



2018 OUR CITY

*A Peg Report
on Sustainability*

Linking Winnipeg's Well-being to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Photo Credit: April Carandang



Mayor Brian Bowman
City of Winnipeg

The City of Winnipeg is proud to partner with Peg in tracking how we are doing as a city and inspiring action on the issues that are important to all of us. Peg continues to be an important piece of community infrastructure that provides clear, measurable data on pressing issues and us to help identify areas where we are making progress and where we need to work differently.

This report highlights how Winnipeg is doing on factors related to environmental, economic, and social well-being – the three pillars of sustainability that are at the foundation of our quality of life. These are issues that affect our lives as Winnipeggers, ranging from how we travel from one point to another, to our gross domestic product, and to the condition of our housing.

As the report shows, we have moved the needle in a positive direction in relation to many aspects of our environmental, economic, and social well-being. This is only possible through the many efforts of government, businesses, organizations, and citizens. It also shows us that, together, we have more work to do.

The inclusion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within Peg is timely and critical as our city continues to grow and be recognized globally. We are pleased that the international headquarters of IISD is here in our city, and for the role they and Peg play in tracking Winnipeg's progress. This is an incredible opportunity build on the momentum with countries from around the world to create safe, healthy, and sustainable communities where no one is left behind.



Scott Vaughan
President & CEO
International Institute for Sustainable Development

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), United Way Winnipeg, and Economic Development Winnipeg, are proud to present the fourth Peg report on well-being in Winnipeg, with a focus on sustainability.

The report is structured around the three pillars of sustainability – environmental, economic, and social well-being. It shines a light on how we are doing as a city through a broad range of sustainability indicators, such as how much water we use, our income and employment rates, and how safe we feel in our neighbourhoods.



Connie Walker
President & CEO
United Way of Winnipeg

The release of this report marks a significant point in the evolution of Peg. In addition to remaining committed to tracking our progress on well-being through our nationally and internationally recognized community indicator system, Peg now links our local indicators to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is an incredible opportunity for Winnipeg to again take a leadership role and align the over 60 indicators of well-being within Peg to the 17 SDGs – goals that serve as a call to action by all communities to ensure a better world where no one is left behind. By aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, we are joining the collective efforts of governments, businesses, and organizations from around the world to track how we are doing and inspire change. We are among the first in Canada to do so.



Dayna Spiring
President & CEO
Economic Development Winnipeg

This report is intended to help inform and continue the important conversations taking place between individuals, leaders, and policy-makers relative to our city's sustainability and the complex relationships between the environmental, economic, and social factors of well-being. Through this report and the newly revised Peg website (mypeg.ca), we invite all of Winnipeg to learn more about how we are doing locally on issues that matter to us, and explore how we can create a better quality of life for ourselves and our neighbours, while also contributing to a better world.



How Are We Doing? At a Glance

The following table outlines how we are doing on key indicators over time by comparing most recent data with 2011 data. This table provides an overview of the information to follow. Comparing the current state of indicators with data from 2011, the third column answers the question, "is our city's well-being improving in this area"?

Notes

- Where 2011 data is not available, the closest year available was used.
- A percent change of 5% was used to determine the improvement. Where an indicator had a percent change of less than 5%, the trend is set to No Change. The choice of 5% percentage change is subjective.

LEGEND

Improving

Worsening

No Change

PILLARS	PEG THEME	SDG THEME	INDICATOR	TREND
Environmental	Natural Environment	6	Water Use	
	Natural Environment	12	Waste	
			Waste Diversion	
	Built Environment	11	Public Transit Ridership	
	Natural Environment	11	AQHI (Scotia St.)	
			AQHI (Ellen St.)	
Economic	Economy	1	Median Household Income	
	Basic Needs	8	Unemployment Rate	
	Economy	8	Participation Rate	
	Economy	8	Gross Domestic Product	
	Economy	8 11	Housing Starts	
	Economy	4	No High School Diploma	
			High School Diploma	
			University Degree	
Social	Health	3	Life Expectancy (Male)	
			Life Expectancy (Female)	
	Social Vitality	16	Perception of Safety	
			Personal Safety	
	Basic Needs	1 3	Children in Care	
	Basic Needs	11	Core Housing Need	
	Social Vitality and Governance		Quality of Life	

Introduction

Winnipeg is changing. Winnipeg has always been changing. The Forks no longer sees canoes banked along its shores as traders gather, but instead plays host to thousands of residents and visitors, with skates in tow, cheerfully making their way up and down our rivers' frozen waterways. Behind us are the days of queuing for a streetcar, but ahead of us are the possibilities to cycle and walk to work as more apartments, condominiums, storefronts, and offices are restored and built downtown and in the Exchange District.

Change is imminent and, when we look back on our long history, apparent. However, change is not passively constructed, nor does it occur in leaps and bounds. Instead, change is ushered in and constantly guided by our aspirations, decisions, and values. Our vision for Winnipeg moulds the city, and in turn, the opportunities and environments it provides shape us. However, how can we understand if change is occurring in the direction and at the rate we hope for? While both optimism and frustration are ever present, without the ability to measure and monitor change, how can we collectively manage the direction in which we are heading?

Peg, Winnipeg's community indicator system, allows us to measure this change. Peg was built around the concept of sustainability, looking at the city's environmental, economic, and social well-being. Peg tracks information on 66 indicators grouped around seven themes of well-being: basic needs, built environment, economy, education and learning, health,

natural environment and social vitality and governance. Together, these themes provide us with a comprehensive understanding of how we, as a city, are doing.

The fourth edition of ***Our City, A Peg Report*** looks at Winnipeg through the lens of the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, economic, and social well-being. These three pillars are examined together because, as a whole, they provide a holistic understanding of well-being. Sustainability also implies a responsibility. It is not achieved without proactive and innovative decision-making, which is only possible when data is available, measured, and tracked. For this reason, Peg selects indicators that are compelling and actionable and that inspire Winnipeggers to influence the change they want to see in their communities. Of the 66 indicators tracked by Peg, this report highlights 20 to provide a snapshot of the bigger picture.

This is the first Peg report to include the integration of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This is a new approach and lens for Peg that has also been embedded within the online tool (mypeg.ca). Showing the linkages between Peg indicators and the Sustainable Development Goals allows us to not only track our own well-being, but also provides an opportunity to see how we are influencing, and part of, change globally.

Winnipeg is changing, and Peg is tracking our progress.

Peg was built around the concept of sustainability, looking at the city's environmental, economic, and social well-being.

The Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, under the guidance of the United Nations, the countries adopted a set of goals to target many of world's most pressing issues. Referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these 17 goals and their targets seek to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by promoting inclusive, equitable, safe, and sustainable societies. The SDGs do not ignore shortcomings—they confront issues, identify root problems, and set out objectives to leave no one behind as we transform nations, cities, and neighbourhoods into places where we can all live and prosper.

If we want a city that is inclusive, equitable, prosperous, safe, and sustainable, then the SDGs should matter to Winnipeggers.

Although Winnipeg may seem worlds away from the most impoverished and inequitable nations, we have left many behind on our

journey to where we are now. In 2015, 9.2 percent of Winnipeggers still lived below the low income cut-off, and we produced just under 2.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from residential vehicles. In 2016, 56,342 people used food banks in March alone. If Winnipeg wants to be a leader as an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable city, then we must leave no one behind.

Although Peg uses language different from the SDGs to describe our goals, they are well aligned. Of the 66 indicators tracked in Peg, all fit within the 17 thematic areas of the SDGs. To demonstrate how Peg is aligned with the SDGs, each indicator highlighted in this report is referenced to a specific SDG theme. By aligning our actions with the SDGs, Peg is leading by example, and demonstrating how other cities can work together to achieve these global goals at a local level.

The SDGs do not ignore shortcomings—they confront issues, identify root problems, and set out objectives to leave no one behind as we transform nations, cities and neighbourhoods into places where we can all live and prosper.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source: United Nations

“Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship, and strengthen governance.”

– Eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon



WATER USE

Our water use reflects how we, as individuals and as a city, are collective stewards for one of the most essential resources. As Winnipeg continues to grow in size and population, it is important to monitor how much water we use for actions such as flushing toilets, showering, and washing clothes.

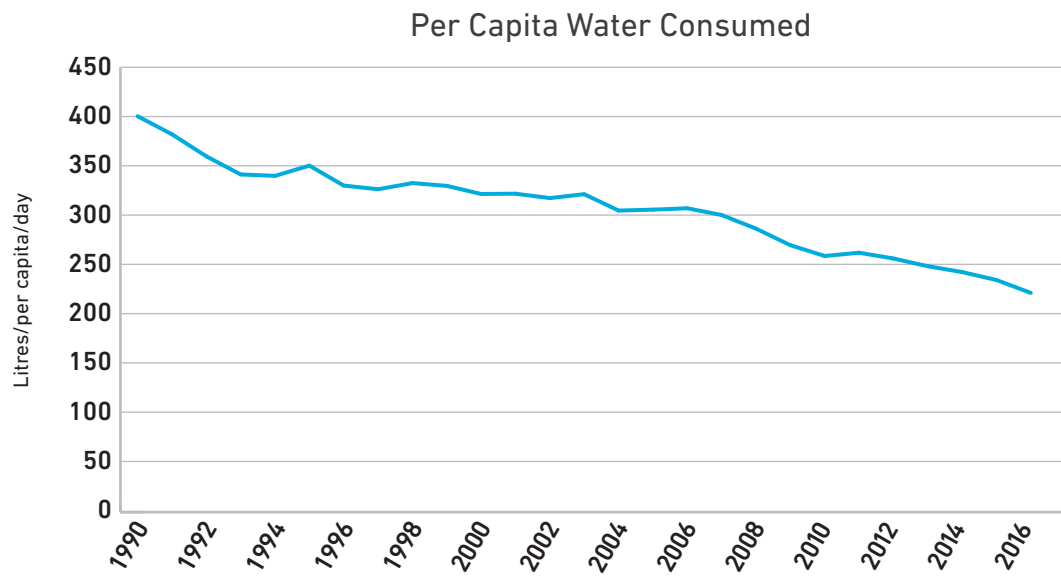
Water use is measured as the average amount of water consumed per person per day. Since 1990, Winnipeggers, including residential, commercial, and industrial customers, have reduced their consumed per capita water consumption by 44.6 percent. In 2016, Winnipeggers consumed an average of 221 litres/per capita/day compared to 399 litres/per capita/day in 1990. The overall reduction in per capita water consumption can be attributed to the innovation in water efficient technology, promotion of water conservation programs, and adoption of new government regulations.

