



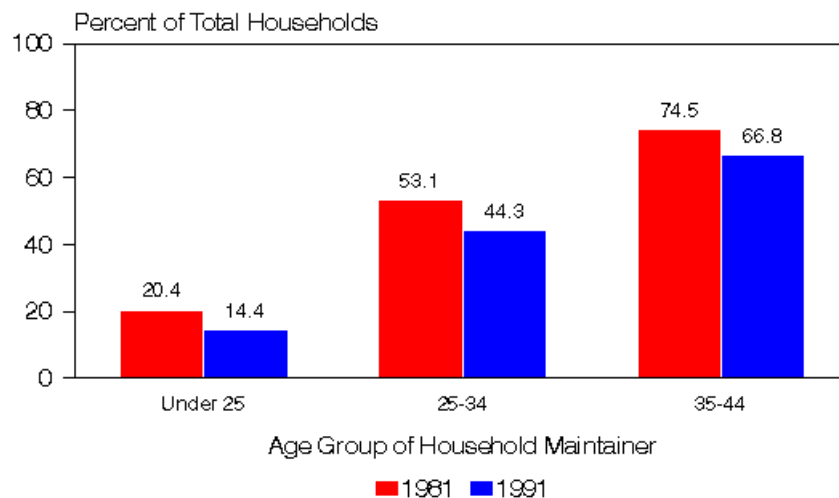
Census 91 Fast Facts

Issue 9: Home Ownership

Produced by: Labour and Social Statistics Section

- Sixty-four per cent of British Columbians who maintain their own households are homeowners.

Fewer Young Adults Own Their Own Homes



Source: 1991 Census of Canada

- Men are more likely than women to own their homes. Seventy per cent of males who head a household own their residences, compared to only half of all female household maintainers.
- The share of young to middle-aged adults who own their homes has declined. In 1981, one out of every five household maintainers under the age of 25 was a homeowner. By 1991, the proportion had dropped to one in seven.
- Forty-four per cent of 25 to 34 year olds owned their homes in 1991, down 9 percentage points from ten years earlier.
- In contrast, the share of those aged 55 and over who own their dwellings grew from 71 to 75 per cent between 1981 and 1991.
- First-time homebuyers have typically purchased a home by the time they turn forty. In 1981, 75 per cent of those aged 35-44 owned their residences. Ten years later, the proportion was significantly lower, at 67 per cent.

- While there is obviously a relationship between the ageing of the population and the changing characteristics of homeowners, another contributing factor may be the affordability of housing. As house prices continue to increase, a declining share of young people are likely to have the resources required to purchase a home. Individuals in the older age groups probably acquired their homes prior to the present escalation in house prices.
- A growing number of home owners are choosing less expensive housing alternatives, such as condominiums, townhouses, and other communal dwellings instead of single detached homes. In 1981, about 5 per cent of all homeowners lived in communal dwellings; by 1991, the share had increased to 16 per cent.
- The decline in home ownership in the under-45 age group may simply be the result of tough economic times combined with the high cost of housing. However, it may signify that home ownership is becoming a less viable alternative for a growing segment of the population.

Private Households by Age of Primary Household Maintainer, British Columbia

	1981		1991	
	Total Households	% Who Own Residence	Total Households	% Who Own Residence
All Household Maintainers	996,640	64.4	1,243,895	64.0
Under 25 Years	83,350	20.4	59,765	14.4
25-34 Years	245,395	53.1	256,345	44.3
35-44 Years	187,585	74.5	295,915	66.8
45-54 Years	156,345	79.4	204,890	75.7
55-64 Years	143,550	77.6	168,865	79.1
65-74 Years	115,765	71.1	152,175	77.1
75 Years and Over	64,650	56.5	105,935	66.0

Source: 1991 Census of Canada