

GREATER MONTREAL'S

VitalSigns[®]

Our Region's Annual Check-up

2006



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Foundation of Greater Montreal



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The Foundation of Greater Montreal is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the well-being of the Greater Montreal community. It builds and manages permanent endowment funds and distributes the income in the form of grants to charitable organizations working in the areas of health, social services, arts and culture, education, and the environment.

Established in 1999, the Foundation of Greater Montreal is a member of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), the membership organization for Canada's community foundations, the oldest of which was founded in Winnipeg in 1921. CFC has more than 150 members, which collectively hold more than \$2 billion in assets and serve 89% of Canada's population. In 2005, these foundations collectively awarded over \$95 million in grants to support local charities.

CFC also plays a leading role in the world-wide community foundation network and has supported the development of foundations in Brazil, Mexico, Central and Eastern Europe, South Africa, and Australia.

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Greater Montreal's Vital Signs – 2006

The research for this edition of Vital signs was overseen by SECOR consulting.

A more comprehensive version of this report, with additional indicators, and all data sources and links is available on our website. www.fondationdugrandmontreal.org.



Foundation of Greater Montreal

Greater Montreal's Vital Signs

INTRODUCTION

Greater Montreal's Vital Signs is a report card on the health of our city and region to be published annually by the Foundation of Greater Montreal (FGM). Originally developed by the Toronto Community Foundation in 2001, *Vital Signs* has since been adopted by a number of other community foundations across the country, under the stewardship of Community Foundations of Canada.

The goal of this report is to provide a snapshot of the factors that contribute to the quality of life in and around Montreal. By doing so, we hope to offer food for thought, promote dialogue and raise awareness of a range of issues affecting our community's future.

Vital Signs also aims to inform our numerous donors — and indeed anyone interested in supporting the vitality of our community — and to orient their philanthropy towards some of the more pressing needs in our community and to connect them with interesting opportunities. This first edition of *Vital Signs* examines data and statistics in at least ten key areas of urban life. With the help of experts and using published data, we have identified some of the region's strengths and weaknesses and occasionally made comparisons with other cities. At the same time we hope this process will highlight the need to develop new and relevant indicators so we may better grasp emerging trends and challenges in our region.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT & CEO



Pierre Brunet
Chairman



Kathleen Weil
President and CEO

For over ninety years, citizens across North America have been engaged in a very special kind of community building through their local community foundations. In Canada the movement has grown by leaps and bounds over the last decade, making it the fastest growing form of philanthropy in this country. There are more than 150 community foundations at the service of generous donors and charitable organizations working together to improve the quality of life in their cities and regions.

The movement is still young in Quebec, but, by drawing on the expertise, knowledge and support of colleagues across Canada and North America, the Foundation of Greater Montreal has experienced solid growth. The formula appeals to Montrealers as it does to concerned and caring individuals everywhere.

The model is simple. A donor sets up an endowment fund with a gift to the foundation, and the capital is protected and invested by the foundation in perpetuity. The income from the fund is distributed yearly to address local issues. Donors rely on the expertise of the community foundation to insure their gift has maximum impact. The community foundation relies on the generosity and engagement of donors.

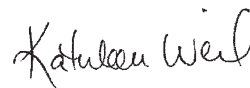
This year, along with several other community foundations across Canada, and with the support of Community Foundations of Canada, the FGM launches its first annual publication of *Vital Signs*, an annual community check-up that looks at many different aspects of life in the Montreal region. The appeal of this approach is that it identifies the challenges all cities face and fosters dialogue among the region's various stakeholders in their quest for sustainable solutions.

We invite you to read this report keeping its purpose in mind: to stimulate debate, raise awareness of the issues of importance in our community and encourage citizen engagement so we may, together, improve the lives of our fellow citizens and make Montreal an even better place to live.

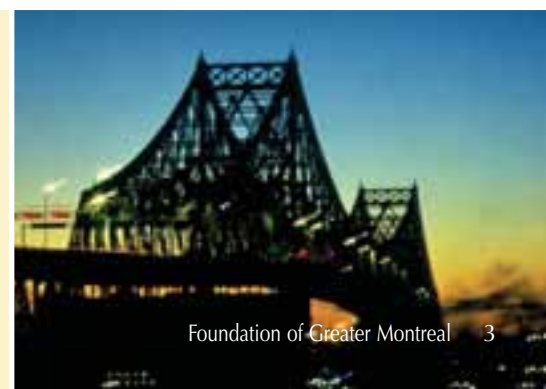
In closing, we would like to thank the organizations and individuals who provided us with information and assistance in the preparation of this report.



