



SOUTHEAST

Quality of Life Report

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Executive Summary

Southeast, Manitoba is a largely English-speaking, non-immigrant region whose 2021 profile combines continuity with gradual change. English remains the dominant mother tongue by a wide margin, while French, German and Plautdietsch continue to give the region a strong heritage-language presence. At the same time, some smaller immigrant languages are growing quickly from a low base, especially Punjabi. The immigrant population is still modest relative to the larger non-immigrant majority, but recent arrivals are concentrated in prime working ages, giving the region a pattern of change that is present without overturning its established demographic character. Population density and median age both edged upward, pointing to steady growth and slight aging rather than rapid transformation.

That measured shift appears across identity, education and household structure. Ethnic origin remains anchored in long-established European ancestries, especially German, alongside a rising Métis population and a sharp decline in people identifying simply as Canadian. Christianity is still the largest religious affiliation, but a substantial no-religion population gives the region a more mixed religious picture than a single tradition alone would suggest. Educationally, the largest concentration remains at the high-school level, yet university credentials expanded strongly over the five years, while trades credentials slipped. Household and family patterns also show a quieter restructuring: couple families still dominate, but households with children have declined, one-person households have risen, and one-parent families have grown. The broad direction is toward smaller, more varied living arrangements rather than a simple continuation of older family forms.

Economic and housing conditions reinforce that sense of gradual rebalancing. Household incomes are increasingly concentrated in middle and upper brackets, with especially strong growth at the top end and declines in several lower-income bands. Homeownership remains the dominant tenure, but renting has grown faster, and renter shelter costs have risen more quickly than owner costs. Even so, most households are not in core housing need, suggesting that housing pressure is real but not the defining condition across the region. Southeast emerges as a sparsely populated but steadily densifying region with a stable core population, rising diversity at the margins, and social and housing patterns that are evolving in incremental rather than abrupt ways.

Mother Tongue

English remains the dominant mother tongue in Southeast, Manitoba, with 92,645 speakers, up 12.2% over five years; Punjabi saw the biggest growth, rising 322% to 380 speakers.

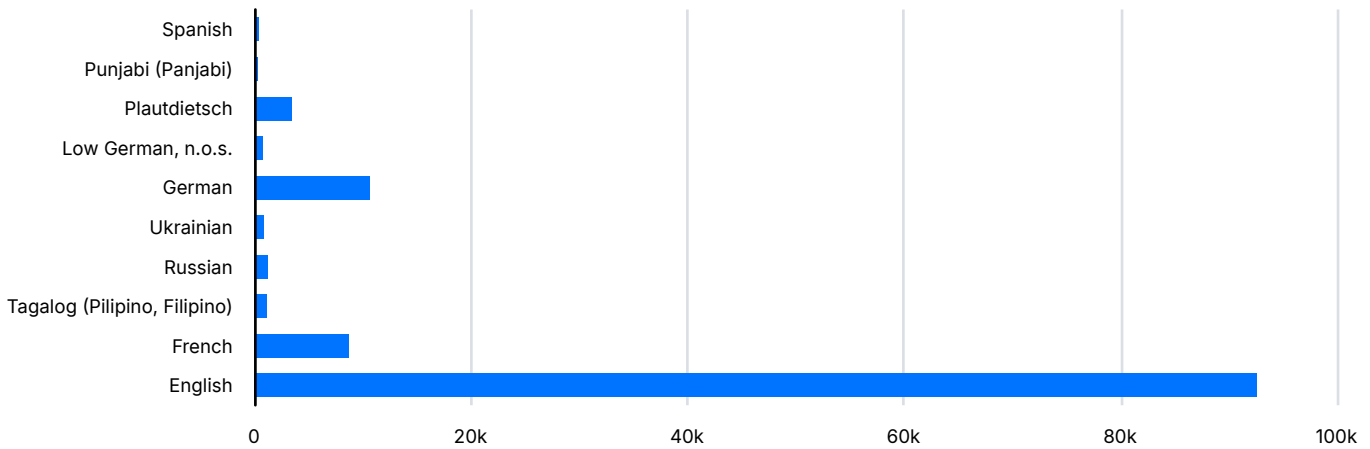


Figure 1.1: Shows the first language learned and still understood by residents. It helps indicate the linguistic roots of the population. (Southeast, 2021)¹

Mother tongue data for Southeast (2021) shows a predominantly English-speaking population with 92,645 people reporting English as their first language. The dataset captures recent change over five years for several languages. French is the second largest listed mother tongue at 8,745 people. Other notable counts include German at 10,655 and Plautdietsch at 3,450. Several languages show pronounced five-year movement: Punjabi rose by 322.2%, Spanish by 42.6%, Tagalog by 23.2%, while German fell by 34.4% and Ukrainian by 22.4%. These figures describe the linguistic composition and recent directional shifts without implying causes.

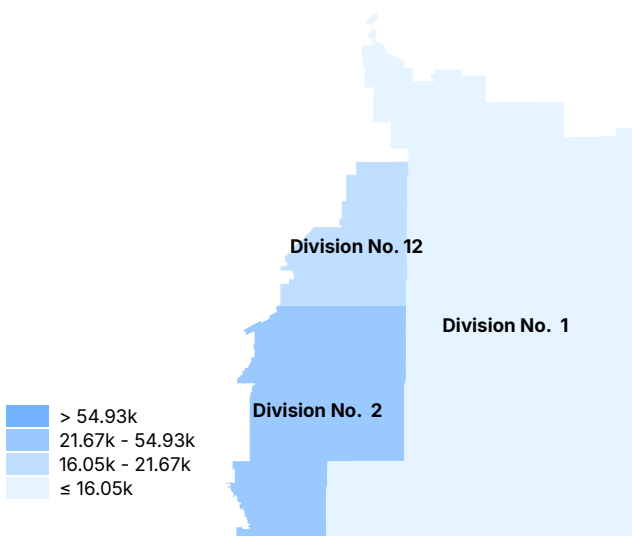


Figure 1.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Language - English (Southeast)¹

The Southeast region's mother tongue profile is dominated by English speakers, with 92,645 people reporting English in 2021, while a mix of heritage and growing languages appear across the region. Key figures show French at 8,745 (-6.8% over five years), German at 10,655 (-34.4%), Plautdietsch at 3,450 (no change), Tagalog at 1,170 (+23.2%) and Punjabi at 380 (+322.2%). Division No. 2 reflects similar trends: English 54,925 (+15.2%) and Punjabi 355 (+373.3%). These numbers highlight a large English majority alongside declining European-origin tongues and rapid relative growth among some immigrant languages.

Immigrant Status

Non-immigrants remain the biggest population in Southeast, rising 10.7% to 110,990 people by 2021. In contrast, non-permanent residents dropped 30% to just 455 residents.

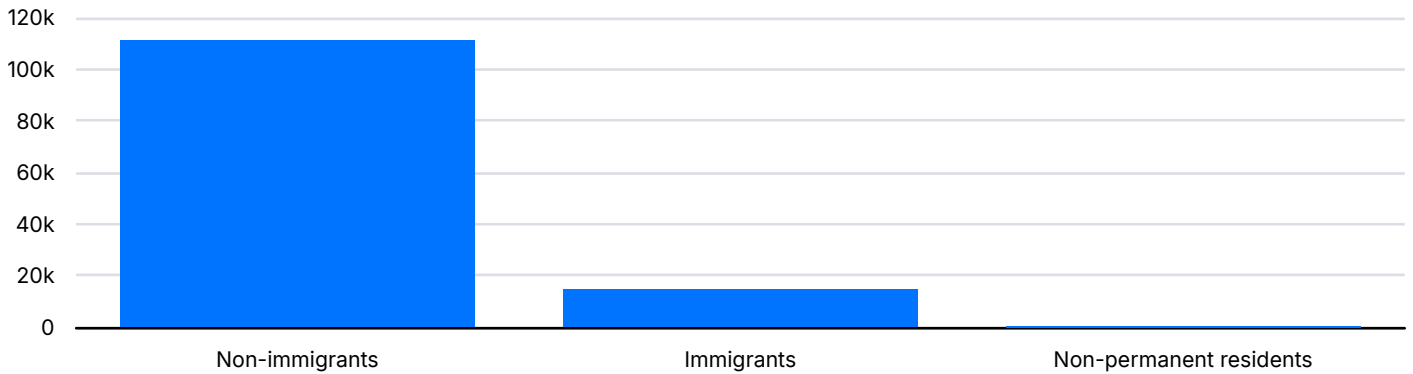


Figure 2.1: Shows whether residents are immigrants, non-permanent residents, or non-immigrants. It helps indicate the role of immigration in community growth and composition. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The region’s population by immigrant status in 2021 shows a predominantly non-immigrant community within private households. The census counts 110,990 non-immigrants, 14,535 immigrants, and 455 non-permanent residents. Over the five years to 2021, non-immigrants increased by 10.7% while immigrants rose by 1.8%; non-permanent residents declined by 30.0%. The distribution points to a large resident base that is not recent immigrant-origin, with modest immigrant growth and a substantial drop in non-permanent residents. These patterns describe recent composition and short-term momentum only.

