

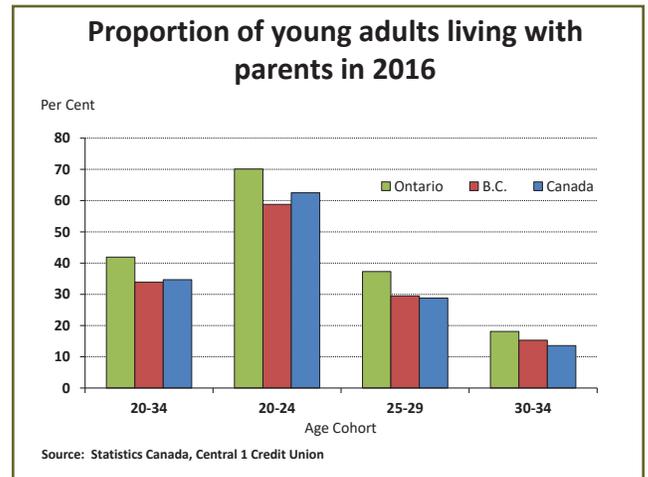
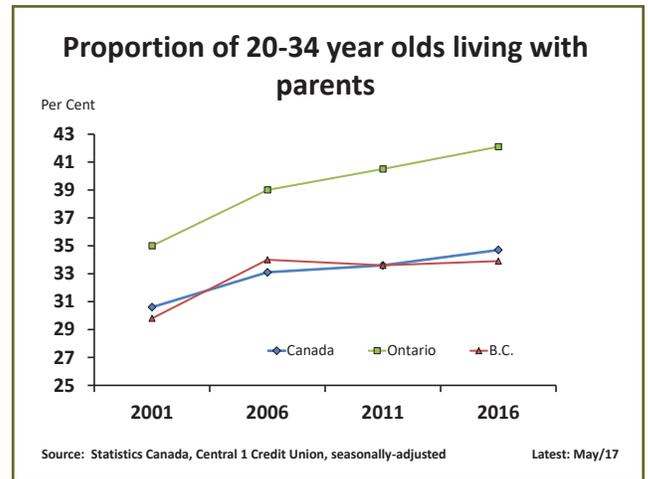
Census shows changing composition of households

This week’s release of 2016 Census data by Statistics Canada highlighted a number of evolving themes related to household composition that credit unions should keep in mind. They have an impact on the communities credit unions are in, and products and services which may be in demand. Specifically, demographic and economic factors have likely contributed to a rise in single-person households, delayed the launch of young adults from the family home, or caused them to boomerang back, and led to a rise in multi-generational households.

Delayed independence and boomerang kids:

To the chagrin (or elation) of parents, more kids are staying in the family home well into adulthood. Nationally, 34.7 per cent of young adults (aged 20-34) lived with a parent in 2016. This has climbed over the past decade, from 33.3 per cent in 2011 and 30.6 per cent in 2001. While this could reflect increased schooling in the younger 20-24 age cohort, the share has also climbed in the 25-29 and 30-34 age groups. This rising trend likely speaks to a number of factors. Eroding housing affordability, both ownership and rental, and slow economic growth in recent years have made staying at home more financially prudent. In fact, staying in the family home is one way to bridge this affordability constraint and save for a future down payment. Young adults may be choosing to upgrade their skills and lengthen their post-secondary education. Cultural norms may also be a factor, as it is normal in many cultures for children to stay home until marriage, which in many cases has been put off.

The proportion of young adults (age 20-34) in B.C. living with a parent is below the national average at 30.9 per cent, but higher in the Vancouver (35.6 per cent) and Abbotsford-Mission (33.6 per cent) Census Metropolitan Areas. In Ontario, the proportion is considerably higher at 41.9 per cent, led by Toronto (47.3 per cent), Oshawa (47.2 per cent), and Windsor (43.1 per cent), but is generally high across urban areas.



Mamas, nanas, papas, oh my: Multi-generational households are on the rise, a reflection of Canada’s multicultural fabric and an aging population. Economic factors may also play a role, particularly in large urban areas where housing is more expensive, as families pool resources, or rely on equity of grandparents to afford housing. While still a small share of total households at 2.9 per cent, the number of multi-generational households rose 12 per cent from 2011 and 37 per cent from 2001. Growth since 2011 has been particularly strong in Alberta (26.5 per cent), with growth in Ontario (12.3 per cent) and B.C. (11.6 per cent) near the national pace.

Nonetheless, the highest share of multi-generational households among provinces is in Ontario (3.9 per cent) and B.C. at 3.6 per cent. Multi-generational households are especially prevalent

in Abbotsford-Mission (7.6 per cent) and Vancouver (4.8 per cent) in B.C. Meanwhile, in Ontario, Toronto (5.8 per cent), Oshawa (4.3 per cent) and Barrie (3.9 per cent) have the largest proportions of multi-generational households.

Lone rangers: Nationally, the proportion of one-person households continued to climb, according to the 2016 Census, with the number rising 8.1 per cent from 2011. Total share rose to 28.2 per cent, up from 27.6 per cent in 2011 and 25.6 per cent in 2001. Drivers of this long upward trend are numerous, including the economic independence of individuals provided by a strengthened social safety net, a more educated female workforce, increased divorce rates, and higher life expectancy (particularly women vis-a-vis men). The highest prevalence of one-person households in 2016 was in Quebec at 33.3 per cent, with Ontario at 25.9 per cent, and B.C. at 28.8 per cent.

Among large B.C. and Ontario metro areas, the highest proportion of one-person households were in Victoria (33.3 per cent), Thunder Bay (31.8 per cent), and London (30.1 per cent). In medium-to-large urban centres, shares of one-person households were highest in Penticton (33.5 per cent), Port Alberni (32.4 per cent), Nanaimo (29.6 per cent) in B.C., and Stratford (33.4 per cent), Orillia (33 per cent), Sault Ste. Marie (31.8 per cent) and Owen Sound (31.7 per cent) in Ontario. Broadly speaking, higher ratios are observed in retiree destinations and outside the large metro areas. The latter likely reflects outflows of families, due to economic factors.

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