Pierre Brunet



Kathleen Weil



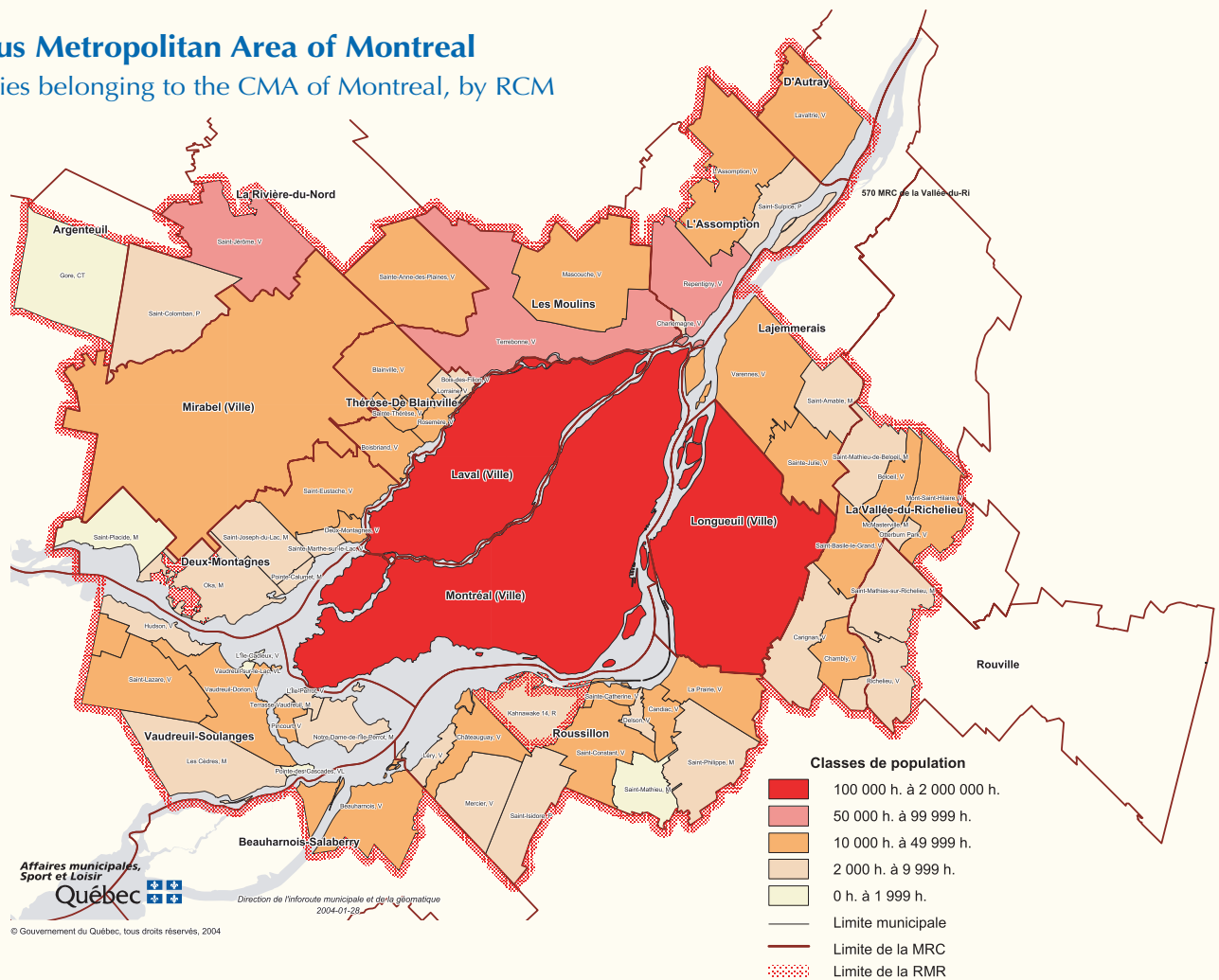
CONTEXT

Montreal is French-speaking, bilingual and diverse. This unique cultural and linguistic heritage sets it apart from other large North American cities.

At the foot of Mount Royal, Greater Montreal encompasses an area of over 4,000 km² in the St. Lawrence River valley, in an archipelago that includes the two large islands of Laval and Montreal. Over the last twenty years urban sprawl has meant population shifts in the region. While in 1981, nearly 62% of the population lived in the City of Montreal alone, in 2002, just over half of the residents of the region lived on the Island of Montreal (498 km²). The region's population, distributed throughout some 80 municipalities, breaks down as follows: Montreal (54%); Longueuil (11%), Laval (10%); the North Shore (13%); and the South Shore (12%).

The Census Metropolitan Area of Montreal

Municipalities belonging to the CMA of Montreal, by RCM



Source: ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions du Québec

The first edition of *Greater Montreal's Vital Signs* focuses on the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), also referred to as “region” in this document; however, when relevant and available, data relating to the Island of Montreal will also be presented.



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In July 2006, the population of Greater Montreal was 3,674,000, constituting nearly half (48%) of the entire population of Quebec. Canada's second-largest city after Toronto (5.7 million), Montreal in 2005 was the 16th-largest urban center in North America, situated between Phoenix (3.9 million) and Seattle (3.2 million). The yearly population growth of the region is just under 1% per year. However, between 1996 and 2001, immigration contributed to an increase of 4.3%, similar to the Ottawa-Gatineau region (4.4%) but well below that of Toronto (10.1%).

The population is aging, and over the last ten years, the median age has increased three years, to 39 years. Furthermore, the highest growth rate came in the over 75-year old category, whose current population of approximately 221,500 represents an increase of 37% from 10 years ago.

Another factor distinguishing Montreal from other Canadian cities is household makeup. In 2001, 17% of all families with children were composed of couples in common-law relationships, while 28% were single-parent families. Eighty-two percent of the single-parent families were headed by women.

Montreal is the second largest French-speaking city in the world. In 2001, 71% spoke French at home most often, 17% spoke English, and 12% spoke another language. Over half the population (53%) could speak both official languages.

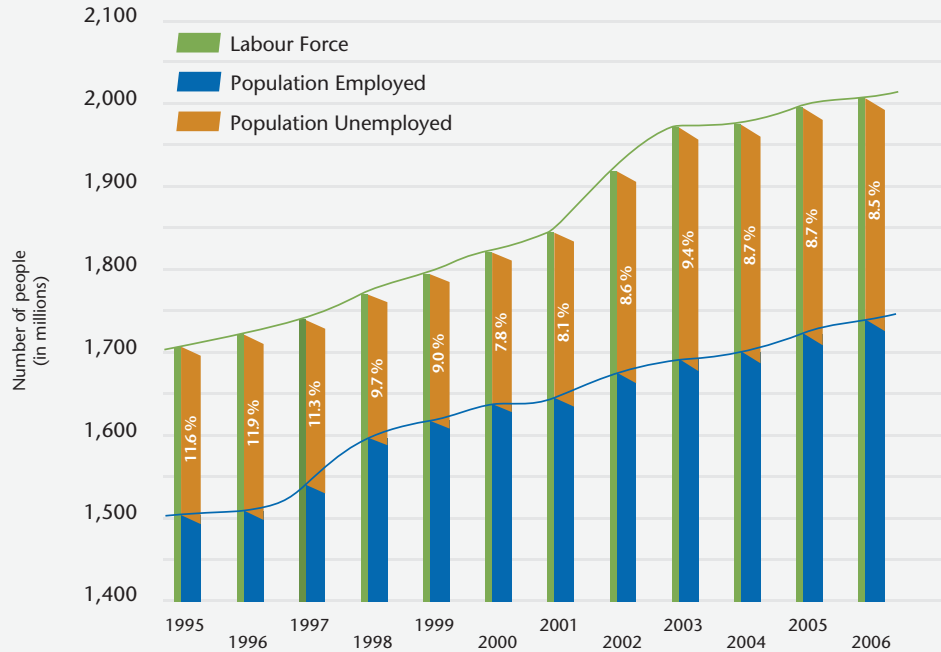
With four major universities and their affiliated institutions, along with the satellite campuses of Université Laval and Université de Sherbrooke, Montreal is home to some 175,000 students, making it the North American city with the second highest student population on a per capita basis, after Boston.