The Southeast economic region’s population is largely non-immigrant residents, with 110,990 non-immigrants recorded in 2021. Immigrants numbered 14,535 and non-permanent residents 455, all measured in private households. Five-year change shows non-immigrants rising by 10.7%, immigrants up 1.8%, and non-permanent residents down 30.0%. Subregional differences are visible: Division No. 2 reported 70,420 non-immigrants and 11,730 immigrants (immigrants up 5.5% over five years), while Division No. 1 saw immigrant numbers fall by 14.7%. These figures describe recent compositional shifts without assigning causes.

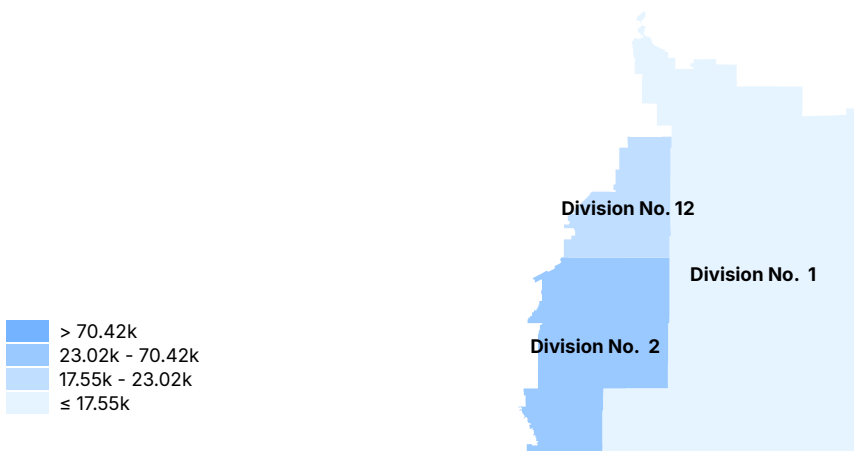


Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Immigrant Status - Non-immigrants (Southeast)¹

Age at Immigration

The 25-to-44 age group dominates immigration in Southeast Manitoba, with 4,755 newcomers in 2021, representing a 14.86% increase since 2016, making it both the largest and fastest-growing cohort. Other age brackets remain under 4,000.

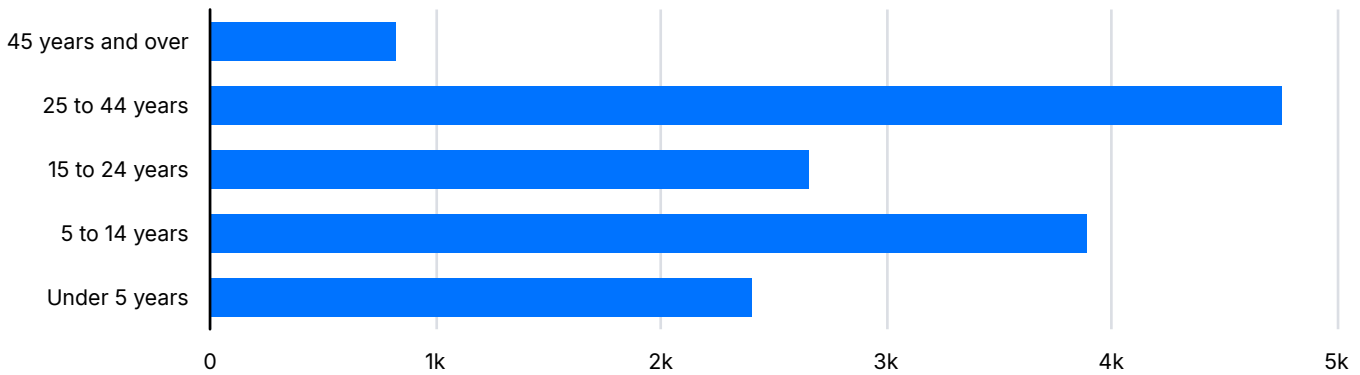


Figure 3.1: Shows the age at which immigrants first arrived in the country. It helps explain whether newcomers arrived mainly as children, working-age adults, or older adults. (Southeast, 2021)¹

In 2021 the immigrant population in private households of Southeast was concentrated among working-age arrivals: 4,755 people first arrived at ages 25 to 44, the largest age group and one that grew by 14.9% over the prior five years. Children under 5 numbered 2,405 and declined by 11.6% over five years, while those aged 5 to 14 were 3,890 and essentially stable (+0.5%). Young adults 15 to 24 totaled 2,655 (-4.8%) and arrivals aged 45 and over were 825 (+7.8%). These changes show recent growth driven by prime working-age immigrants.

The age at which immigrants first arrived in Southeast is concentrated in working ages. In 2021 there were 4,755 people who arrived at ages 25 to 44, followed by 3,890 arriving at 5 to 14 and 2,655 at 15 to 24; 2,405 were under 5 and 825 were 45 and over. Five-year change shows growth for ages 25 to 44 (+14.9%) and 45+ (+7.8%), while under 5 declined (-11.6%). This pattern signals recent inflows skewed toward prime working ages and some decline in very young arrivals.

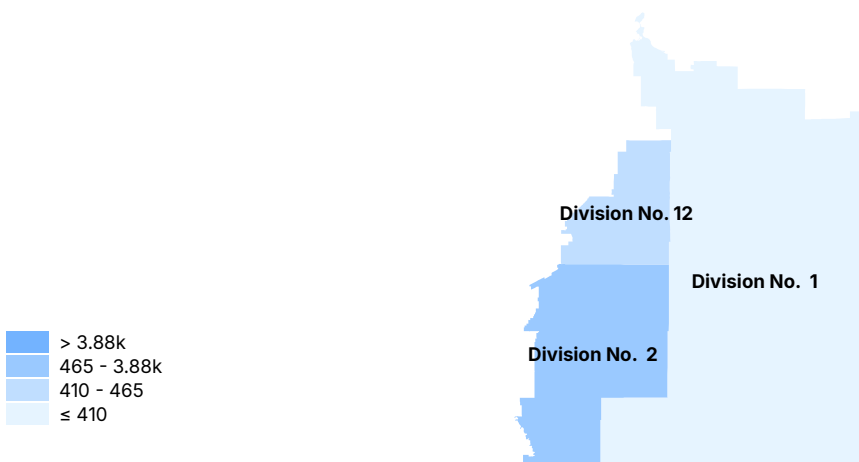


Figure 3.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Age At Immigration - 25 to 44 years (Southeast)¹

Ethnic Origin

German ancestry remains the largest group in Southeast, Manitoba with 29,500 people, but it dropped 18.8% over five years; the Canadian-identified population fell even faster, down 54.7% to 14,830 according to 2021 data.

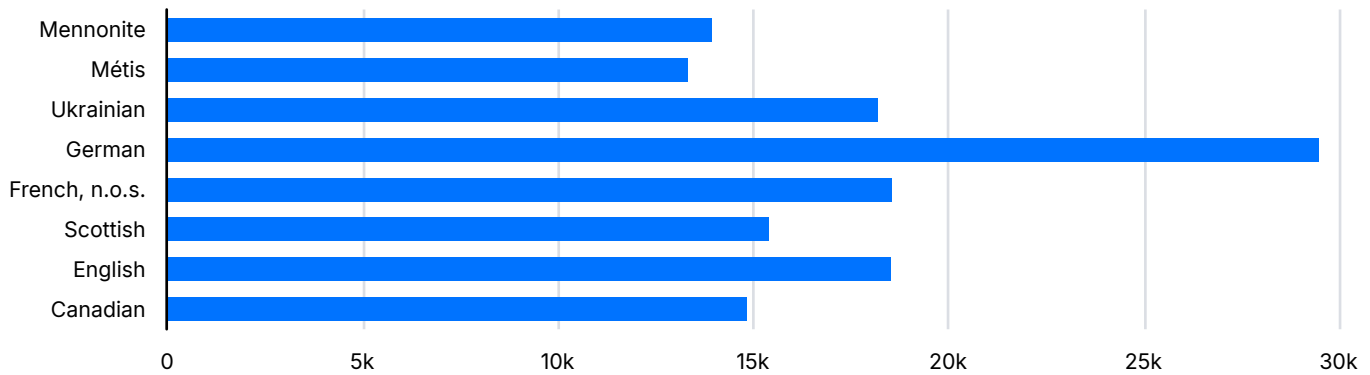


Figure 4.1: Shows the ethnic or cultural origins reported by residents. It helps indicate ancestry patterns and the community's cultural makeup. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The Southeast's reported ethnic origins in 2021 show a mix of long-established European ancestries and Indigenous identification, with German (29,500), French (18,545) and English (18,535) among the largest single-origin counts. Five-year change data highlight divergent momentum: Métis increased by 11.4%, while German origins fell by 18.8% and those identifying as Canadian declined by 54.7%. Several other origins show modest decreases; French and Mennonite five-year changes are not reported.