In Winnipeg, over 68 percent of the water consumed is for residential purposes, demonstrating how our individual efforts at home can have a large collective impact. In comparing Winnipeg to the Canadian average, the city's average residential customer consumption is significantly less at 160 litres/per capita/day in 2015 versus the Canadian average of 235 litres/per capita/day. Canada, however, is still among the largest consumers of water globally.



Water use is highlighted in **SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**. Under SDG 6, increasing water-use efficiency and ensuring sustainable withdrawals and supply of fresh water are specifically mentioned. By tracking our water use, Winnipeg can help accomplish this global goal.

Since 1990, Winnipeggers have reduced their daily water consumption by 44.6 percent.



Source: Winnipeg Water and Waste Department



WASTE AND WASTE DIVERSION

Every product we use and consume has a life cycle. When a product becomes waste, how we dispose of it has an impact on the environment. While we can lessen our environmental impact by reducing the amount of waste we create, we can also work to divert more waste from landfills to recycling centres, so materials can be repurposed and re-enter the supply chain. Measures of waste and waste diversion track the annual amount of residential waste that ends up at the landfill on a per capita basis and the amount of waste that is diverted through recycling and other programs.

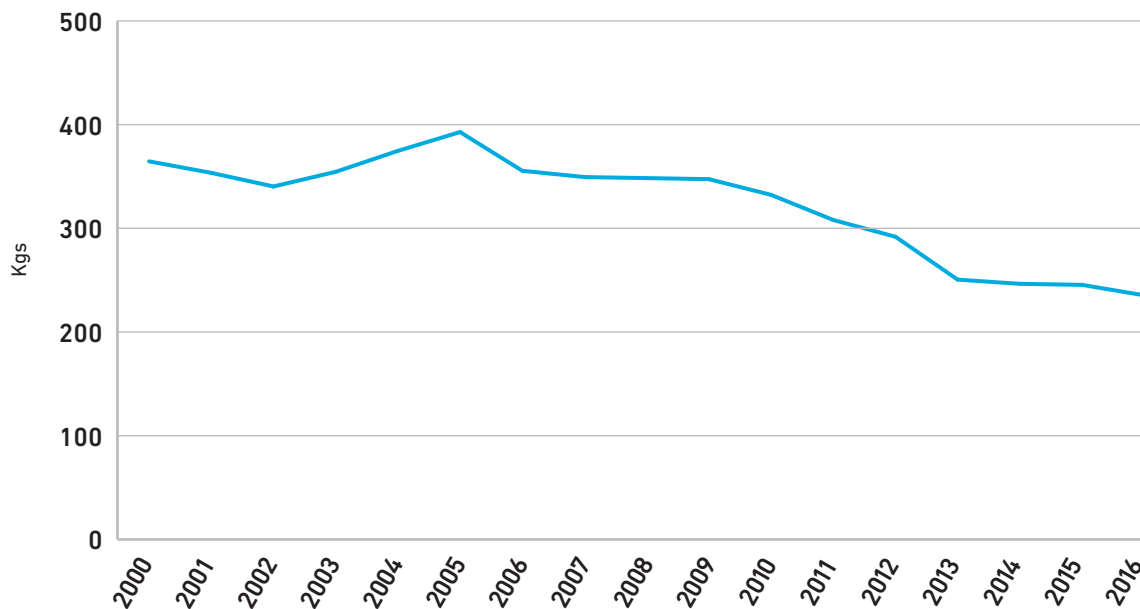
RESIDENTIAL WASTE GOING TO THE LANDFILL

In 2016, each Winnipegger contributed 237 kg of residential waste to the landfill. This represents a 35 percent decrease in the amount of residential waste, per capita, since 2000 (365 kg/per capita). It is also more than 156 kg per capita less than the peak amount of 393 kg of waste per capita going to the landfill in 2005.



Recycling rates are accounted for under **SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**. Specifically, SDG 12.5 aims to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse by 2030.

Residential Waste Going to the Landfill, Per Capita



Source: Winnipeg Water and Waste Department

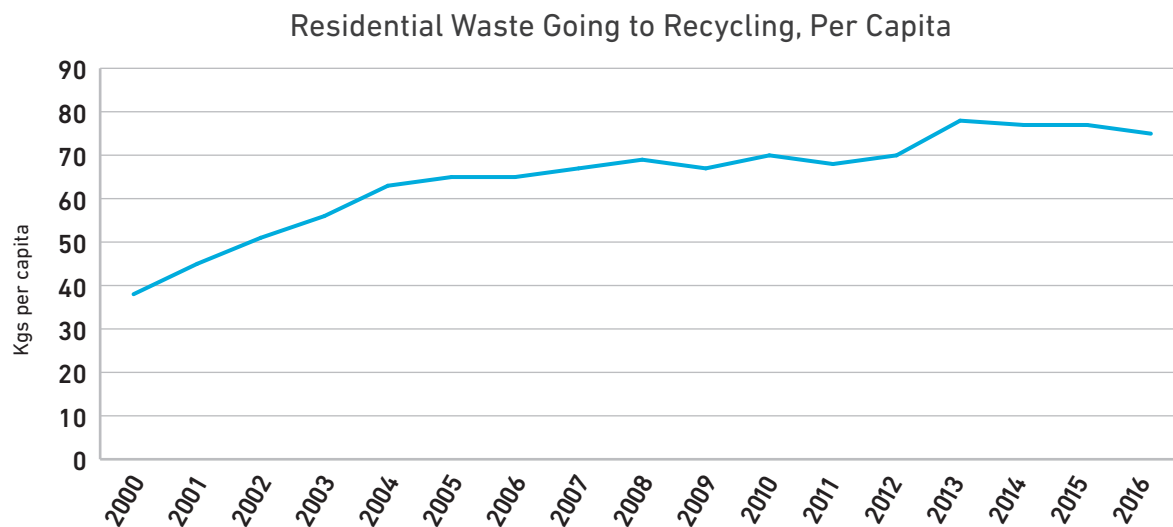
RESIDENTIAL WASTE GOING TO RECYCLING

Recycling minimizes the need for new materials to be developed, reduces the amount of harmful pollutants entering our landfills, and is more environmentally sustainable. Since 2000, Winnipeg has had nearly a 100 percent increase in waste diverted to recycling. In 2000, the average Winnipegger sent 38 kg of waste to recycling programs, or 7 percent of their total. In 2016, Winnipeggers sent 24 percent of their total waste to recycling programs.

The gains made in recycling can be examined in relation to municipal investments in recycling programs. In 2003, the City expanded the number of items allowed in recycling bins and no longer required individuals to sort their recycling. In response to these changes, there

was a 7 kg per capita increase in recycled material between 2003 and 2004. In 2012, all homes were given 240 litre bins to dispose of recycling, and the following year 8 kg per capita more waste was diverted to recycling programs rather than potentially going to the landfill.

When combining the amount of waste going to recycling programs and the landfill, the total amount of waste produced by Winnipeggers in 2000 was 403 kg per capita—or about the same weight of a male polar bear in the Assiniboine Park Zoo. Over the last 16 years, we have been able to reduce the total amount of waste to 312 kg per capita.



Over the last 16 years, we have been able to reduce the total amount of waste from 403 kg to 312 kg per capita.



CONVENIENT ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT

Public transit is a key attribute of sustainable urban development. It enables access to services and opportunities and provides mobility to those who choose to use public transit and to those who have no other choice. Public transportation can reduce the environmental impact of private vehicles, promote higher-density development, generate economic growth and have a positive effect on individuals' well-being. However, these benefits characterize a public transit system that is convenient, accessible, affordable and well connected.

To monitor Winnipeggers' convenient access to public transit, Peg uses an indicator that takes into account a spatial and temporal measure of public transit. In this way, convenient access is measured by Winnipeggers' proximity to bus stops and the frequency of buses departing those stops.

Three neighbourhoods currently have convenient access to public transit: Downtown, Point Douglas, and River Heights. This means that people in these areas can walk less than 500 metres to a bus departing every 15 minutes. Conversely, Assiniboine South, St. Vital, St. Boniface, and Transcona had the least access to convenient transit: one bus comes about every 15 minutes during peak service hours (6 a.m. to 8 p.m.). By being able to monitor convenient access to public transit, it is possible to develop informed decisions and target policies to improve ridership and riders' experiences.