WORK

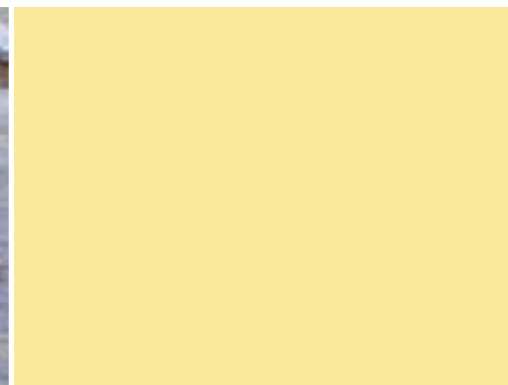
Over the last ten years, unemployment has declined though it remains above the Canadian average.

**Change in Employment and Unemployment Among the Labour Force,
Montreal CMA**

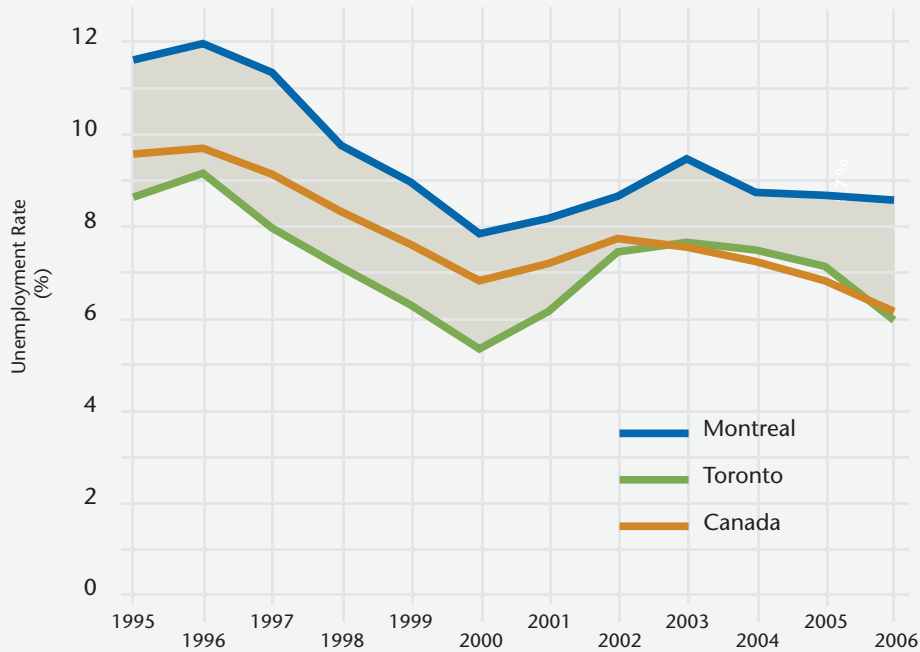


Source: Statistics Canada

- From 1995 to 2006, 329,200 jobs were created in the region, an annual average increase of about 2%. In June 2006, 81% of the over 1.8 million people who were employed had full-time jobs. Two-thirds of the population aged 15 years old and over were in the job market.
- Over the last 20 years or so, there has been an upward trend in the proportion of part-time work; since the mid-1990s, part-time work has grown more quickly in Montreal than in Toronto.
- In June 2006, 170,000 people were out of work, for an unemployment rate of 8.5%, while in the Toronto CMA the rate was 6.0%. The gap between the two cities, which had been closing since 2000, appears to have started widening again putting Montreal in 26th place among large Canadian cities.



Change in Unemployment Rates Montreal and Toronto CMAs



Source: Statistics Canada

- In 1991, 38% of the region's workforce had at least some post-secondary education, and 16% held university degrees. Ten years later, these figures were 46% and 22%, respectively for people 15 years and older, and on the Island of Montreal itself, 31% of the workforce held a university degree.
- In 2005, the average employment income was \$24,532, an increase of 2.6% over the previous year. The average income for Quebec as a whole was \$21,448, an increase of 3.4%.

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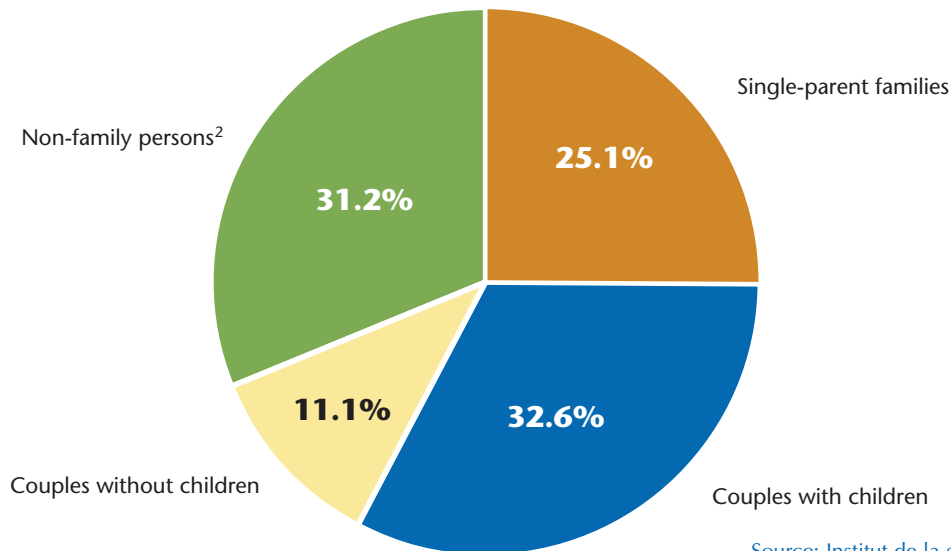


GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

The income gap between rich and poor has widened. In this respect, single-parent families and non-family persons are particularly vulnerable.