The Southeast region's recorded ethnic origins in 2021 show a mix of long-established European ancestries alongside a notable rise in Indigenous identification. The largest counts were German (29,500), English (18,535) and French, n.o.s. (18,545). The label Canadian declined sharply by 54.7% to 14,830 over five years while Métis increased by 11.4% to 13,340. Subdivision data reflect similar patterns: Division No. 2 reports Métis up 13.6% to 8,765. These shifts point to changing self-identification within the population over the five-year period.

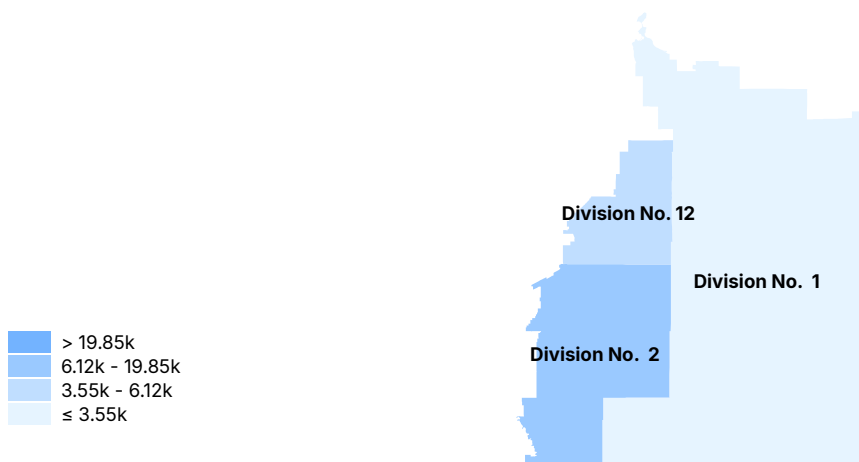


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Ethnic Origin - German (Southeast)¹

Religion

Christianity dominates Southeast, Manitoba's religious landscape, with 81,675 adherents, far outnumbering the next largest group, No religion, at 42,025, and other faiths each under 1,000, making it the clear majority.

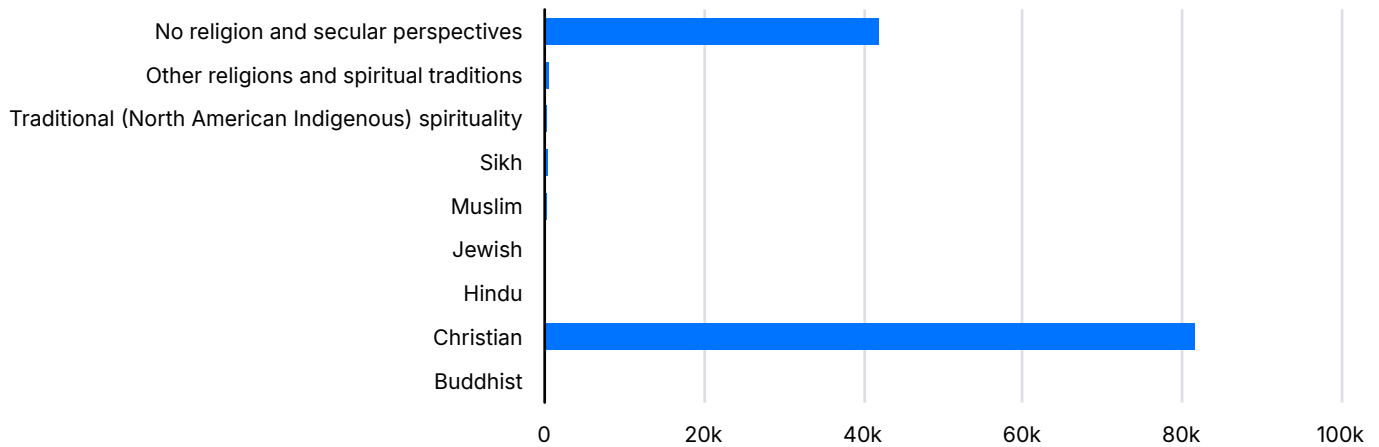


Figure 5.1: Shows residents' religious affiliation. It helps indicate the spiritual and faith-based diversity of the community. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The religious composition of Southeast (Economic Region) in 2021 is dominated by two large categories and several much smaller affiliations. The dataset covers residents in private households. Christian affiliation counts 81,675 people and those reporting no religion total 42,025. Other reported groups include Sikh 465, Muslim 370, Traditional Indigenous spirituality 375, Jewish 240, Hindu 175, Buddhist 80, and 570 for other religions. No temporal series is provided, so time trends cannot be assessed from these data alone. These counts describe the region's religious diversity for 2021.

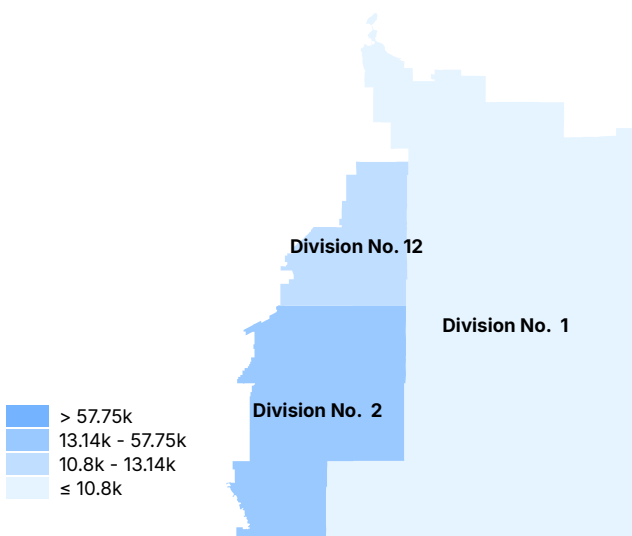


Figure 5.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Religion - Christian (Southeast)¹

Religion in Southeast (2021) is numerically dominated by those reporting Christian affiliation and by a large secular segment. Christian respondents number 81,675 while 42,025 reported no religion. Smaller faith communities are present: Sikh 465, Muslim 370, Hindu 175, Jewish 240, Buddhist 80, and 375 reporting Traditional Indigenous spirituality; 570 reported other religions. Subdivision counts show most Christian residents are in Division No. 2 (57,750), with Division No. 12 (13,135) and Division No. 1 (10,795) smaller. These figures describe the region's faith composition by headcount in private households.

High School Completion

In Southeast, Manitoba, the majority of residents aged 15 + hold a high school diploma, with 74,240 people versus 23,990 without any certificate in 2021.

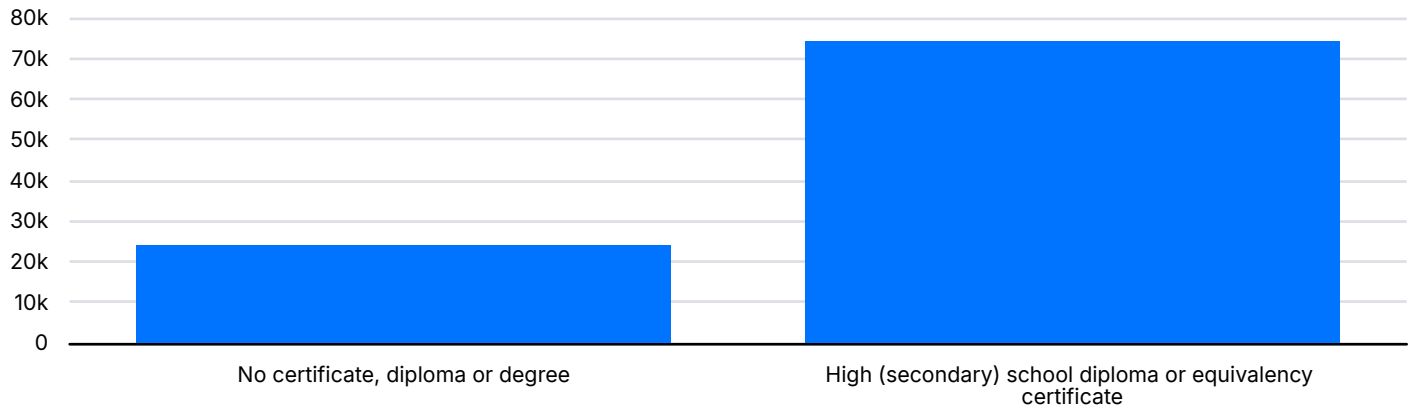


Figure 6.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Southeast, 2021)¹

High school completion in Southeast is reported for 2021 for residents age 15 and over living in private households. The region had 74,240 people with a high (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate and 23,990 people with no certificate, diploma or degree. No earlier years are provided here, so recent momentum or longer-term trends cannot be assessed from this dataset alone. The counts describe the region's educational composition in 2021.