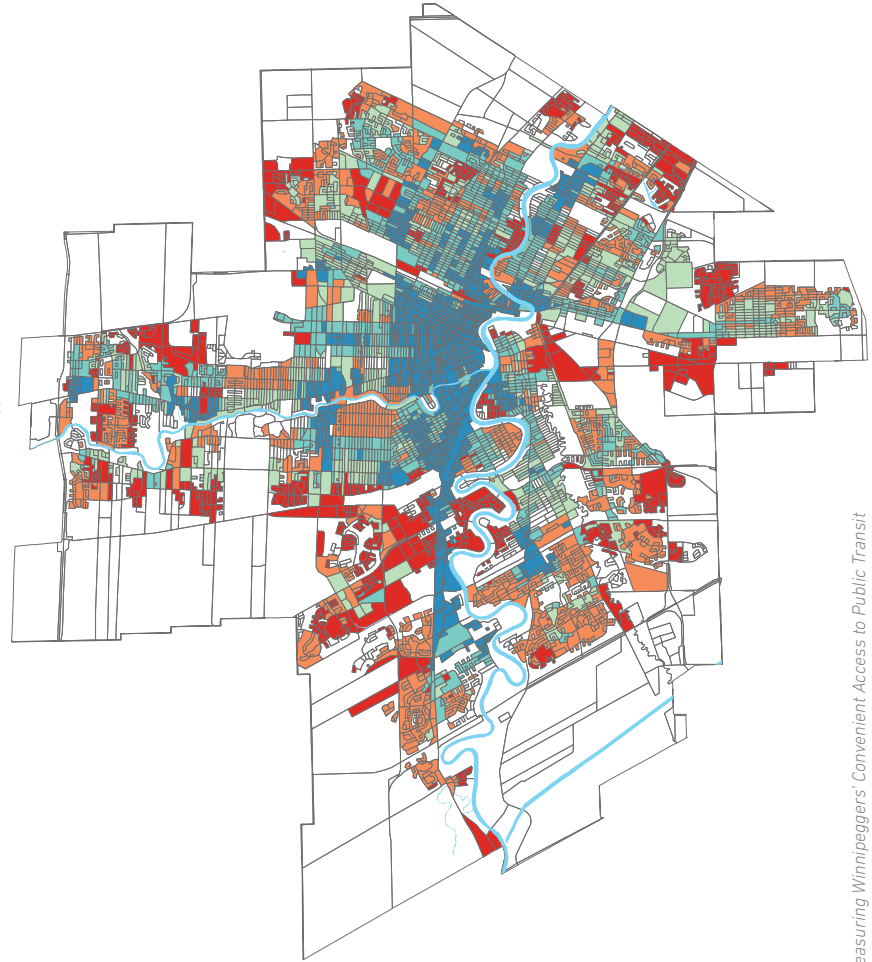


Convenient access to public transit is measured both in Peg and under **SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**—under target 11.2. Although Peg has a method to track convenient access to public transit, there is no standard method under the SDGs. In this way, Peg can not only align with the SDGs, but improve on them by lending our expertise to the global community.

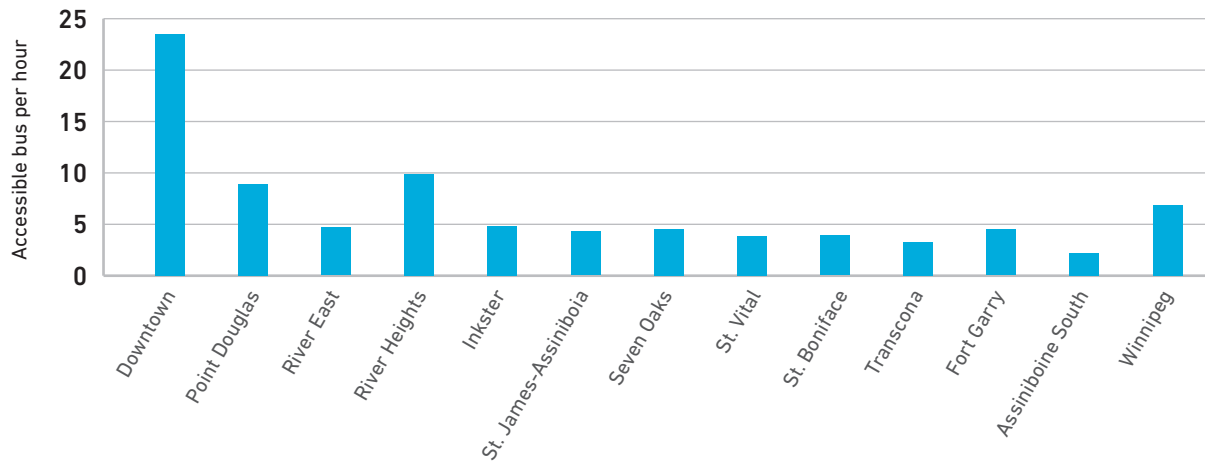
Public transportation can reduce the environmental impact of private vehicles, promote higher-density development, generate economic growth and have a positive effect on individuals' well-being.

Convenient Access to Public Transit (2016)

- Very High Convenience <6 Minutes
- High Convenience 6–10 Minutes
- Moderate Convenience 10–15 Minutes
- Low Convenience 15–30 Minutes
- Very Low Convenience 30+ Minutes
- No Convenient Access to Public Transit



Convenient Access to Public Transit (2016)



Wiebe (2018), Measuring Winnipeggers' Convenient Access to Public Transit

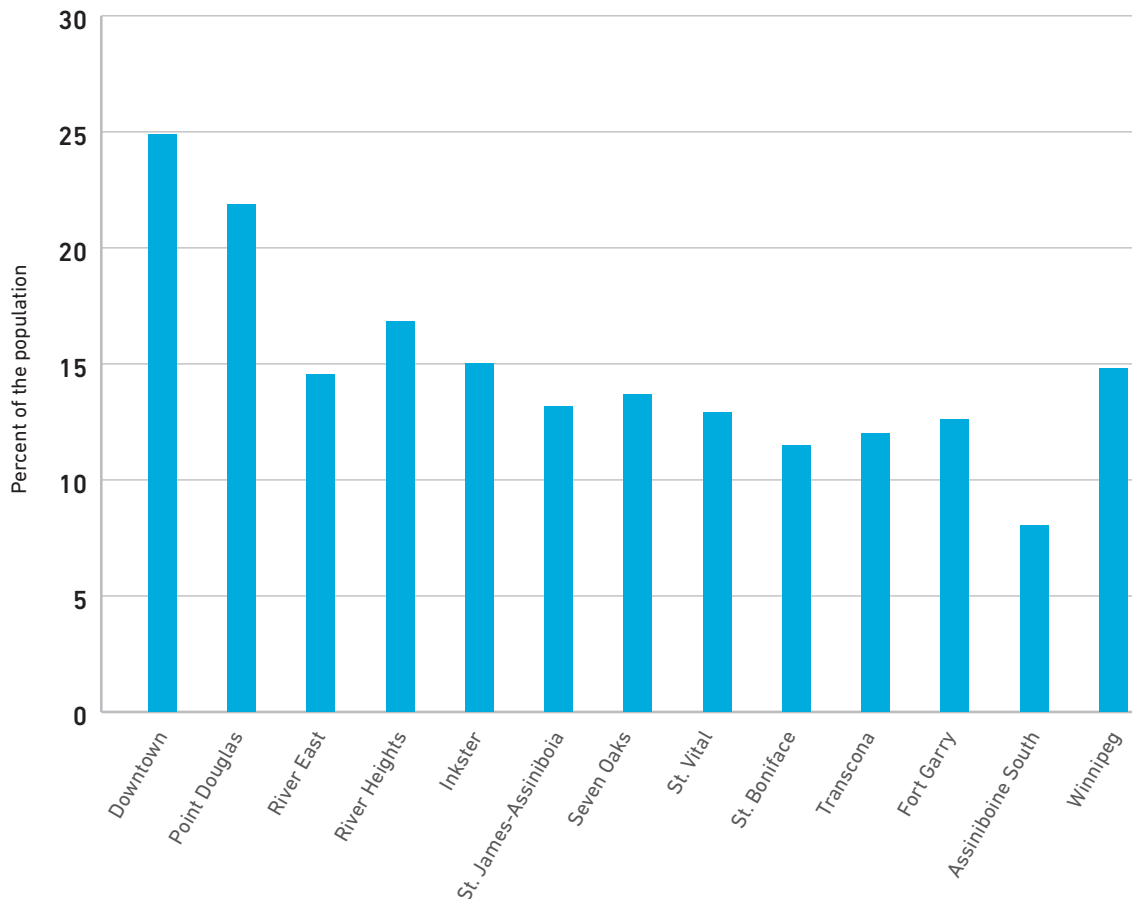


COMMUTING TO WORK

While convenient access to public transit measures the proximity and frequency of the bus networks, commuting to work shows the number of people riding the bus. As the built environment influences behaviour, it may be unsurprising that the three areas with the most convenient access to public transit are the same as those with the largest percentage of commuters using public transit. In 2011, 24.6 percent of individuals in the Downtown used public transit as their primary mode of transportation, while Point Douglas and River Heights sat at 21.6 percent and 16.6 percent respectively.



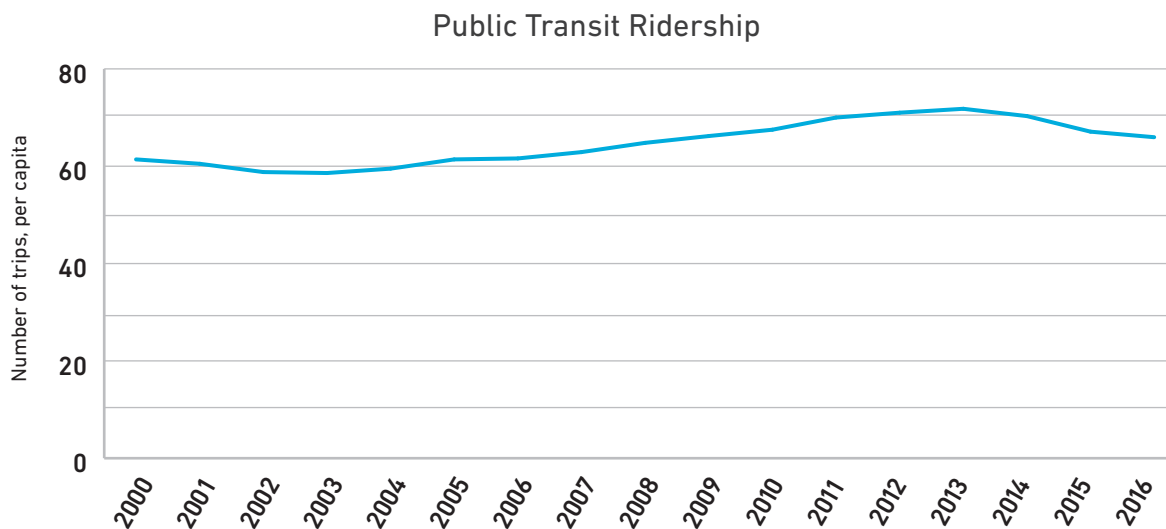
Public Transit as Primary Mode of Transportation (2011)



Source: Statistics Canada

PUBLIC TRANSIT RIDERSHIP

Public transit ridership is measured annually as the average number of transit trips per capita: the total number of trips taken divided by the population of Winnipeg. Over a 16-year period, the average number of trips per capita has remained relatively constant, from 61.4 rides per person in 2000 to 66.0 in 2016). The per capita number of trips peaked in 2013 at 71.8, but has since declined. To better understand how many people are moving throughout Winnipeg by bus, the 48.5 million passengers in 2016 is equal to Winnipeg Transit moving eight, full Bell MTS Place arenas around the city every day.