- Between 1980 and 2000, the average yearly income for the lowest-income families (those in the 10th percentile) increased by 7%, reaching \$10,400, while income among the wealthiest families (those in the 90th percentile) increased by 15%, to reach \$64,100. Consequently, the gap between the richest and poorest in the region increased by 17%.
- In 2003, nearly half a million people — 2 out of every 13 people — lived in low-income households, the most of any Canadian city. In addition, Greater Montreal was home to 53% of the Quebec population living in poverty, a higher proportion relative to its population.

Distribution of Population Living Below the Low-Income Threshold,¹
by Family Composition, Montreal CMA, 2003



Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec



1. The low-income threshold is based on 50 percent of the median after-tax family income in Quebec; also note that median income is adjusted according to family size.
2. Non-family persons are people who do not belong to a census family, i.e., a family consisting of a couple or a single-parent family. Such people may live with their married child or with their child and grandchild. They can also live with families to which they may or may not be related, or they may live alone or with other non-census family persons.



- Still in 2003, over one-quarter of single-parent families lived in poverty, along with almost one-quarter of non-family persons.
- In only four years (2000–2004), the proportion of people living in low-income families on the island grew by 11.3%, nearly triple the increase for Quebec as a whole (+4.0%).
- In 2004, 99,750, or 28.9%, of Montreal island children lived in poverty. This is an increase of 7,180 children living in poverty since 2000. During that period their numbers increased as much on the Island (+7.8%) as in Laval (+7.6%), but somewhat less in the rest of Quebec (+2.9%), while remaining stable in the Montérégie (+0.3%).
- A Statistics Canada study done in 2000–2001 found that about one person in six (16%) on the Island of Montreal suffered from food insecurity, a phenomenon that affects more women (18%) than men (14%). With a Canadian average of 14.7%, and relatively small variations among cities, Montreal was topped only by Calgary (17.1%) in this respect, while Ottawa had the best rate (12.2%).
- Almost 20,000 people used services for the homeless on the island; 12,000 of these had no permanent address. In 1996–97, it was estimated that between 4,000 and 5,000 young people were living on Montreal's streets, and that 40% of those who used shelters, along with nearly 30% of those who used soup kitchens and day centres, were younger than 30 years old.

