantly affect this economic metric.

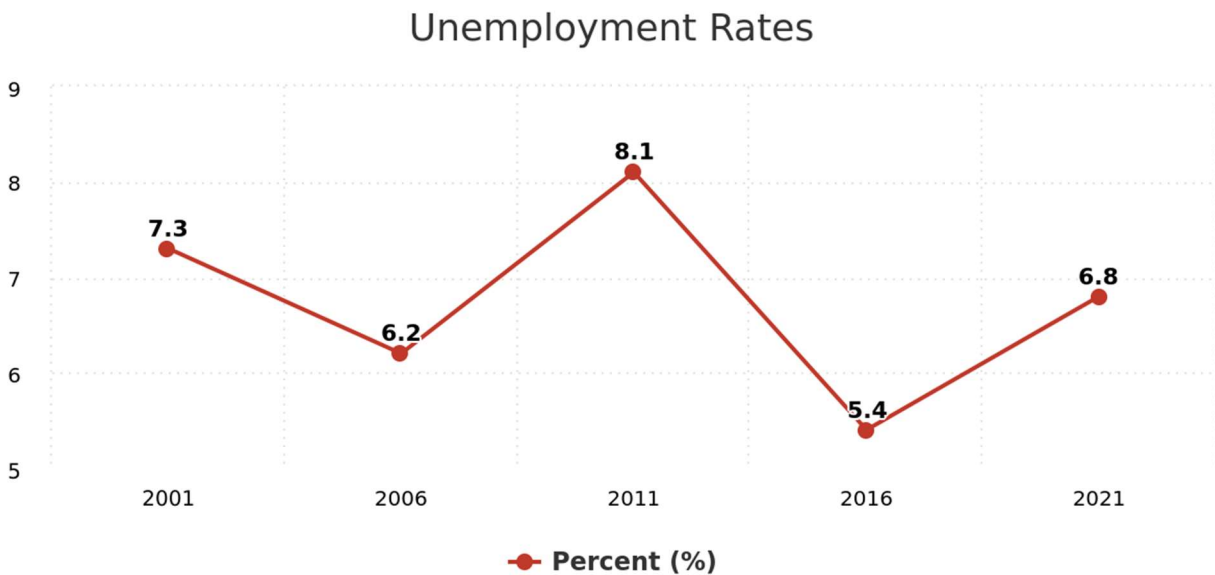
The employment rate for Squamish in 2021 was 71.2%. For women it was 68.2 %, whereas for men it was 74%.

The employment rate is the percentage of people of working age who are employed for each of the past three census years.

The unemployment rate for Squamish in 2021 was 6.8%.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023.
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,49,51,50,48,52&SearchText=Squamish>

The unemployment rate chart shows the number of unemployed workers and people searching for a paid job expressed as a percentage of the labour force.



Source: Townfolio. Squamish Community Profile. Available at <https://townfolio.co/bc/squamish/labour-force>. [accessed on July 23, 2023]

Local Work force

Residents employed locally are able to enjoy an increased quality of life due to reduction in time spent commuting to their place of work and a reduction in carbon emissions with transportation distances decreased.

Between 2016 and 2019, the number of local jobs grew 9% annually. This significant rise in jobs was offset by an 8% contraction in 2020 and 2021, when local jobs fell to 10,033 before rebounding 3.8% in 2022 to reach 11,448, and still below 2019. Between 2017 and 2022 local Squamish based jobs grew by 4%.

Source: District of Squamish. Squamish 2040 OCP Indicators.

Of the 13,815 employed in 2021:

- 3750 work at home (27.1%)
- 4905 commute within Squamish (35.5%)
- 2285 have no fixed place of work
- 1095 work within the Squamish Lillooet Regional District
- 1670 work in a different region
- 65 work in a different province
- 45 work outside of Canada

Portion of workers who work in Squamish 62.6%

Portion of female workers who work in Squamish 71.8%

Portion of Male workers who work in Squamish 54.5

Place of Work	Men	Women	Total	Percent	Percent Men	Percent Women
Work at home	1795	1960	3750	27.1	24.7	30
Commute within Squamish	2165	2740	4905	35.5	29.8	41.8
No fixed workplace	1725	565	2285	16.6		
Commute within SLRD	545	545	1095	7.9		
Commute to a different region	960	710	1670	12		
Work in a different province	50	10	60	.04		
Work outside of Canada	20	20	40	.3		
Total Employed	7260	6550	13805			

Local Jobs in 2021 = 11,000

Total Squamish Workforce 2021 = 14,825

Portion of Squamish Workforce employed locally in 2021= 74%

Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,49,51,50,48,52,,42,44,40,43,41&SearchText=Squamish> [Accessed July 23, 2023]

In 2021, 63.4 % of the workforce worked within Squamish.