Winnipeg Transit, City of Winnipeg



AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX

Clean, healthy air is a central component of a sustainable natural environment. The quality of air affects our health and ability to be active in the outdoors and is a reflection of the type and amount of energy we use. To measure the quality of our city's air, Peg uses the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI).

The AQHI is a scale designed to help the public understand the health implications of air quality and make decisions based on the air quality. The AQHI is based on the relative risk of exposure to a combination of three common pollutants: ground-level ozone (O3), fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). The AQHI is calculated hourly from 1 (low risk) to 10+ (very high risk). Days with a recorded AQHI measure of three or less are considered low-risk days and do not present any concerns for healthy individuals to be active outdoors.

Peg uses the data from two monitoring stations to calculate the AQHI: Scotia St. station, which represents residential areas of the city, and Ellen St. station, which reports on the downtown. Since 2011, residential and downtown Winnipeg have had relatively good air quality. The lowest AQHI reporting during this time came in 2013 when only 81.0 percent of days at Scotia St. station and 88.2 percent of days at Ellen St. station were low risk. However, in 2017, Scotia St. station experienced its first ever period with 100 percent of low risk days. During this same year, Ellen St. station reported that 93.7 percent of days were low risk. While Winnipeg's residential and downtown areas have historically enjoyed good air quality, the city continues to strengthen efforts to improve air quality and address climate change. In 2018, the City of Winnipeg will release a climate action plan titled *Winnipeg Climate Action Plan: Planning for Climate Change*. The plan will outline strategic actions and set targets for emission reductions to monitor our impact on the climate.



Air quality relates to **SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**. SDG 11 is, in part, achieved by reducing the environmental impact of cities with specific attention to air quality. To monitor this target, SDG 11.6.2 measures the annual mean levels of fine particulate matter in cities (population weighted).

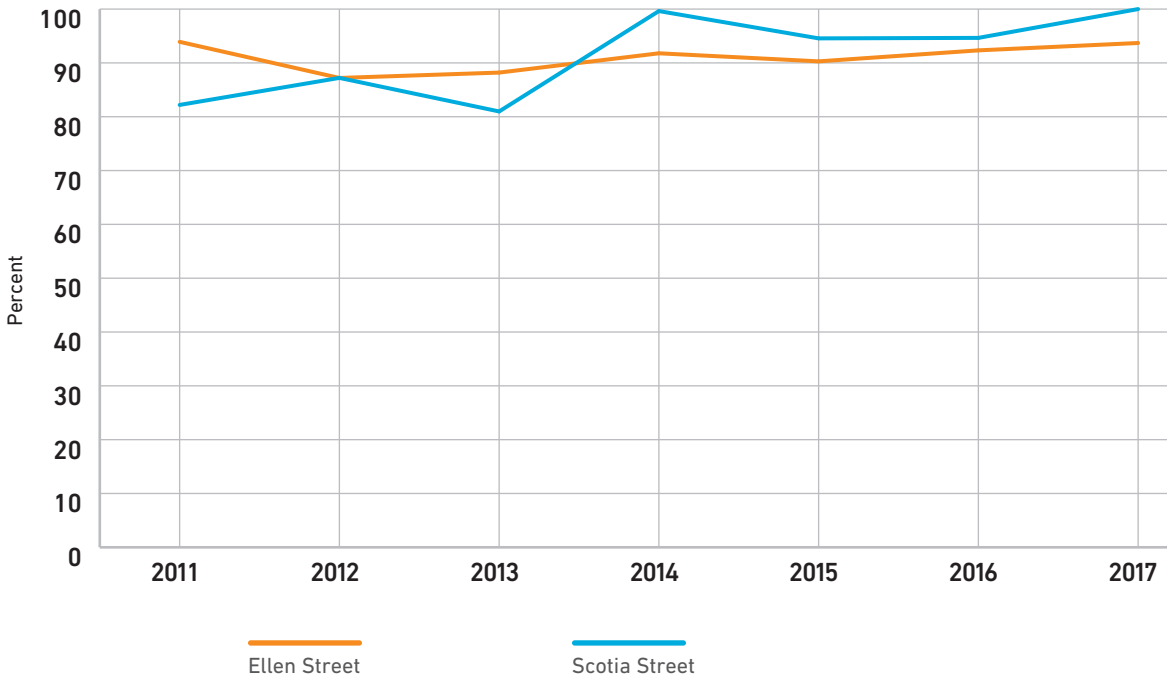
In 2017, Scotia Street station experienced its first ever period with 100 percent of low risk days. During this same year, Ellen St. station reported 93.7 percent of days were low risk.

Air Quality Health Index

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10+
Low Risk (1-3)			Moderate Risk (4-6)			High Risk (7-10)				Very High Risk

Source: Government of Canada, Environmental and Natural Resources

Percentage of the Year with Low-Risk Air Quality



Source: Manitoba Sustainable Development



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

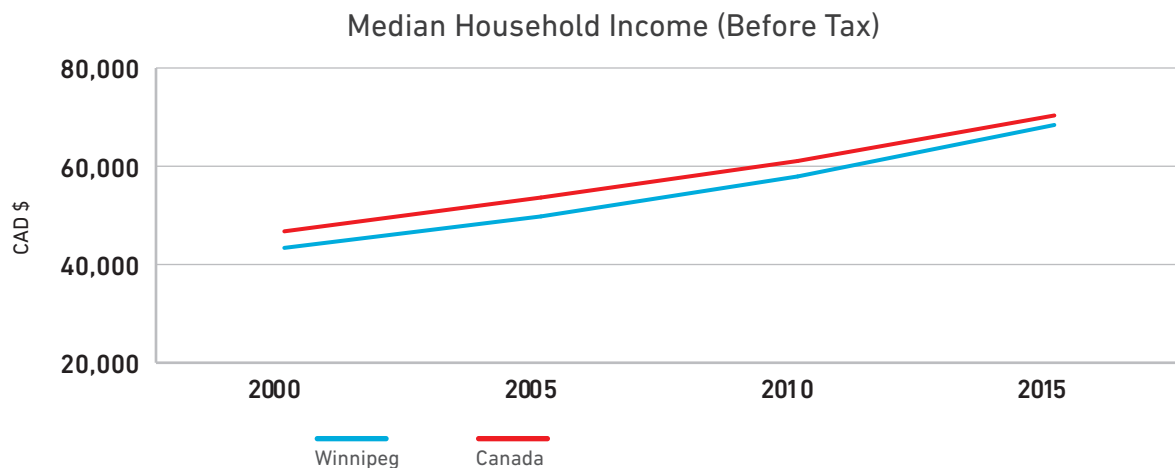
Higher incomes are not a panacea for improved well-being. However, higher income households are able to spend more on education, health, entertainment, recreation, transportation, and other goods and services that fulfill basic needs and can contribute to a greater sense of well-being.

Median household income measures the total income (before tax) of all members in a household. Unlike other measures of income such as market basket measure or low income cut-off, median household income is not a measure of poverty, but rather a simple means to compare income differences between areas. Median household income, however, does not measure the disparities between the lowest and highest income households.

Over the last 15 years, the median household income in Winnipeg has increased by 57.7 percent from \$43,383 in 2000 to \$68,402 in 2015). Despite these gains, Winnipeg remains below the Canadian average (\$70,366) and below the other Prairie cities of Calgary (\$97,334), Edmonton (\$87,225), Regina (\$81,832), and Saskatoon (\$79,001).



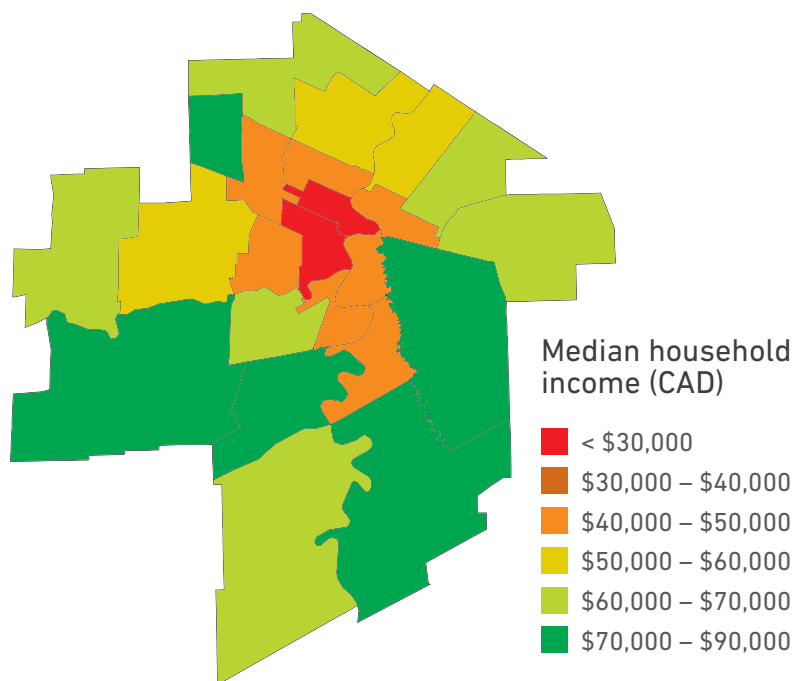
Income, poverty and well-being are strongly linked. This is the reasoning for using income as a measure to track **SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms**, and its target 1.2: reduce the proportion of people, by at least half, living in poverty in all its dimensions. Although median household income does not directly measure poverty, used in conjunction with other Peg indicators not mentioned in this report—low income cut-off and market basket measure—it provides an understanding of how equitable our economic growth is.