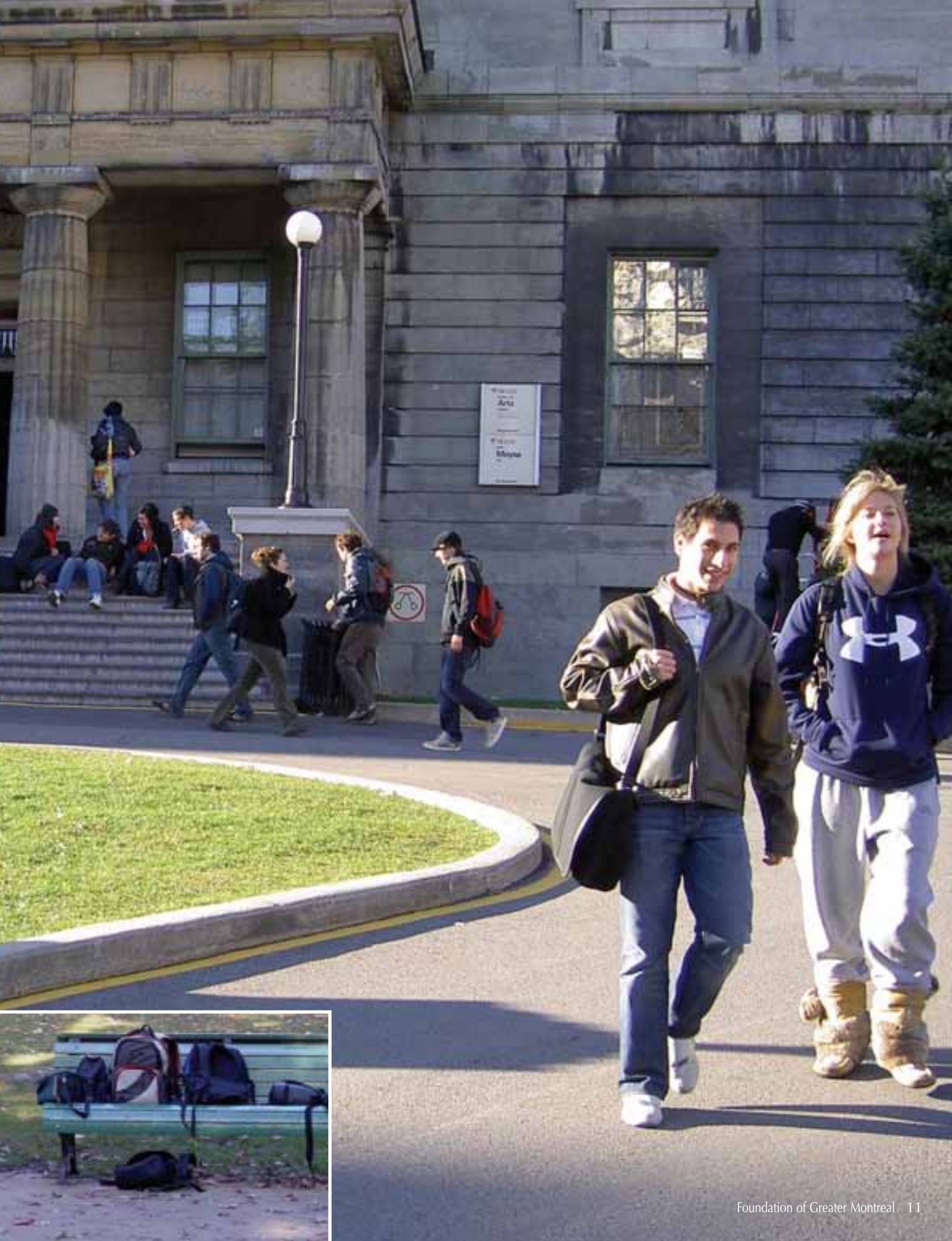


LEARNING

School dropout rate is an issue of concern, especially among boys. However measures aimed at re-enrolling students are leading to some encouraging results. Montreal is also a highly recognized centre for university learning.

- In 2001, 8.3% of Greater Montreal residents aged 20 to 64 had not completed grade nine, placing Montreal last among urban centres in Canada. The Canadian average was 6%.
- Between 2001 and 2004, the dropout rate on the island was about 32%, with a slight upward trend. The increase was greater among girls (+1%) than boys (+0.6%). Proportionally, however, boys still dropped out in greater numbers than girls (37.7% and 27.1% respectively).
- Between 1999 and 2004 there were some signs of improvement, with enrolment numbers in adult basic education programs increasing by 31.2% on the island (compared with 21% for Quebec as a whole). It should be noted that since the growth rate for the province as a whole was identical for both genders, the higher increase on the Island of Montreal was driven by the male population, whose enrolment numbers increased by 44.1%.
- In 2004–2005, taking into account high school students who stayed in school (70%) and adults (17%), the real rate of high school diploma achievement was 87% on the island, 1.7% higher than for Quebec as a whole, and 3.3% higher than the previous year.
- Each year, Montreal universities award nearly 7,000 masters and doctoral degrees, more than any other Canadian city. The excellence of its universities has made Montreal the leading research centre in Canada, with over \$1.1 billion invested in research in 2004.







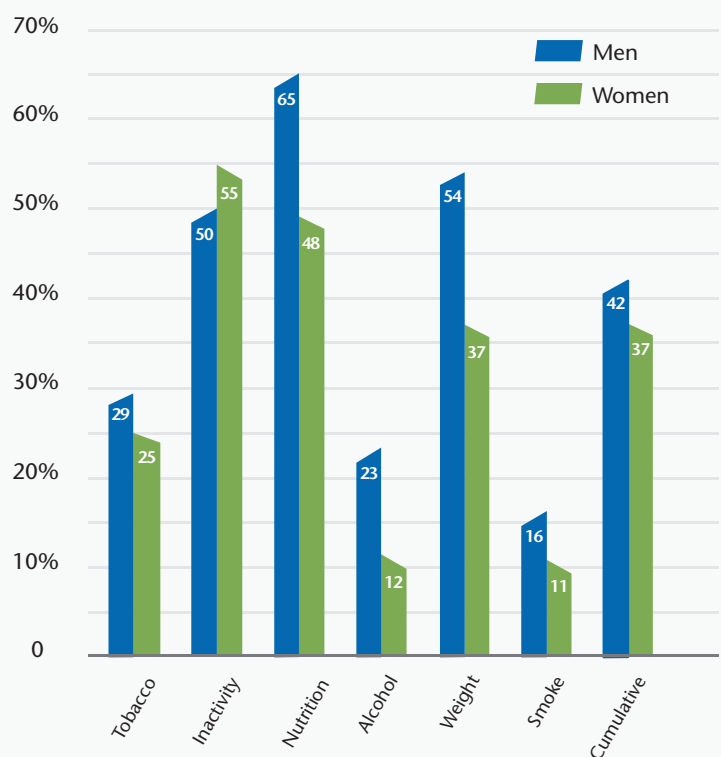
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Four people in ten make lifestyle choices that have a negative impact on their health. Physical inactivity, poor nutrition and excess body weight are of particular concern.

- Over a ten-year period, life expectancy at birth improved for both men (76.9 years) and women (82.0 years) in the region. However, increases for men were greater, closing the gap between the sexes from 6.8 years in 1990–1992 to 5.1 years in 2000–2002.
- While life expectancy at birth increased for the island as a whole, this broad statistic masked certain inequalities. For instance, in 2002, the difference in life expectancy between those living in rich and poor neighbourhoods was as much as 10.5 years.
- In 2004, low-birth-weight newborns (less than 2,500 grams) made up 6% of births on the island and about 5.6% in the region as a whole.
- Also in 2004, Montreal ranked last among six Canadian cities for the number of smokers (27%), and second-last (53%) for physical inactivity, just ahead of Toronto (55%). On the other hand, it is among the leaders for consumption of fruits and vegetables (56%) and about average in terms of alcohol abuse (17%).
- In 2005, based on self-reported body-mass index, 30% of adult Montrealers were overweight, and 13% were considered obese. Among adolescents, 16% suffered from excess body weight or obesity. In less than 20 years, the proportion of people considered obese nearly doubled.
- In 2000, among 25 metropolitan regions in Canada, the highest proportions of adults suffering from stress in their daily lives were found in Quebec City (33%) and Montreal (29%). In 2005, Montreal (27.1%) still led all large urban centres, ahead of Calgary (24.7%) and far more than Winnipeg (18.8%).