Southeast's adult population shows a clear concentration of secondary credentials. In 2021, 74,240 residents held a high school diploma or equivalency while 23,990 reported no certificate, diploma or degree. Among census divisions, Division No. 2 accounted for the largest shares with 46,095 diploma holders and 15,860 without a credential. Division No. 1 and Division No. 12 reported smaller absolute counts. These totals refer to residents age 15 and over in private households. The pattern highlights the scale of basic secondary attainment in the region.

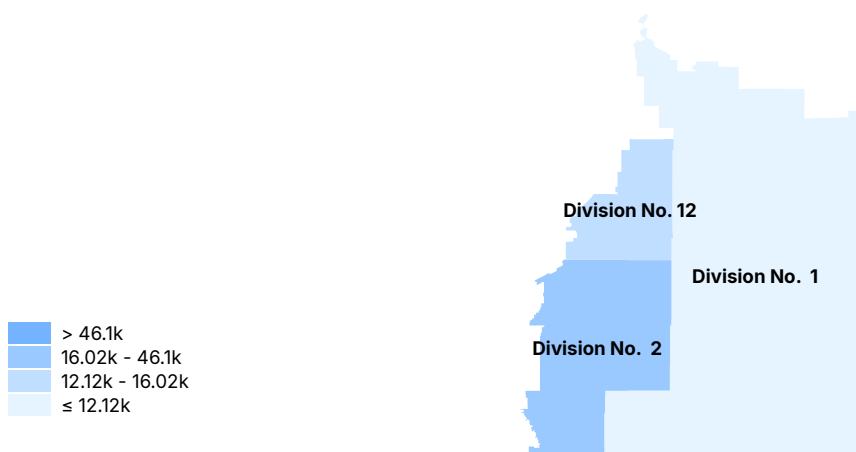


Figure 6.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Southeast)¹

Highest Education Level

High school diplomas dominate the population in Southeast, Manitoba, with 32,935 residents in 2021, an 85% rise since 2016. This makes it the largest and fastest-growing education group, while bachelor's holders grew 48%.

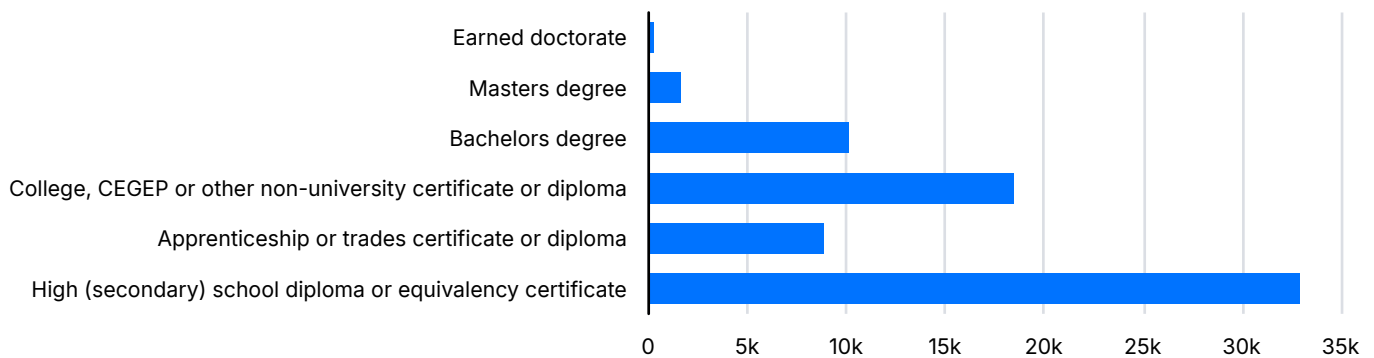


Figure 7.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The Southeast (economic region) education profile in 2021 shows most residents hold a high school diploma. Data cover the population aged 15 and over in private households. High (secondary) school: 32,935 people (5-year change +85.3%). College certificates: 18,495 (+12.3%). Apprenticeship or trades: 8,855 (-6.1%). Postsecondary completions rose sharply at the degree level: bachelors 10,155 (+48.5%), masters 1,645 (+15.9%), earned doctorates 275 (+48.6%). The pattern combines a large high-school cohort with notable recent growth in university credentials and a small decline in trades.

Southeast’s population aged 15+ is concentrated at the high-school level, with 32,935 people reporting a secondary diploma in 2021. College credentials number 18,495 and bachelor’s degrees 10,155; bachelor’s increased 48.5% over five years while trades certificates fell 6.1%. Among divisions, Division No. 2 reports 6,460 bachelor’s holders (+54.0%). The data show recent gains in higher credentials alongside a large high-school cohort.

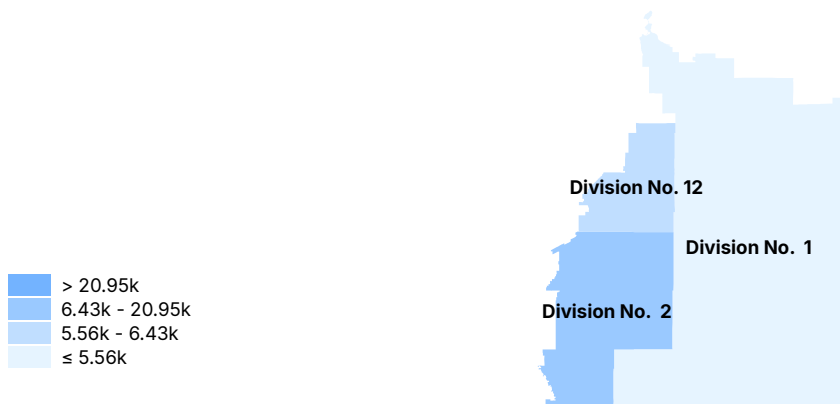


Figure 7.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Southeast)¹

Household Total Income Groups

The highest-earning households in Southeast are in the \$150-199k bracket, numbering 5,010 in 2021, while the \$200k-plus group surged 82.4% to 3,210 households, showing rapid growth among top earners overall.

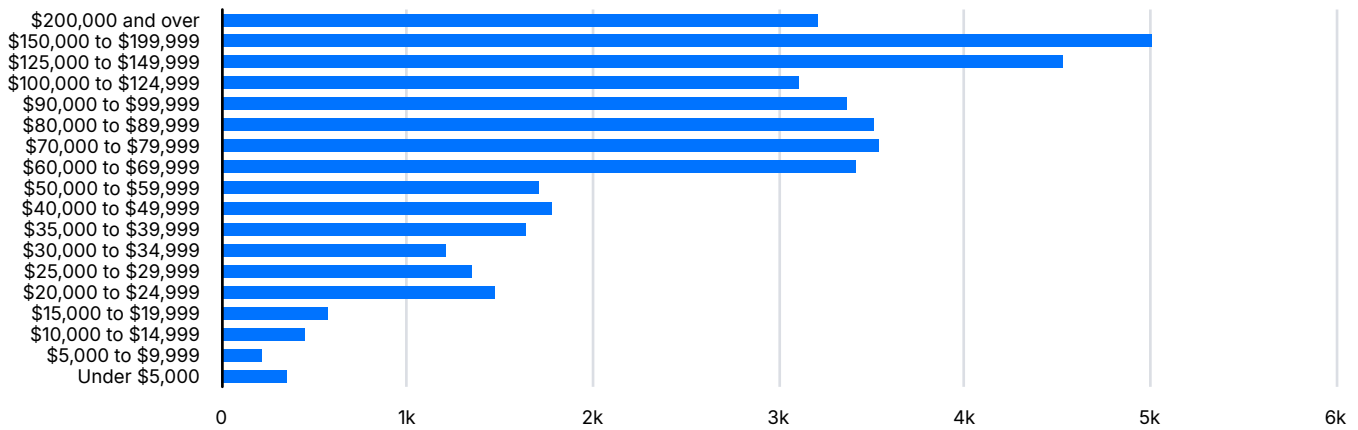
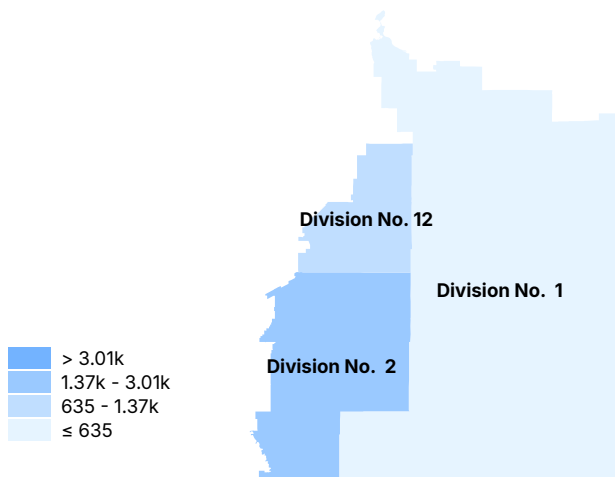