While the trend related to median household income looks promising for Winnipeg overall, it is important to recognize that the picture shifts when viewing the data by community area. In 2010, the community area with the highest median household income was Assiniboine South at \$81,000, more than twice that of Downtown, the community area with the lowest income at \$36,000. This jumps to a threefold difference when comparing neighbourhood clusters, the smaller geographic regions that make up community areas. Low income occurs in pockets throughout all community areas, but is more common in the inner city.

Lower levels of household income make it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for individuals and families to meet their basic needs and access quality housing, nutritious food, education, transportation, health, entertainment, and recreation. Lower income can cause significant stress and anxiety, and can limit opportunities and choices. Income inequality has negative impacts on an entire community, and is a critical factor to consider so that no one is left behind.

Median Household Income by Neighbourhood Cluster (CAD \$ 2010)



Source: Statistics Canada



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

An equitable community provides opportunities for those interested in working to make a living. The opportunity to earn an income is a social determinant of health and a strong indicator of social capital. When people are available and willing to work, but are unable find a job, it indicates a weak economy.

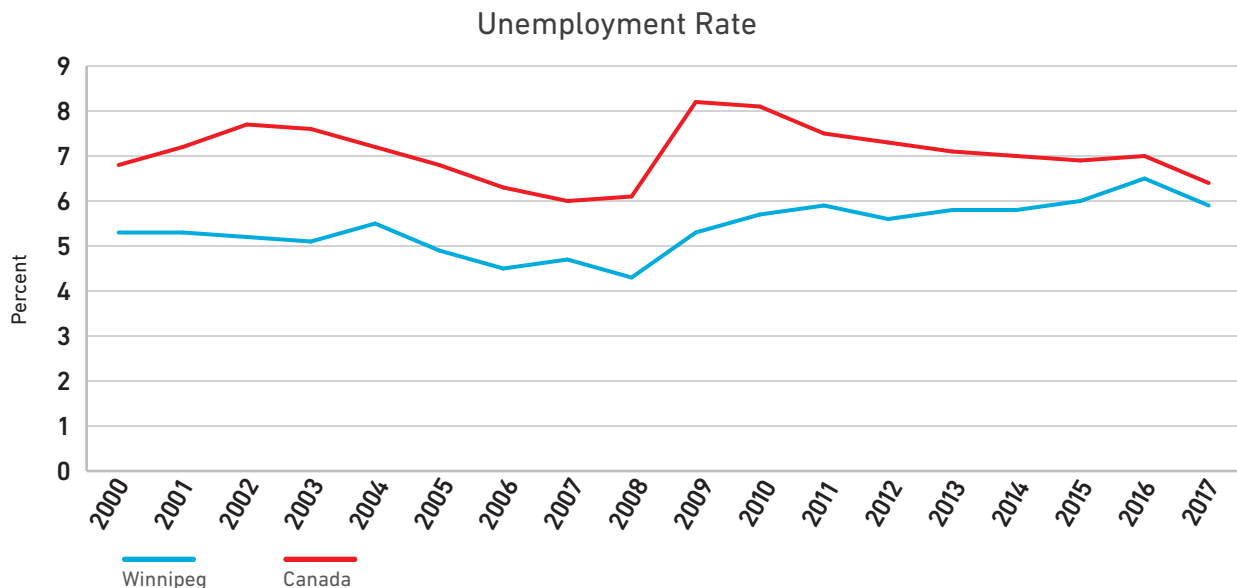
The unemployment rate measures the percentage of adults, 15 years of age and over, who are actively looking for work. In this way, unemployment refers to a group of people who want to work but cannot find a job. The unemployment rate can also demonstrated a need for a more skilled workforce or more employment opportunities.

Since 2000, Winnipeg has experienced a slight increase in unemployment, from 5.3 percent in 2000 to 5.8 percent in 2017. Winnipeg is, however, down 0.5 percentage points since 2016, which was the highest recorded year over the 17-year stretch. During this period, the lowest unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in 2008. Despite the slight increase in unemployment, Winnipeg has remained below the national unemployment rate (6.4 percent in 2017).



Numerous economic indicators are tracked under **SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.** Target 8.1, however, specifically tracks GDP growth rates as a measure of sustained economic growth.

The unemployment rate measures the percentage of adults, 15 years of age and over, who (a) were on temporary layoff during the reference week with an expectation of recall, and were available for work, or (b) were without work, had looked for work in the past four weeks, and were available for work, or (c) had a new job to start within four weeks from the reference week, and were available for work.



Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

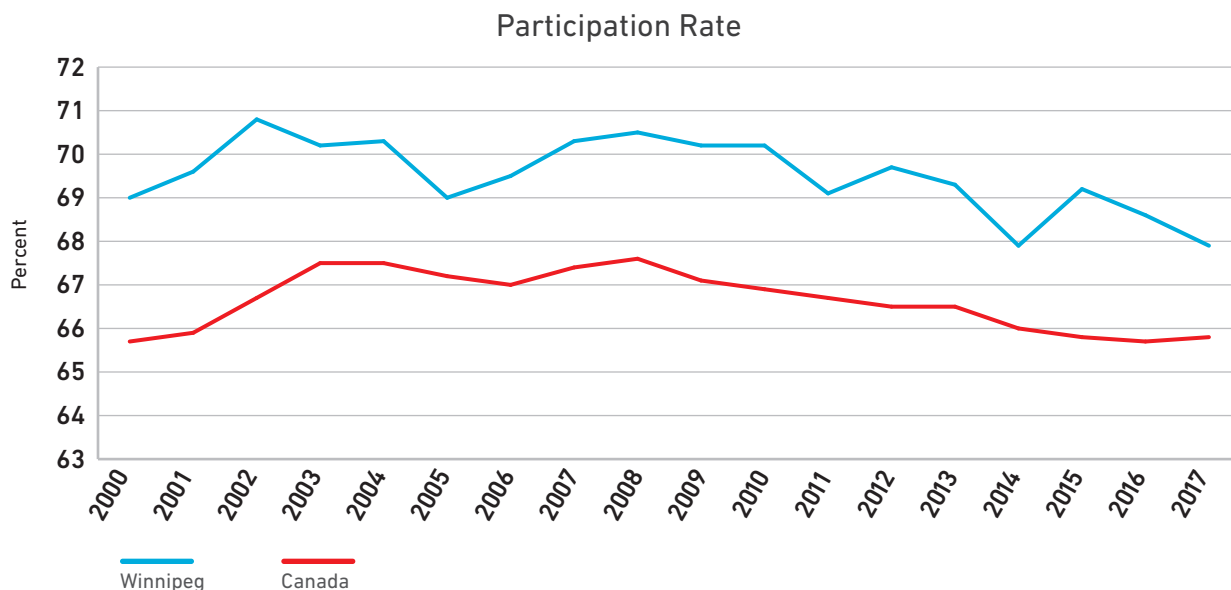
PARTICIPATION RATE

The number of people contributing to the economic activities of a city reflects its economic health. While the unemployment rate measures those who are willing but unable to find job, the participation rate refers to the number of working age adults that are part of the labour force—either working or looking for work—divided by the total working age population. This differs from the unemployment rate as it also includes those who are of working age, but not actively seeking employment, such as students or retirees, even though they may still be actively contributing to the economy. For this reason, the participation rate and unemployment rate should be discussed together to best understand a city’s economic health.

Over the past 17 years, Winnipeg has experienced relatively stable participation rates. Since 2000, participation rates have slightly decreased from 69.0 percent to 67.9 percent in 2017. Although participation has slightly decreased, Winnipeg has a greater participation rate compared to the rest of Canada. Since 2008, the Canadian participation rate has been slowly declining from 67.6 percent to its current rate of 65.8 percent in 2017.



Unemployment is addressed in **SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.** SDG 8.5 uses the unemployment rate to track its achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all. Peg expands on this target by also tracking participation rates, which reflect an additional dimension of employment and decent work.



Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

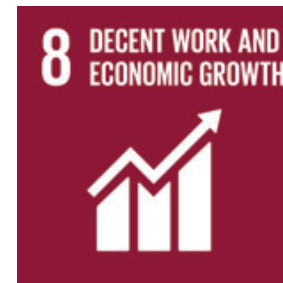


GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Gross domestic product (GDP) is among the most widely used indicators of economic health. It is a monetary measure of the total market value of goods and services produced within an area over a certain period.