Behaviours and Risk Factors Linked to Health Problems

Island of Montreal, 2003



Source: Direction de santé publique de Montréal

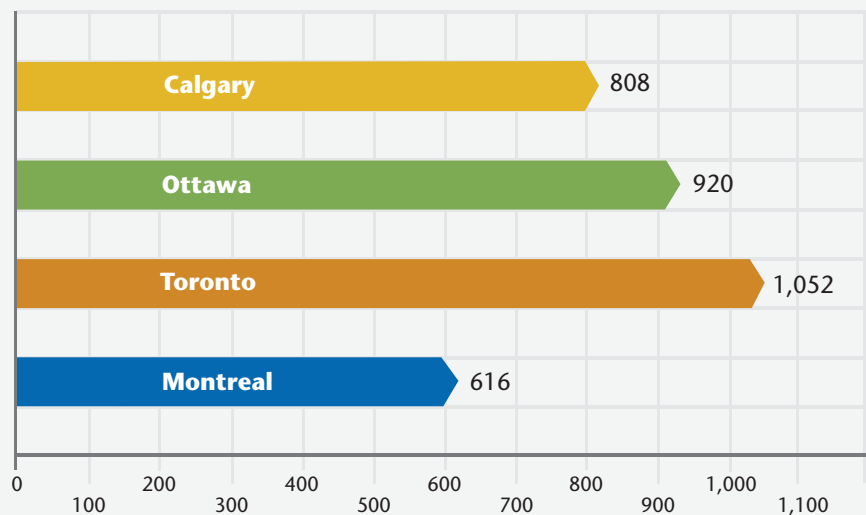
HOUSING

Renters were more likely than owners to spend a significant portion of their incomes on housing. However, housing is less expensive in Montreal than in many other Canadian cities. And whereas Montreal used to be known as a city of renters there are now as many home owners as renters.

- In 2001, there were as many dwellings in Greater Montreal occupied by the owner (50.2%) as by a renter, which was not the case five years earlier (48.4%).
- In 2000, more renters (36%) than owners (16%) spent 30% or more of their income on housing.
- In 2006, the average price of a home in Montreal was 32% lower than in Toronto, 6% lower than in Ottawa, and 23% lower than in Calgary. The difference was even greater for new houses.
- Among Canadian cities in 2001, the percentage of housing units in Montreal requiring major repair work (8.5%) was comparable to that of Toronto (8.8%). By way of comparison, Winnipeg and Vancouver had worse rates, while Ottawa and Calgary had better rates.
- At the end of 2004, the City of Montreal had 51,364 social and community housing units, 10,114 of which were reserved for retirees over the age of 55.

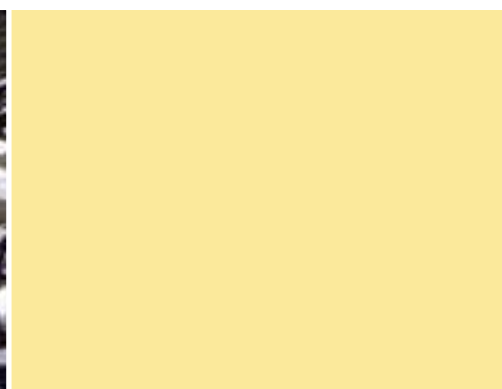
Average Monthly Rent

(2 bedroom apartment), 2005 (in \$)



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

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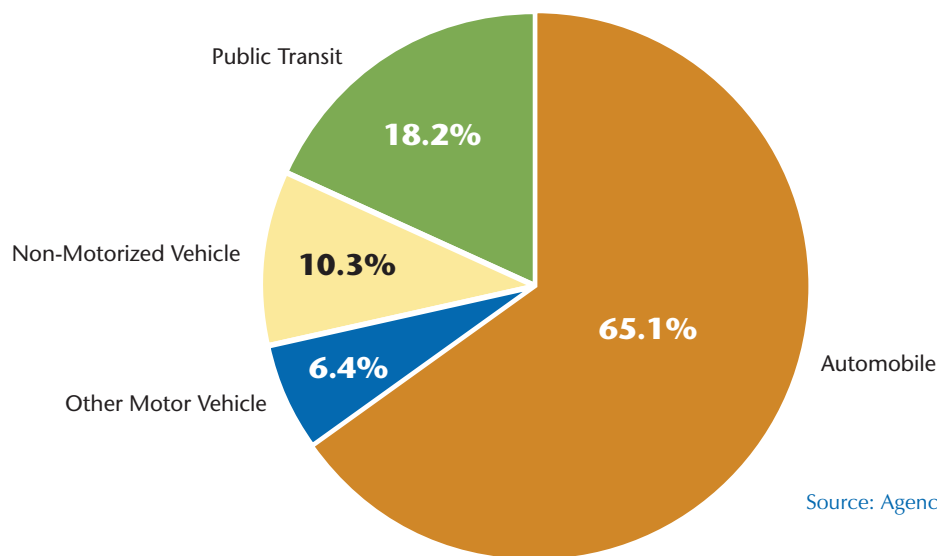


GETTING AROUND

Despite an enviable rate of public transit use, the number of automobiles on the roads of Greater Montreal is increasing at a faster rate than the population.

- In 2005, 60% of the region's population spent at least one hour driving to and from work, compared with 47% in 1992. In this respect, among the urban centres where workers spend the most time travelling, Montreal is in second place — just after Toronto (66%) and ahead of Vancouver (55%).
- In 2001, Montreal ranked third among 21 large North American cities in the percentage of people who used public transit to get to work (21.7%), behind New York (29%) and Toronto (22.4%), but ahead of Ottawa (18.5%). In Detroit, fewer than 2% of the population used public transit to get to work.