Figure 8.1: Shows households across total income groups. It helps indicate how household incomes are distributed from lower- to higher-income ranges. (Southeast, 2021)¹

Household incomes in Southeast (private households, 2021) are concentrated in middle-to-upper ranges and show clear five-year shifts. Largest counts appear above \$60,000: 5,010 households in \$150,000–\$199,999, 4,530 in \$125,000–\$149,999 and 3,415 in \$60,000–\$69,999. The highest bracket, \$200,000 and over, totals 3,210 households. Change over five years is uneven: the top two brackets rose sharply (+51.1% and +33.8%) and the \$200,000+ group increased by +82.4%, while several low-income bands fell (for example, Under \$5,000 down -22.8% and \$15,000–\$19,999 down -52.5%). The pattern indicates a shift toward higher income groups within the region over the five-year period.



In Southeast (2021) household incomes cluster toward middle and upper ranges, with notable counts in \$150,000–\$199,999 (5,010 households) and \$125,000–\$149,999 (4,530 households). Five-year change shows strong growth at the top: \$200,000 and over rose 82.4%, \$150,000–\$199,999 rose 51.1% and \$125,000–\$149,999 rose 33.8%. Lower-income bands declined; for example, Under \$5,000 fell 22.8%. The pattern points to a shift in the distribution toward higher income groups over five years.

Figure 8.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Income Group Household - \$150,000 to \$199,999 (Southeast)¹

Household Type

Couple-family households with children remain Southeast’s largest household type at 15,155 in 2021, though they fell 15.9% since 2016, while multiple-census-family households dropped sharply to 195, a 63.9% significant decline.

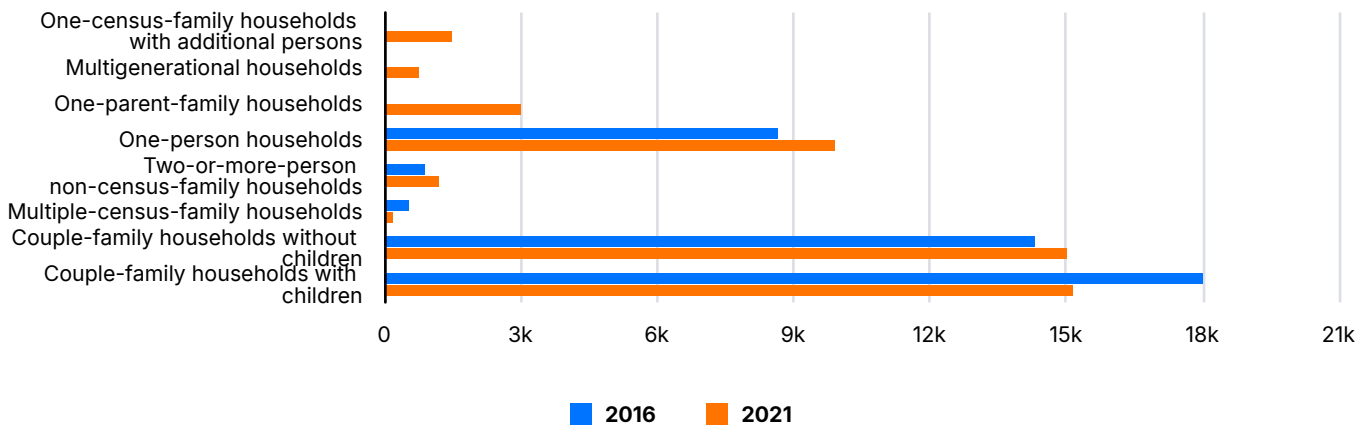


Figure 9.1: Shows the mix of household types, including one-person, family, and non-family households. It helps indicate how residents are organized across living arrangements. (Southeast, 2016-2021)¹

The household mix in Southeast in 2021 shows a shift away from traditional couple-family households with children toward smaller and non-traditional arrangements. Couple-family households with children remain the single largest category at 15,155 households but declined 15.9% over five years. One-person households count 9,920 and rose 14.6%, while couple-family households without children are nearly equal at 15,020 and grew 5.0% over the same period. Two-or-more-person non-census-family households increased markedly by 33.3% to 1,200 households. Several categories are small or changed sharply: multiple-census-family households fell 63.9% to 195, and multigenerational households total 770. This pattern points to rising single-person living and growing non-family shared households alongside declines in some extended-family arrangements.

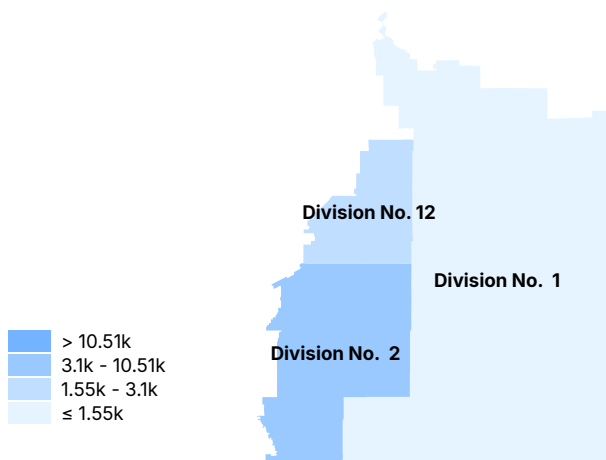


Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Household Type - Couple-family households with children (Southeast)¹

Household arrangements in Southeast show a clear shift away from couple families with children toward smaller or childless households. In 2021 the region had 15,155 couple-family households with children (down 15.9% over five years) versus 15,020 couple-family households without children (up 5.0%) and 9,920 one-person households (up 14.6%). Sub-divisions mirror this pattern; for example Division No. 2 recorded 10,505 couple families with children (-13.9%) and 5,530 one-person households (+20.0%). Multiple-census-family households fell sharply across the region. These figures point to demographic restructuring within private households rather than population totals.

Family Type

Married couples with children remain the largest family type in Southeast, Manitoba with 14,490 households, though down 6% since 2016, while one-parent families grew 18% to 3,820 overall in the region.