Labour Characteristics

- 78.5 % of the labour force is classified as “employee”. 67.3% of the labour force have permanent positions, 11.3% have temporary positions.
- 20.5 % of the labour force is classified as “self-employed”
- 41.3 % of men worked a full year at full time. In contrast 35% of women worked a full year and full time in 2020.
- 37.9% of women worked part of the year or part time, and 32.5 % men worked part of the year or part time.

Labour Categories by Occupation

- Sales and Service 25.5%
- Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations 19.6%
- Business, Finance, and Administrative 14.6%
- Education, Law, and social, community and government services 10.6%
- Natural and Applied sciences 8.8
- Health Occupations 7.8
- Art, Culture, recreation and sport 5.7
- Other 12.8

Labour Force by participation rate by top industries , by Gender in 2020

Industry	Men	Women
Construction	20.4%	2.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3.3	20.65

Professional, Scientific and technical services	11.8	12.2
Accommodation and Food services	8.6	10.3
Retail trade	11.8	11.6

Between 2016 and 2021 there was a decrease of 18% in management positions held by females.

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=44,40&SearchText=Squamish> [accessed July 23, 2023]

Employment Income

2020 Median After Tax income \$45,200

- 2020 Median After Tax income for men \$50,800
- 2020 Median After Tax income for women \$40,000
- Difference between men and women: \$10,800

2020 Median Employment Income \$46,000

- 2020 Median Employment income for men \$55,600
- 2020 Median Employment income for women \$37,600
- Difference between men and women: \$18,000

Full time workers:

Median employment income in 2020 \$71,000
 Median employment income in 2020 for men \$78,000
 Median employment income in 2020 for women \$62,000
 Difference: \$16,000

Part time workers:

Median employment income in 2020 \$24,000
 Median employment income in 2020 for men \$29,200
 Median employment income in 2020 for women \$21,200

Difference: 8,000

Source: Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021S0504934&HEADERlist=,10,9,8,7,11&SearchText=Squamish> [Accessed on July 23, 2023]

Employment income is all income received as wages, salaries and commissions from paid employment and net self-employment income from farm or non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice during the reference period.

For the 2021 Census, the reference period for income data is the calendar year 2020, unless otherwise specified.

In the context of persons, total income refers to receipts from certain sources, before income taxes and deductions, during a specified reference period. Receipts that are included as income are: employment income, income from investment sources, income from pension sources, other income such as child support payments, social assistance or other income from government sources,

In 2020, 10.5 % of income earning population received employment insurance benefits.

In 2020, 29.3% of income recipients received COVID-19 emergency and recovery benefits.

Wages

The median hourly wage based on job postings published between January 2021 and September 2021 was \$25.99.

Source: District of Squamish. Squamish Investment Guide. 2022. Available at:

<https://investsquamish.ca/assets/Imported/Document-Files/Why-Squamish-Investor-Profile-2022.pdf>

[accessed July 23, 2023]

Labour Shortage

The Squamish Chamber Surveyed its members at the start of 2022 and found that nearly 70% of respondents stated they had experienced challenges recruiting or retaining staff over the last year. The biggest challenges stated were lack of applicants in general, lack of affordable housing to rent and the cost of living.

Source: The Squamish Chief. 2022. J. Thuncher. <https://www.squamishchief.com/local-news/were-drowning-squamish-staffing-shortage-continues-as-busy-summer-season-nears-5430004>

48 of Squamish Businesses reported in 2019 that recruiting and retaining employees is a major challenge or the most difficult challenge they face. 79% felt that housing affordability was a very big or big factor affecting the availability of workers for their business.

Source: 2019 BC Chamber of Commerce Collective Perspective Survey Report. Available at: <https://www.squamishchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Squamish-Chamber-CP-Report-2019-20-Condensed.pdf>

Household Income

The proportion of households earning more than \$150,000 per year more than doubled between 2016 and 2021.

Source: City Spaces Consulting. March 2023. Housing Needs Report. District of Squamish. Available at <https://squamish.civicweb.net/FileStorage/17CAF699019B44E88D8B45313EC1285B-RTC%20-%202023%20District%20of%20Squamish%20Housing%20Needs%20Repo.pdf> (accessed June 1, 2023)

Childcare Spaces

Source: SPARC BC. Squamish Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy 2018 to 2023. Available at: <https://www.sscs.ca/wp-content/uploads/Squamish-Child-Care-Needs-Assessment-Strategy.pdf>