Distribution of Means of Transportation Used in the Morning Rush Hour, in the Montreal Metropolitan Region, 2003

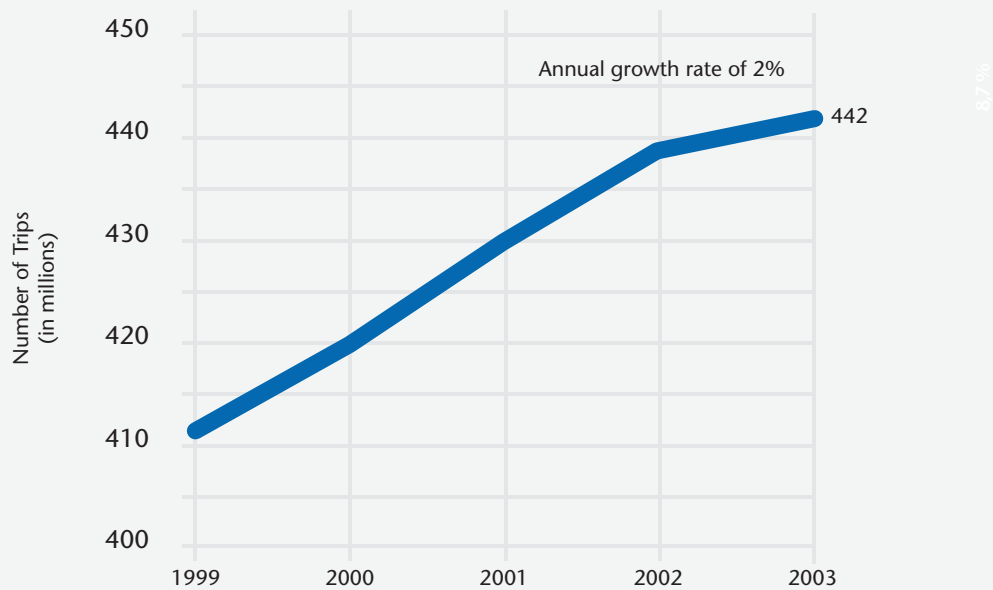


During Car Free Day 2005, nearly 40,000 people took part in various activities in the downtown core, which was closed to automobiles for a few hours. Carbon monoxide levels were measured as being 95% lower than levels outside the closed-off area, and nitric oxide levels were 87% lower. A significant 9-decibel reduction was also measured — 10 times less ambient noise in the sector than during a normal day with automobile traffic.



- In 2003, there were an estimated 1,838,800 cars on the roads of the metropolitan region, an increase of 10.8% over 1998, while the population rose by only 3%. The increase in the number of vehicles was greater in the off-island suburbs (13%) than on the island (9%).

Change in Annual Use of Public Transit Metropolitan Region



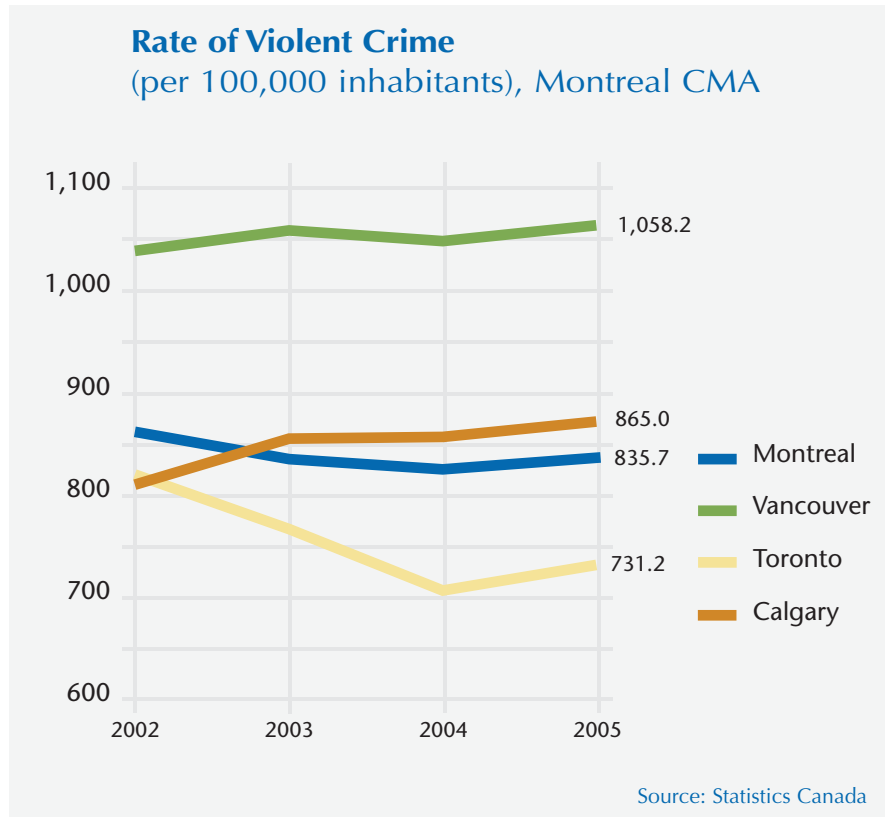
Source: Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal



SAFETY

Violent crime has decreased slightly over the last five years, and Montrealers generally believe their neighbourhoods are safe.

- Overall, crimes against the person (murder, attempted murder, robbery, assault and sexual assault) recorded by Montreal police declined from 20,161 offences in 2004 to 20,123 in 2005. While only a minor reduction, it was the fifth consecutive decrease, for a total reduction of 15.6% since 2000. The murder rate in particular was its lowest in 35 years, at 18 per million inhabitants. The rate was 30 in Toronto and 156 in Chicago.
- On the other hand, the 1,751 sexual assaults reported in Montreal in 2005 represented a 9% increase over the previous year, and a 43% increase from 10 years ago.
- In 2005, more than nine out of ten people (92%) felt their neighbourhood was safe. Overall, this sense of security among the island's residents has changed very little over the last decade. Nevertheless, over one-third (37%) said they were afraid to walk alone at night, a sentiment expressed by twice as many women (49%) as men (25%).
- In 2005, 70 people died in road accidents on the Island of Montreal, an increase of nearly 30% compared with five years ago.



ENVIRONMENT

While Montrealers have reason to be pleased about public access to the island's shorelines and permission to swim in the St. Lawrence, they should be concerned about air quality and water use.