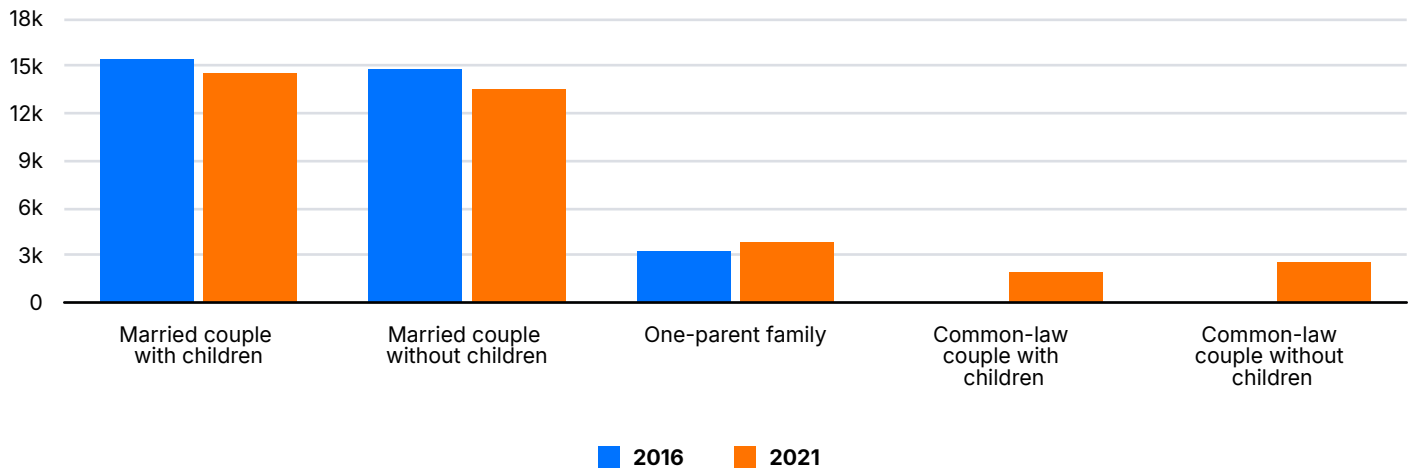
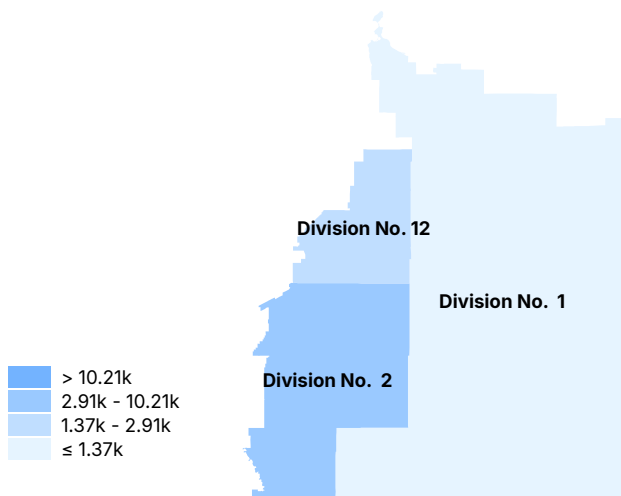


Figure 10.1: Shows the mix of family types, such as couple families and lone-parent families. It helps indicate the structure of family life in the community. (Southeast, 2016-2021)¹

The composition of families in Southeast (Census families in private households, 2021) shows a majority of couple families with notable recent shifts in their counts. Married couples with children numbered 14,490 in 2021, down 6.0% over five years; married couples without children were 13,525, down 8.3% over the same period. Common-law couples were smaller: 1,890 with children and 2,520 without children (no five-year change reported). One-parent families numbered 3,820 in 2021 and rose 17.7% over five years. These figures indicate declining married-couple counts alongside growth in one-parent families between censuses.



The Southeast region's family composition in 2021 is dominated by couple families, with 14,490 married couples with children and 13,525 married couples without children. Common-law couples are smaller in number, at 1,890 (with children) and 2,520 (without). One-parent families total 3,820, rising 17.7% over five years. Division No. 2 shows the strongest growth in one-parent families (2,470; +22.3%), suggesting recent shifts within the region's family mix.

Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Family Type - Married couple with children (Southeast)¹

Housing Tenure

Owner households dominate Southeast, Manitoba with 38,625 homes in 2021, while renter households surged, reaching 7,935—a 19.6% rise over five years, outpacing the 8.6% growth of owners, showing strong demand for rental housing.

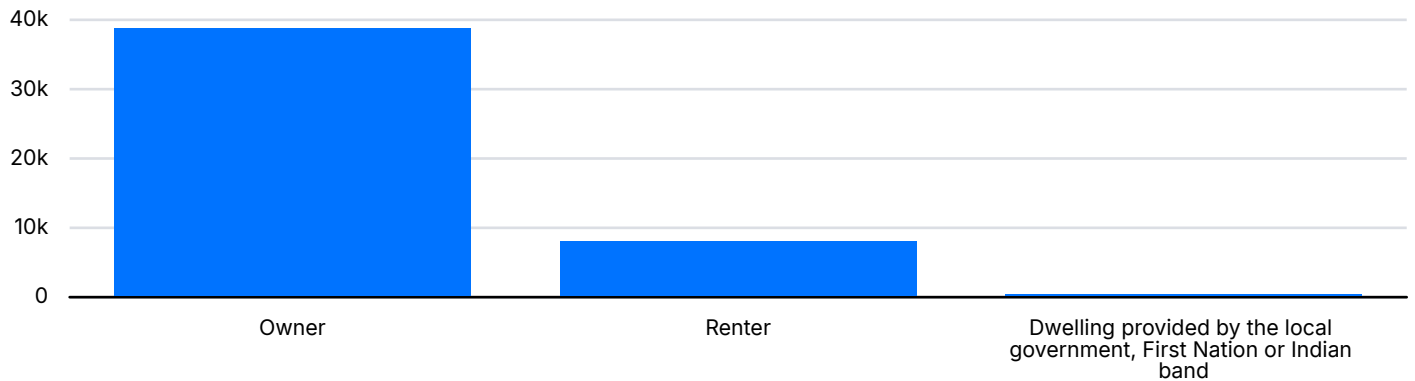


Figure 11.1: Shows whether households own or rent their homes. It helps indicate the balance between ownership and rental housing in the community. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The housing-tenure profile for Southeast (2021) shows a dominant owner-occupied stock alongside smaller rental and government-provided categories. Data cover private households. Owner households numbered 38,625 in 2021 and rose 8.6% over five years. Renter households were 7,935, up 19.6% over the same period. Households in dwellings provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band totaled 175 and declined 16.7% in five years. The pattern indicates larger absolute growth among owners with faster relative growth among renters.

Housing tenure in Southeast is dominated by ownership: in 2021 there were 38,625 owner households, alongside 7,935 renter households and 175 dwellings provided by local government or First Nation authorities. Over the five years to 2021 owners rose by 8.6% and renters by 19.6%, while government-provided dwellings fell by 16.7%. Division No. 2 is a major contributor with 22,355 owners and 6,120 renters (renters +25.9%). The pattern shows growth in both ownership and rental counts and a decline in government-provided stock.

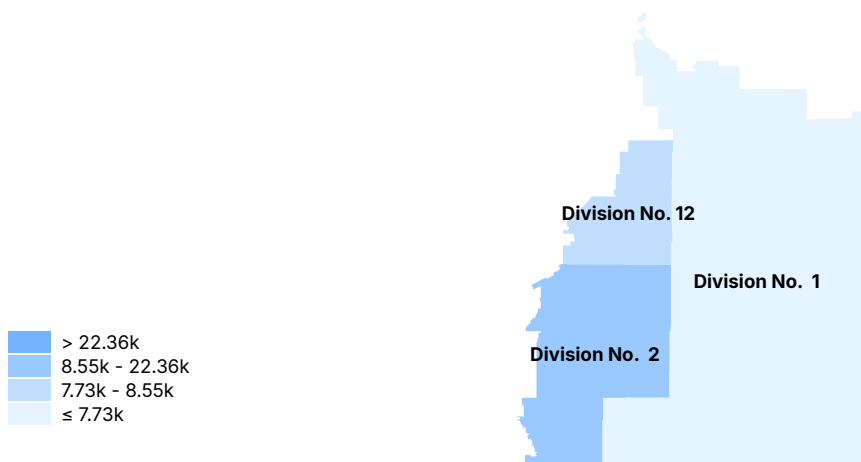


Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Southeast)¹

Core Housing Need

Most households in Southeast, Manitoba are not in core housing need, with 41,205 households versus only 3,440 in core need, indicating relatively stable housing conditions in 2021 according to the 2021 survey.