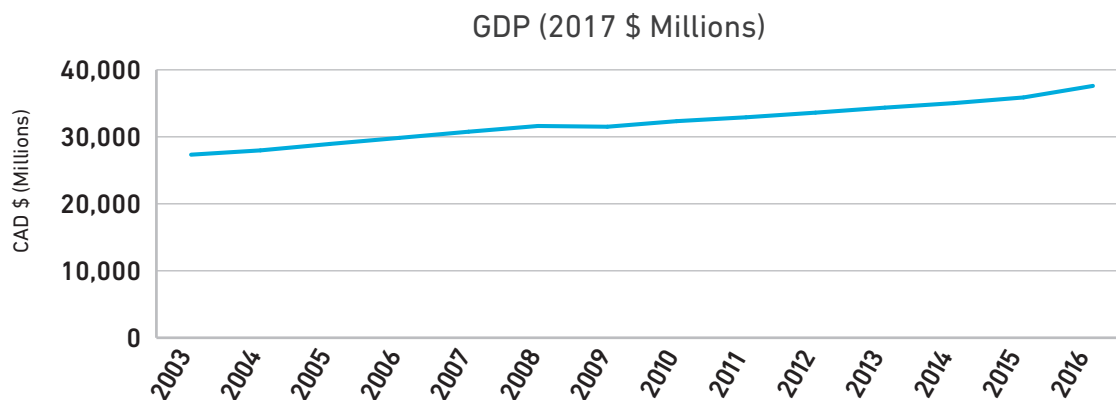
Generally, declining GDP reflects a weakening economy where fewer goods and services are produced and purchased. Conversely, if the GDP is growing, the economy is expanding. However, a greater growth rate in the GDP does not necessarily mean a healthier economy. Healthy growth is typically 2–3 percent on an annual basis.

Since 2003, Winnipeg has generally experienced GDP growth of 2–3 percent annually. In 2003, Winnipeg's GDP was \$27.3 billion, whereas in 2016 it was \$37.6 billion. This represents strong, sustained growth in the city. From 2015 to 2016, Winnipeg experienced its largest economic growth, in terms of GDP, at 4.8 percent. The growth rate experienced during this period meant Winnipeg had the third strongest economic growth among metropolitan areas in Western Canada and was well above the Canadian GDP growth rate of 1.5 percent.



Numerous economic indicators are tracked under **SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.** Target 8.1, however, specifically tracks GDP growth rates as a measure of sustained economic growth.

Winnipeg had the third strongest economic growth among metropolitan areas in Western Canada and was well above the Canadian GDP growth rate.



Source: Economic Development Winnipeg

HOUSING STARTS

Housing starts represent the number of new residential construction projects underway. The number of housing starts in a city is a strong economic indicator providing insight into the growth of the city in terms of population, homeowners, and long-term investment. When housing starts are on the rise, it can reflect healthy economic activity.

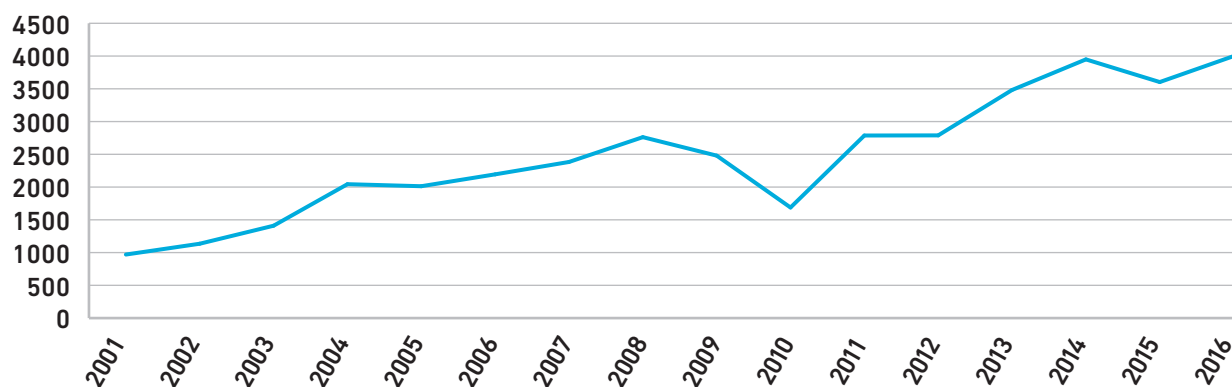
Although Winnipeg has held the long-standing reputation of being a slow-growth city, it has experienced a significant increase in housing starts since the beginning of the century. From 2000 to 2016 Winnipeg has experienced a 271.6 percent increase in housing starts, from 970 to 3,605. While there was a two-year decline in housing starts following the 2008 recession, Winnipeg has experienced relatively sustained growth in terms of housing starts since 2012. From 2015 to 2016, housing starts declined slightly (-10.9 percent); however, 2015 was a record-breaking year with 3,999 housing starts.

As a proxy indicator, housing starts is not without limitations. When discussing economic stability, it is also important to look at where housing is constructed. New developments not connected to existing urban systems, or on the periphery of the city, often mean expanding costs for city infrastructure over the long term.



Housing starts are both a reflection of economic growth and city planning. As such, housing starts relate to **SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable** and its target 11.3: enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization. Housing starts also align with **SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.**

Number of Housing Starts in Winnipeg



Source: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of formal education that Winnipeggers 15 years of age and older have completed. Specifically, it measures the percentage of those who have not completed high school, who have earned a high school diploma or equivalent, and who have completed a university certificate, degree, or diploma.

Educational attainment speaks to individuals' knowledge, skills, and competencies that allow them to participate effectively in society and the economy. Highly educated individuals tend to be less prone to unemployment and have significantly higher lifetime earnings through employment income.

Since 2006, the percentage of Winnipeggers without a high school diploma or equivalent has decreased from 23.1 percent to 17.0 percent. The percentage that completed high school as their highest level of formal education increased from 28.2 percent to 29.9 percent in 2016. During this same period, the percentage of Winnipeggers who completed a university certificate, diploma, or degree at bachelor level or higher has increased from 19.4 percent to 26.1 percent. The percentage of Winnipeggers with education at a high school level or higher are above the 2016 Canadian average, where only 26.5 percent of individuals completed high school as their highest level of educational attainment and 23.3 percent completed a bachelor degree or higher.

To better understand how we are doing as a city, we also need to look at the relationship between income and educational attainment. While 2016 community area

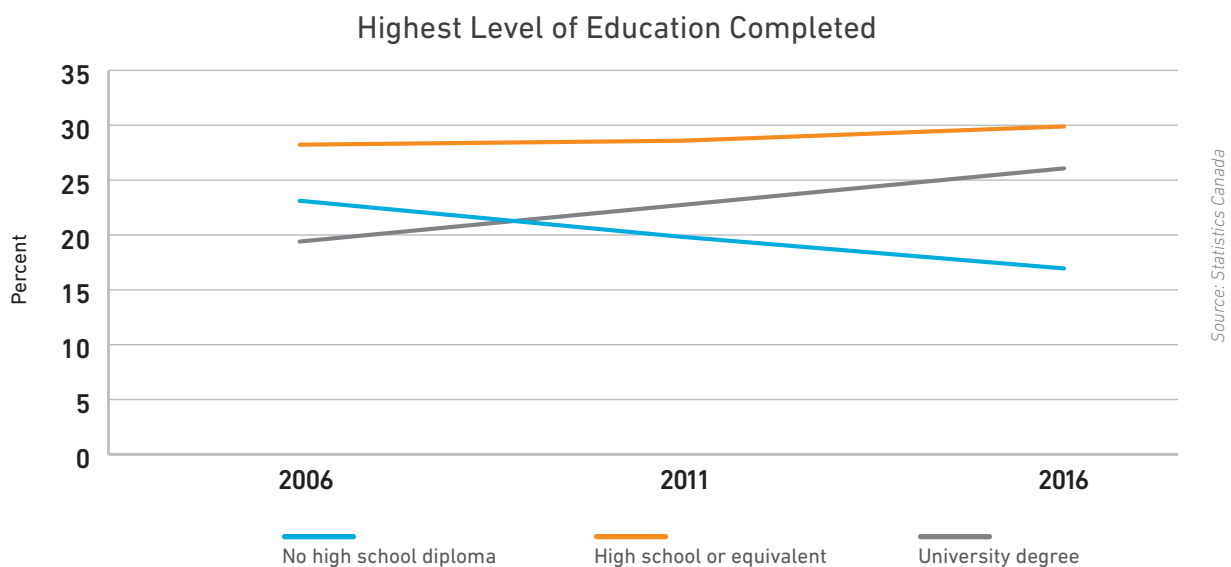


Multiple components of education are tracked under **SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.**

Although no target tracks graduation rates, SDG 4.4 seeks to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Graduation rates reflect this ability to find employment.

Highly educated individuals tend to be less prone to unemployment and have significantly higher lifetime earnings through employment income.

information was not available at the time of writing, we can use 2011 as a proxy. At that time, the two community areas in Winnipeg with the lowest median household income had the highest level of individuals without a high school diploma or equivalent. While the city-wide average was 19.8 percent, the averages in Point Douglas and Downtown community areas were 35.9 percent and 23.2 percent respectively. In contrast, the community areas with the highest median household income, Fort Garry and Assiniboine South, have a rate of 12.9 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively.





LIFE EXPECTANCY

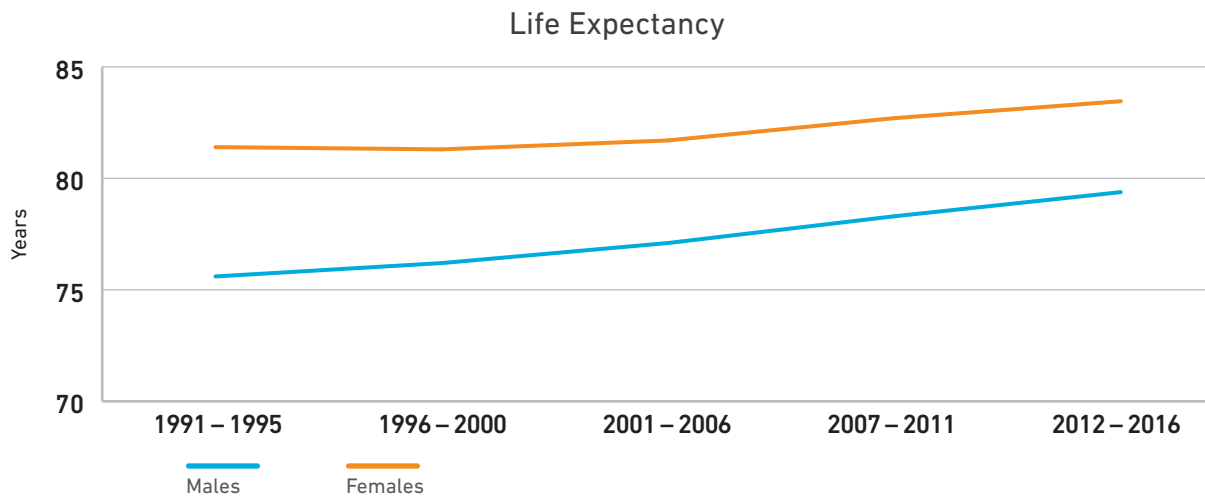
Life expectancy at birth is a global indicator for measuring overall health and is a big-picture reflection of a community's access to public health and basic services over a lifetime. Life expectancy is related to factors such as medical interventions (e.g., immunizations), good nutrition, hygiene and safe drinking water.