- Between 1999 and 2004, the number of days per year when air quality was deemed unacceptable doubled from 37 to 75. However, this number declined to 66 in 2005, for an average of five or six days per month.
- Per capita water consumption in Montreal is twice the Canadian average for cities over 100,000 inhabitants. However this is due not so much to household water consumption as to industrial, business and institutional water use, in addition to significant leaks in the water supply system.
- The Montreal archipelago comprises 488 islands, which have nearly 931 km of shoreline. Shore accessibility varies greatly from island to island. The public has access to 131 of the 314 km of shoreline on the 83 islands that make up the City of Montreal (25 km of which form the Lachine Canal), nearly 42 % of the total.
- After decreasing between 1999 and 2000, shoreline water quality has since improved continuously. In 2003, 62% of water testing stations around the island authorized swimming.
- In Montreal, the proportion of household waste sent to recycling reached 19.4% in 2003, an increase from the rate of 12.7% four years previous. Nevertheless, this percentage is three times lower than the goals set by the Quebec government.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Montreal's cultural vitality has an enormous impact on the quality of city life. With a significant critical mass of artists, whose incomes are such that they are more integrated into the mainstream of the population than in other cities, Montreal has one of the highest proportions of jobs in the culture sector of any urban centre in North America.

- In 2003, Montreal spent 4.8% of its expenditures on culture, which translates into \$65 dollars per capita, placing it just ahead of Chicago (\$64) but behind Toronto (\$70), Vancouver (\$85), New York (\$95), and San Francisco (\$167). (figures in Canadian dollars).
- In 2004–2005, Quebec public authorities distributed nearly \$420 million in funding for arts and culture on the Island of Montreal, which is home to Quebec's most important cultural institutions and highest concentration of artists.
- The concentration of artists in Montreal (1.9%) in 2001 was more than double the Canadian average, situating it in third place among large cities, behind Vancouver (2.4%) and Victoria (2.0%).
- In 2001, the income of artists from all metropolitan regions was 25% lower than that of the regular workforce. However, Montreal had the smallest gap in this respect (17%), followed closely by Toronto (18%). Calgary artists had the widest income gap compared to the local workforce (39%).
- At 5.5%, Montreal has one of the highest proportions of culture sector jobs in North America, in line with cities such as Vancouver (5.9%), New York (5.8%), and Atlanta (5.5%). In 2001, Greater Montreal was home to approximately 71,600 culture and communications professionals, accounting for two-thirds (66.5%) of cultural workers in the province, and representing a 28% increase over the previous 10 years.
- In 2002, almost 700,000 Montrealers made 12 million loans from the island's network of 54 libraries, a yearly average of 17 books per member. Although only 37.8% of Montreal's population has a library membership, the per capita rate is still 6.5 loans. In this respect, however, Montreal is last among large Canadian cities, behind Winnipeg (9.2 loans). Vancouver, with a library membership rate surpassing two-thirds of the population (67.7%), leads this category by far, with a per capita rate of 16.9 loans.





© Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, Jean-François Leblanc

GETTING STARTED IN THE COMMUNITY

The diversity of Montreal's population contributes in various ways to the vitality of the city and its region and broadens its horizons. Immigration also helps population growth and contributes to counterbalancing the aging trend.

- In 2001, almost one in five people in the region (18.4%) was born outside Canada, 2% higher than 10 years previous but much lower than Toronto (43.7%). Upon arrival, 34.7% of immigrants were younger than 20 years old. In 2001, among immigrants aged 15 or older, 55% had completed at least 13 years of schooling, and 12% were unemployed. In the population as a whole, 46% of those 15 years or older had completed 13 years of schooling, and 7.5% were unemployed.
- In 2004-2005, Montreal lost 4,836 immigrants, while it took in 36,334. However, due to inter- and intra-provincial migration, Montreal lost 3,667 and 10,616 inhabitants, respectively. Taking into account all of these various movements of population, Montreal had a net gain of 17,185 people.
- Among recent immigrants (those admitted to Quebec between 2000 and 2004 and living on the Island of Montreal in 2006), 23.4% had come to join family members, and 31.9% were younger than 25. Although 28.8% spoke neither French nor English upon arrival, a good proportion (53.4%) demonstrated a certain knowledge of French. In addition, 62.3% of those aged 15 or over had completed at least 13 years of schooling, and 61.8% were integrated into the workforce.
- In 2001, 15.5% of the population of Greater Montreal was trilingual; among people whose mother tongue was neither French nor English, this number was particularly high (51.9%). Ten years previous, these numbers were 12.2% and 48.1%, respectively.



BELONGING AND LEADERSHIP

Participation in the city's democratic and community life is essential to building a stronger, more vibrant city region.

- In 2004, 59.7% of Montreal households declared having donated an average of \$1,035 per year to charitable organizations. This was last among the largest urban regions in Canada, where Edmonton led for average yearly donations (\$2,828), and Ottawa-Gatineau led for proportion of citizens who donated (79.2%).
- In 2003, 25% of the population of metropolitan Montreal participated in the activities of a non-profit organization, and 54% felt a strong sense of belonging to their local community. For long-established immigrants, participation and sense of belonging was even higher, at 29% and 62%, respectively.
- Voter turnout for the 2005 municipal elections was weak, remaining below 40% in Montreal (35%), Laval (31%) and Longueuil (38%).
- Between 2003 to 2005, female representation in the municipal governments increased. It rose 1.5 percentage points in Montreal to reach 33%; Laval's increase was double (3.1 points), to reach 36.4%; and Longueuil's increase was double that of Laval's (6 points), to reach 37% of elected officials.

The 2005 Centraide of Greater Montreal campaign raised \$49.4 million, up from \$45.4 million in 2004 and \$43 million in 2003; this represents an average increase of 7.2%. The 2006 objective is \$50.5 million. Over the last ten years, the campaign has had an average annual increase of 6%, far greater than the rate of economic growth..



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SOURCES

We wish to thank all our partners and everyone who, over the last few months, so graciously provided data and precious guidance in preparing this report.

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Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Car Free Day
Centraide of Greater Montreal
Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal
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Conseil des arts de Montréal
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Greater Montreal's Vital Signs – 2006

A more comprehensive version of this report, with additional indicators,
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