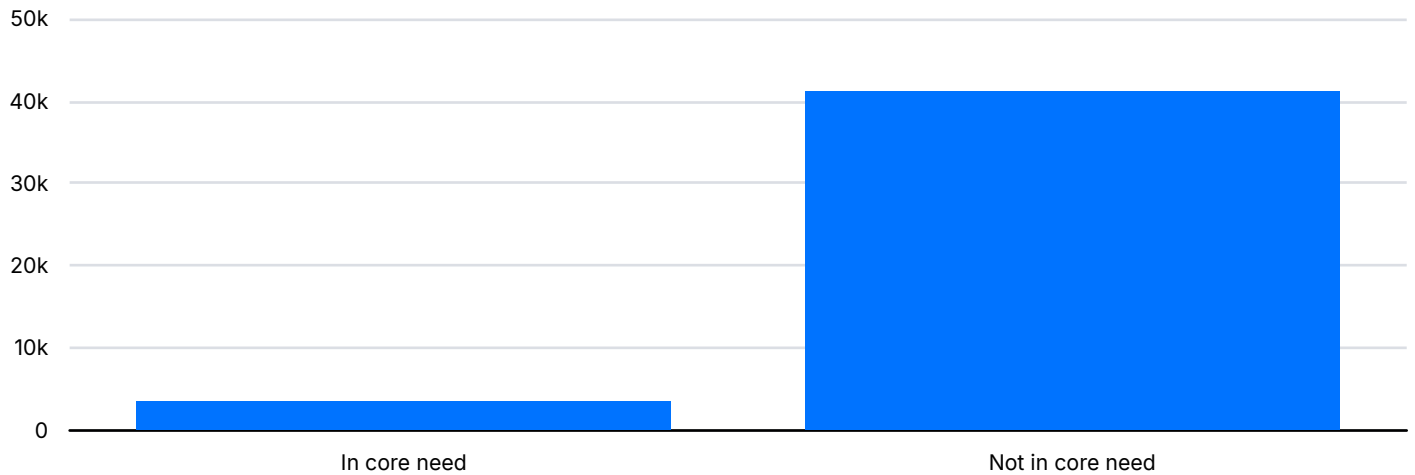
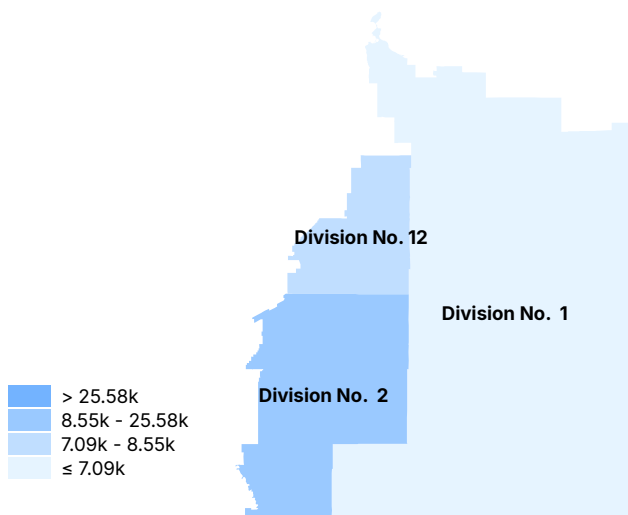


Figure 12.1: Shows the share of households living in housing that is unaffordable, unsuitable, or in need of major repairs. It helps indicate overall housing stress in the community. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The 2021 census shows the Southeast economic region had 3,440 households identified as in core housing need and 41,205 households not in core need, within the defined universe of owner and tenant households. Together those counts imply 44,645 households in the census universe and about 7.7% of them were in core housing need in 2021. No earlier years are provided in this dataset, so trends over time cannot be shown here. This snapshot quantifies the scale of housing need at one point in time.



Southeast records 3,440 households identified as living in core housing need in 2021, alongside 41,205 households not in core need. This measure reflects households in unaffordable, unsuitable, or major-repair housing within the defined universe. Among its census divisions, Division No. 2 accounts for 1,785 households in core need, Division No. 1 has 1,200, and Division No. 12 has 445. The counts show that housing need is dispersed across the region's subdivisions rather than confined to a single area.

Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Core Housing Need - Not in core need (Southeast)¹

Average Shelter Costs

Renters in Southeast Manitoba now pay about \$1,037 monthly for shelter, a 19.9% rise since 2016, while owners pay \$1,200, up 10.2%. These figures show housing costs remain high for both groups.

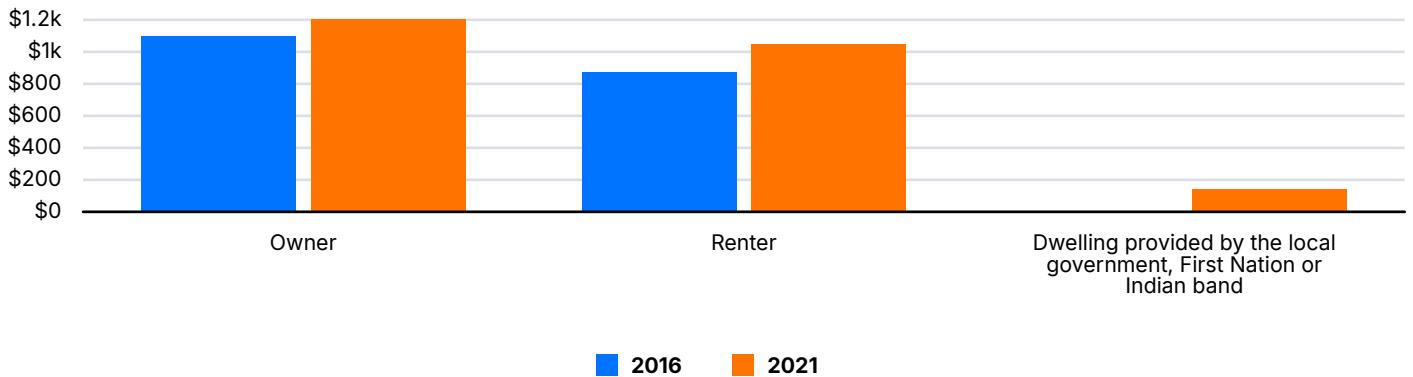


Figure 13.1: Shows the average monthly shelter costs paid by households. It helps indicate typical housing expenses faced by owners and renters. (Southeast, 2016-2021)¹

Average monthly shelter costs in Southeast (2021) are modest and vary by tenure. The dataset covers owner and renter households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings. Owners reported an average monthly shelter cost of \$1,200 and renters \$1,037. A small number of households lived in dwellings provided by local government or First Nation bands with an average cost of \$134. Five-year change figures show owners' costs rose 10.2% and renters' costs rose 19.9% between the censuses. These figures describe recent upward pressure on shelter costs, larger among renters than owners.

Average monthly shelter costs in Southeast (2021) show owners paying \$1,200 and renters \$1,037, while dwellings provided by local government or First Nation bands average \$134. Five-year changes are +10.2% for owners and +19.9% for renters. Within the region, Division No. 1 reports lower costs (owners \$823; renters \$792), Division No. 2 and Division No. 12 report higher owner costs (about \$1,288 and \$1,304) and renter costs near \$1,060-\$1,075. The larger five-year increase for renters than owners suggests stronger upward pressure on rental costs across the region.

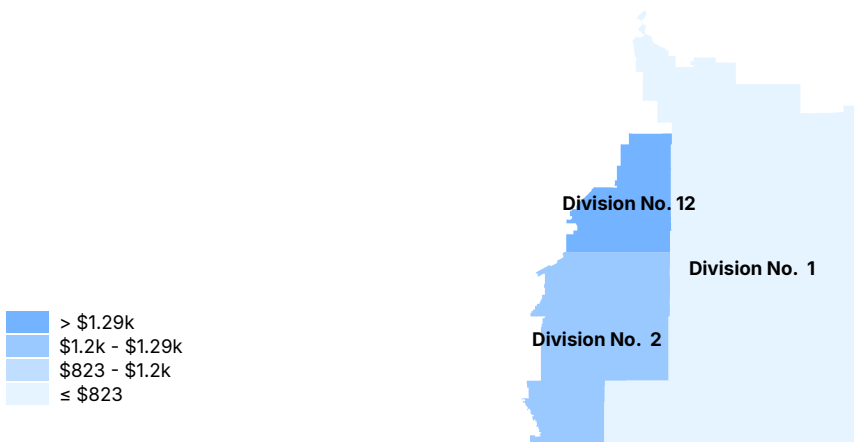


Figure 13.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Housing Tenure - Owner (Southeast)¹

Population Density

Southeast's population density rose to 6.1 people per km² in 2021, marking an 8.9% increase since 2016 and continuing significant growth from 5.6 in 2016 after a 14.3% rise since 2011.