From 2012 to 2016, the average life expectancy was 83.5 years for females and 79.4 years for males. This represents a 5.0 percent increase for males and 2.5 percent increase for females since the previous reporting period (2002 to 2016). Although Canada is among the countries with the highest life expectancy, not all individuals, income groups, and sexes experience the same life expectancy at birth. In Winnipeg, these health inequities become alarmingly present at the community area level.

The two community areas with the lowest life expectancies for both females and males are Point Douglas and Downtown (2012 to 2016). In Point Douglas, the life expectancy was 78.2 years for females and 74.6 years for males, while in Downtown it was 79.8 years for females and 75.1 years for males. Comparatively, two community areas with the highest life expectancies were Fort Garry (86.3 years for females; 82.1 years for males) and Saint Boniface (86.7 years for females; 81.2 years for males). The differences in life expectancy demonstrate that not all individuals have the same access to services and opportunities at the beginning of, and throughout, their lives.



Measuring life expectancy in Peg directly ties to **SDG 3: *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.*** Although SDG 3 tracks one facet of targets related to health, Peg's uses life expectancy as an overall indicator for access to services and opportunities. Peg online also measures many other components of health such as heart attacks, smoking rate, and mood and anxiety disorders that directly relate to other SDG 3 targets.





SAFETY

Perceptions of safety affect our well-being and daily activities. How safe we feel influences how we engage with our communities, the modes of transportation we choose, and how welcomed we feel in an area. When people feel safe, they feel free: free to walk the streets, go out in the evening, and let their children play outdoors. However, when perceptions of safety are low, people restrict their activities or change their behaviours accordingly.

To measure perceptions of safety, Peg tracks how secure people feel walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods. In 2017, nearly three-quarters of Winnipeggers (74 percent) felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night. Perceptions of safety increased 2 percentage points since 2016 (72 percent), and overall, increased 6 percentage points since 2010. While perceived safety is an important indicator for well-being, it is not a measure of recorded crime or risk of being a victim of crime.

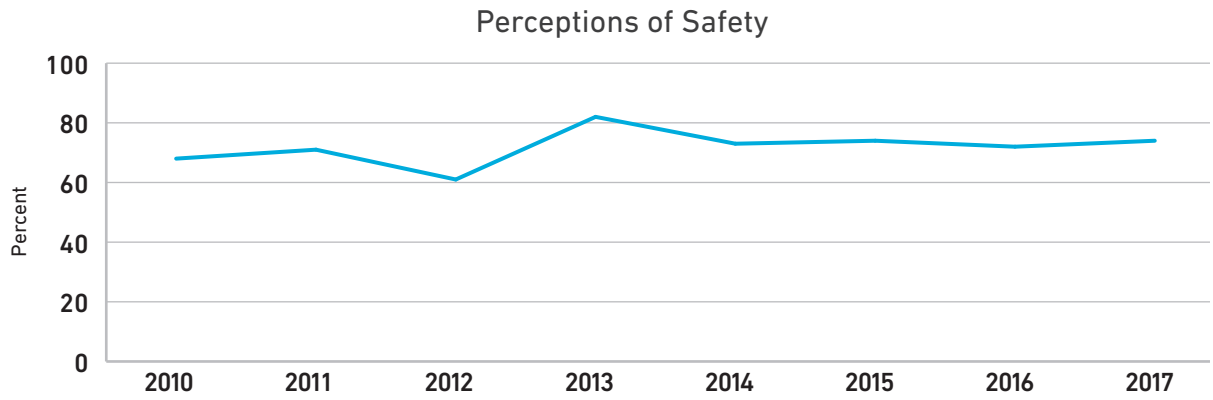
Conversely, personal safety tracks the number of reported assaults, homicides, sexual assaults, and robberies per 1,000 people. Crimes against persons not only have negative effects on the well-being of victims, they also affect entire communities. Safe communities, as indicated partially by reductions in crime, provide a better quality of life for residents, improve opportunities for economic development, and enhance social vitality. In 2016, there were 9.5 reported assaults, homicides, sexual assaults and robberies per 1,000 individuals. This is a slight reduction in crimes from 2010 (10.4 per 1,000), but a slight increase from the previous year (8.7 per 1,000 in 2015).

While instances and stories of crime affect perceptions of safety, safety is also a product of design. Lighting, landscape, density, and the quality of infrastructure all play a role in how safe people feel. In this way, physical design can produce social outcomes.

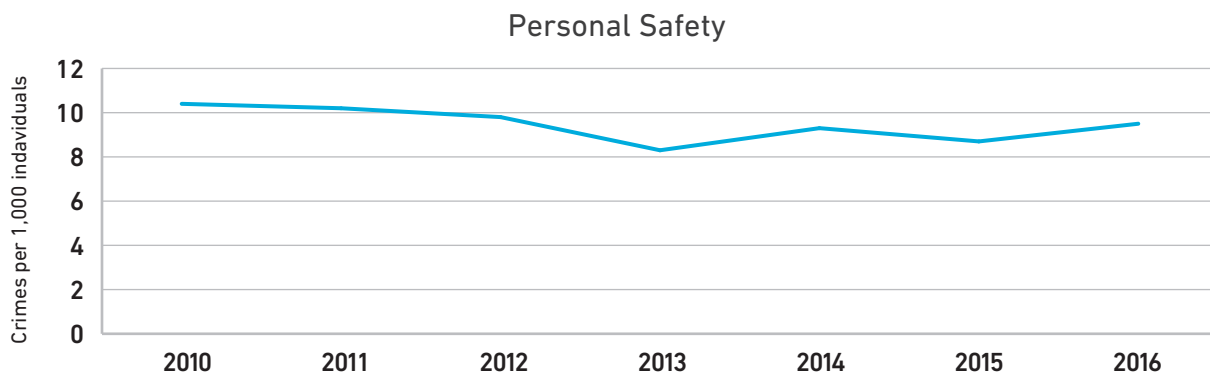


Like Peg, the SDGs are concerned with peace and safety. In fact, **SDG 16 promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.** Specifically, SDG 16.1 aims to reduce all forms of violence, and also measures this by the proportion of the population that feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood.

How safe we feel influences how we engage with our communities, the modes of transportation we choose, and how welcomed we feel in an area.



Source: City of Winnipeg, Citizen Survey



Source: City of Winnipeg



CHILDREN IN CARE

The social environment children are raised in has a tremendous effect on many social determinants of health. While there are many reasons why a child may be placed in care, being removed from a family is a strong predictor of negative social outcomes. To track the number of children placed into care, Peg measures the percentage of children (ages 0–17) removed from their families and placed in the care of another adult¹. Since 2000/01–2002/03, the percentage of children in care in Winnipeg has increased. In 2015/16, the percent of children in care in Winnipeg increased 124.4 percent, from 2.2 percent (2001/02–2003/04) to 4.9 percent (2015/16).

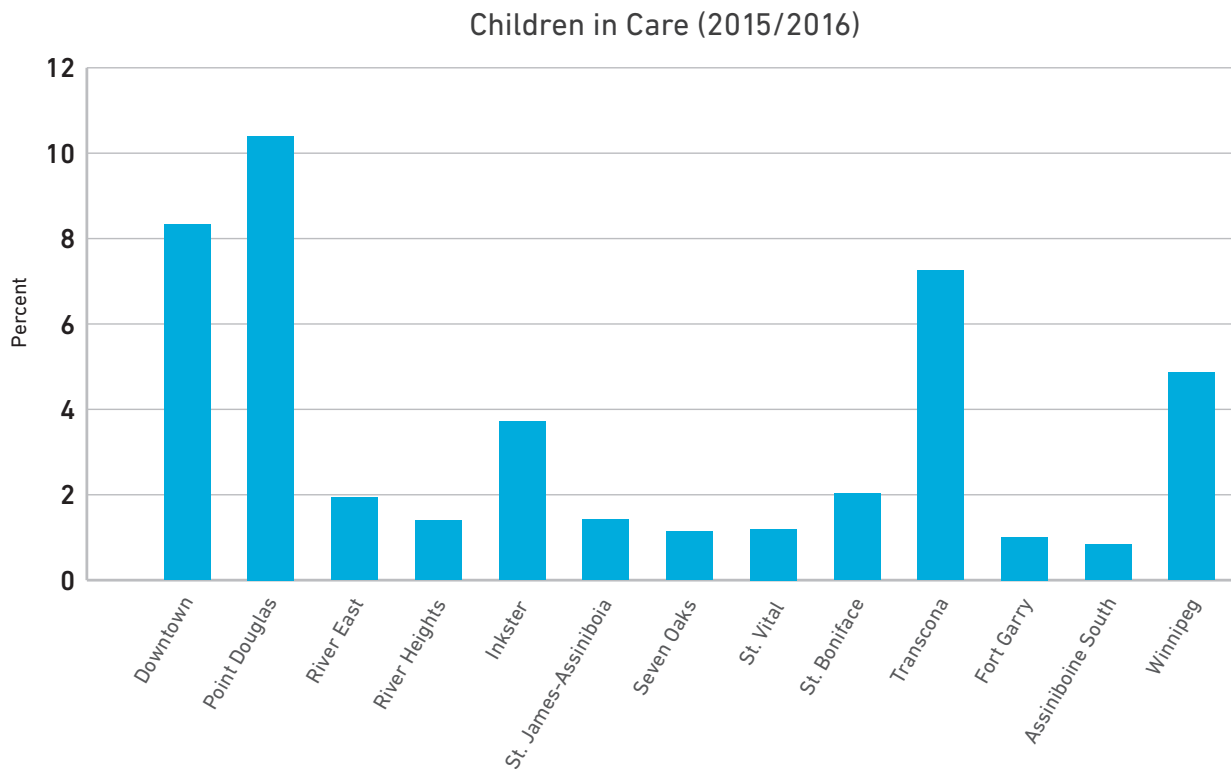
The number of children being removed from their families significantly differs by community area. In Downtown and Point Douglas, 8.3 percent and 10.4 percent of children, respectively, were removed from their homes and placed in the care of another adult. These figures are around two times greater than the Winnipeg average and present alarming inequities.