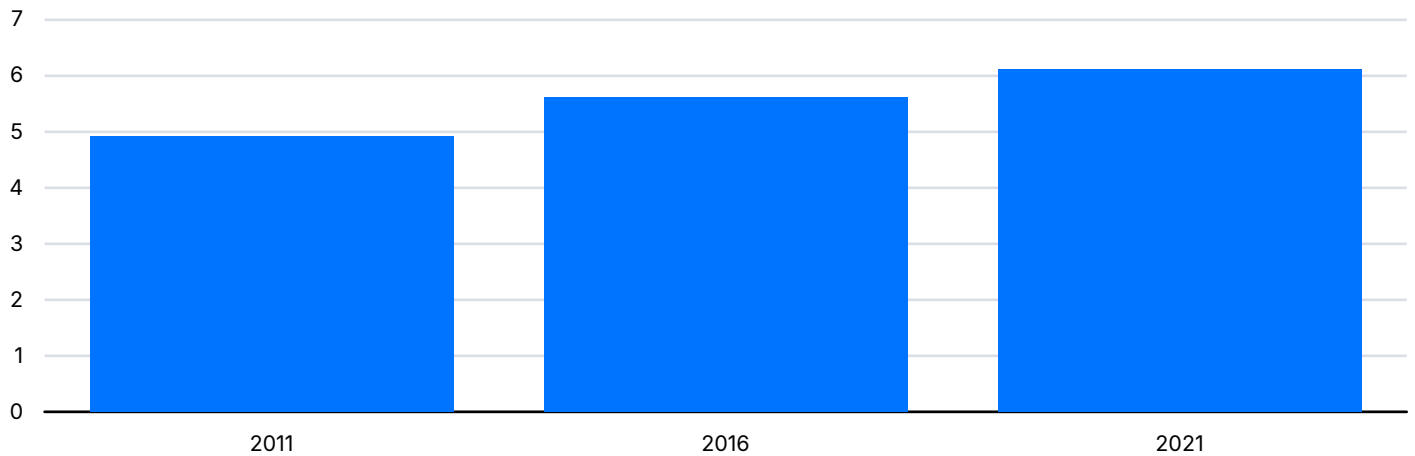
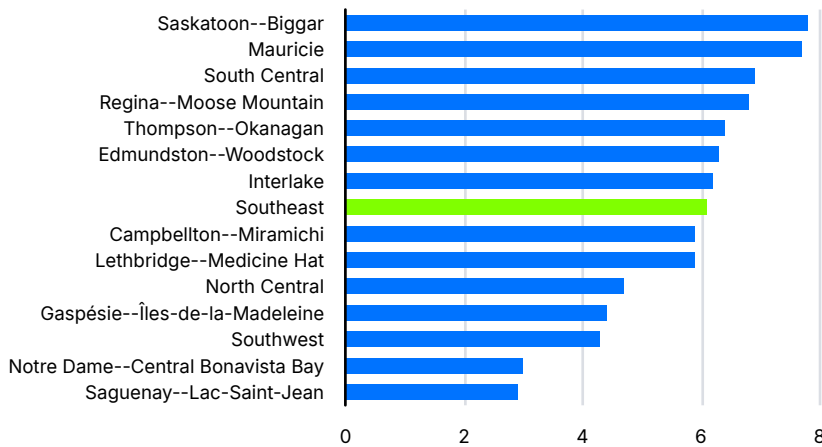


Figure 14.1: Shows how many people live per unit of land area. It helps indicate how compact or spread out the population is. (Southeast, 2011-2021)¹

The Southeast economic region has a low but steadily rising population density, measured in people per km². The series covers the 2011, 2016 and 2021 censuses and tracks how compact the resident population is across the region. In 2011 the density was 4.9 people per km². By 2016 it rose to 5.6 people per km², a 5-year increase of 14.3%. The 2021 value reached 6.1 people per km², representing an 8.9% increase from 2016. The pace of growth slowed between 2016 and 2021 compared with the previous five-year period, though density remained higher in absolute terms. The data show steady densification across the two census intervals.



Southeast is a sparsely populated economic region with 6.1 people per km² in 2021. Its density rose from 4.9 in 2011 to 5.6 in 2016 and 6.1 in 2021, reflecting sustained, moderate growth over the decade. Compared with nearby regions, Southeast is denser than Parklands (1.5), North (0.2), Southwest (4.3) and North Central (4.7), but below South Central (6.9) and Interlake (6.2); Winnipeg is far higher at 1,324.3. The pattern shows gradual densification within a rural range.

Figure 14.2: Comparison of Population Density with other locations (Southeast, 2021)¹

Median Age

According to 2021 data, Southeast’s population is aging modestly, with the median age now 38 years, up from 37.6 in 2016, reflecting a 1.06% increase over the recent five years.

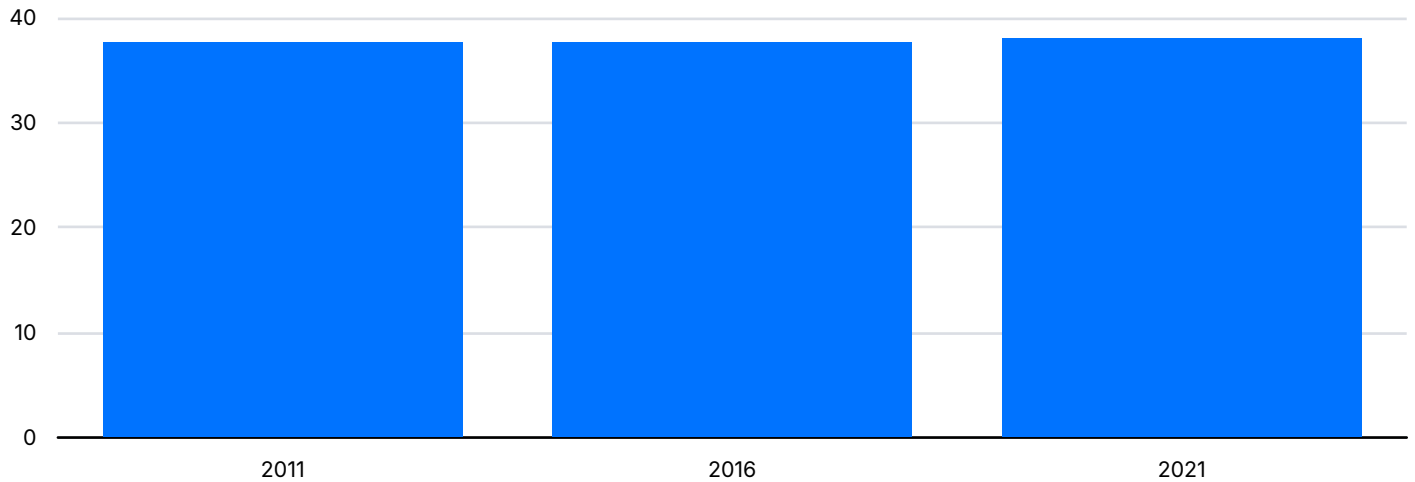
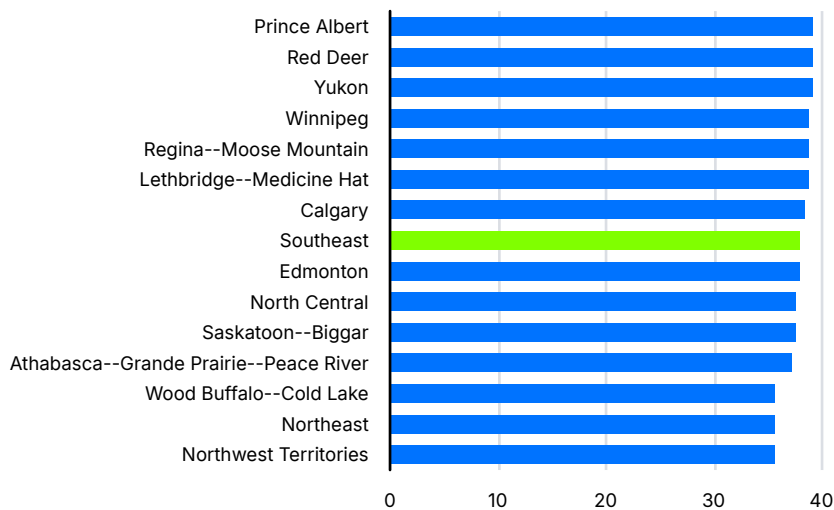


Figure 15.1: Shows the median age of residents. It helps indicate whether the population skews younger or older at the midpoint of the age distribution. (Southeast, 2011-2021)¹

Median age is a basic indicator of the population's midpoint by age; in this region it has been essentially steady with a small upward movement in the last census period. The median age was 37.6 years in both 2011 and 2016. By 2021 the median age reached 38 years, representing a 5-year change of 1.1%. With no comparator data in the table, the clearest pattern is stability through 2016 followed by a modest rise to 2021. This pattern signals a slight aging at the population midpoint over the most recent five-year interval.



Southeast’s median age was 38.0 years in 2021, up 1.1% from 2016. This places the region near the middle of Manitoba’s economic regions. Compared with peers in 2021, Southeast is younger than South-west (39.2 years), Winnipeg (38.8 years), Interlake (45.2 years) and Parklands (43.6 years). It is older than South Central (35.2 years) and North (28.6 years). The data show modest aging since 2016 without large divergence from provincial peers.

Figure 15.2: Comparison of Median Age with other locations (Southeast, 2021)¹

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.

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