In Winnipeg, 85 percent of the children in care were of Indigenous ancestry in 2011. Reducing the number of children placed in care involves evaluating the underlying structural and institutional systems that are disproportionately affecting the parents and children of Indigenous families. In 2017, Manitoba's Minister of Families announced a child welfare reform strategy with four pillars, including a review of child welfare legislation in Manitoba, which will help inform and improve the child welfare system.



Children are placed in the care of another adult for many reasons. As such, it is difficult to draw parallels to just one SDG. However, in Canada many children are placed in care because of neglect. While more research is required to study the complexity of the issue, it is also known that being removed from a family often has negative social outcomes. For this reason, Children in Care is related to **SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms** and **SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**.

1. The community area where children are counted as being apprehended for care is based on the address they were residing when apprehended.



Source: Child and Family Services Information System (CFSIS) via Manitoba Centre for Health Policy

While there are many reasons why a child may be placed in care, being removed from a family is a strong predictor of negative social outcomes.



CORE HOUSING NEED

Adequate and affordable housing is a key determinant of well-being. Core housing need measures the percent of households whose housing: 1) costs more than 30 percent of their income, 2) requires major repairs, or 3) does not have enough rooms for the family size, and where the income of these households is such that they are unable to move to suitable alternatives in their community.

When one or more of these conditions is met, housing is unaffordable, inadequate or unsuitable. This can place a financial strain on households and affect residents' well-being. Many factors contribute to households in core housing need, including an aging housing stock, real-estate prices, rental rate increases and low vacancy rates.

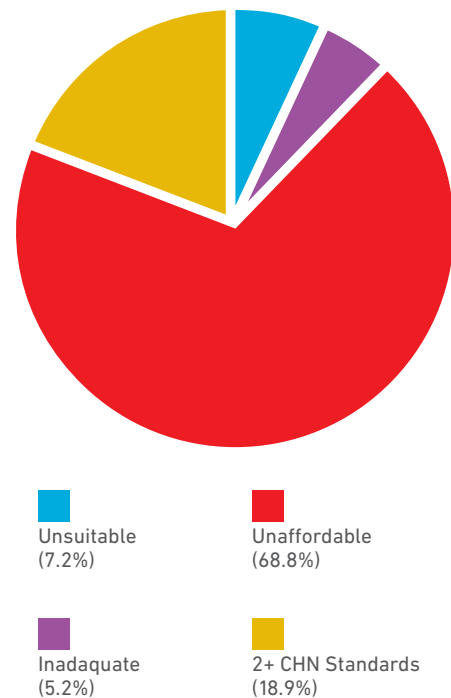
In 2016, 12.1 percent of housing, or 35,760 houses, were in core housing need. Although, this is a decline in core housing need since 1991 (14.6 percent), it is the first time that core housing need has increased since 2000. During this 15-year period, core housing need increased 1.3 percentage points.

Of the 12.1 percent in core housing need, affordability of housing was the most prominent concern, as 68.8 percent of Winnipeggers were paying at least 30 percent of their income for housing. Furthermore, of those in core housing need 7.2 percent lived in unsuitable housing (not enough rooms for the family size), 5.2 percent lived in inadequate housing (in need of major repair) and 18.9 percent lived in housing that experienced two or more of these concerns. Despite the increases in core housing need, Winnipeg remains below the average number of households in core housing need in Canada, which was 12.7 percent in 2016.



Core Housing Need is measured both in Peg and under **SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**. More specifically, core housing need can be related to SDG 11.1 – ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services.

Core Housing Need (2016)



Source: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

QUALITY OF LIFE

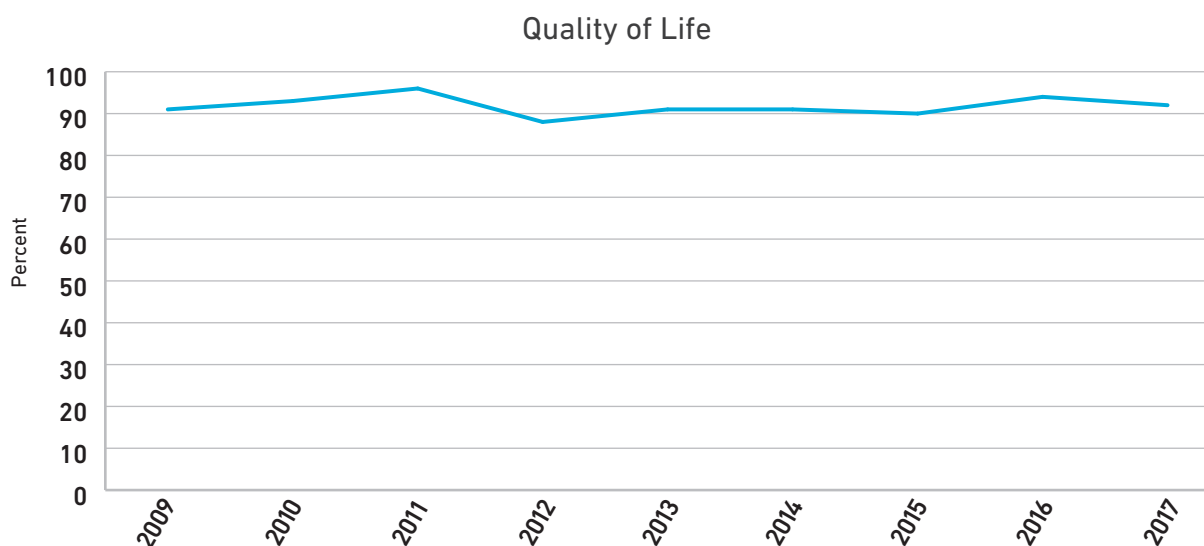
The subjective interpretation of our quality of life is influenced by many factors. The number of friends we interact with, the time available for leisure activities, our physical and mental health, how safe we feel, and income all influence how we perceive our quality of life.

Quality of life measures the percent of Winnipeggers who believe that the quality of life in Winnipeg is 'good' or 'very good'. In 2004, only 82 percent of Winnipeggers reported having a 'good' or 'very good' quality of life. Seven years later, in 2009, 91 percent of Winnipeggers reported having a 'good' or 'very good' quality of life. Since this peak, fewer Winnipeggers rated their quality of life positively, and in 2017, 92 percent of Winnipeggers rated their quality of life as 'good' or 'very good'.

Although Winnipeg is making progress in many of the social, economic, and environmental indicators highlighted in this report, ensuring that quality of life increases alongside progress in other indicators is important to improving well-being.



Quality of life is a holistic measure of well-being that is jointly influenced by environmental, economic, and social indicators. For this reason, a measure of quality of life can be linked to the overall objective of the SDGs which is to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.



Source: City of Winnipeg, Citizen Survey

12 Winnipeg Community Areas

The data in this report, as well as in Peg, is organized around Winnipeg’s 12 community areas and the 25 neighbourhood clusters within them. These boundaries are used by the City of Winnipeg, Province of Manitoba, and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.



Conclusion

A guiding principle of the Sustainable Development Goals is “no one left behind”. This principle recognizes that within our countries and our communities there are pockets of people who are struggling. This creates a compelling mandate for all of us to respond – to collectively create a thriving community where everyone can reach their potential.

By providing a snapshot of indicators related to the three pillars of sustainability – environmental, economic, and social – this report clearly shows that we all have a role to play in building a stronger community. Through choosing to use less water and throw less in the garbage, individuals have contributed to lowering the rates of water usage and waste. Government policies have, for example, impacted on the rate of public transit use, public safety, and core housing need.

The SDGs also provide a lens through which to view the business sector’s contribution to sustainability, beyond GDP and employment rates. For the first time, the United Nations has invited corporations to actively join

governments and others in attaining the seventeen global goals. This invitation recognizes the realized and potential impact of corporations through their business practices, corporate social responsibility priorities, and employee volunteer engagement. Their actions impact not only the indicators in this report but others aligned with the global goals and community wellbeing. By aligning with the SDGs, Peg leads the way for other cities to measure and achieve the global goals at the local level.

This report provides a snapshot of 20 indicators of sustainability – a fraction of the indicators available through the Peg website and the SDGs. By learning more about the indicators on Peg and the SDGs, we can all identify the places where we can make a difference. As a cutting-edge system, Peg provides a Winnipeg-grown tool to track the difference that we are making. With the assistance of this tool, we can all find a way to help our city become a community where no one is left behind.

By providing a snapshot of indicators related to the three pillars of sustainability, this report clearly shows that we all have a role to play in building a stronger community.

Peg is a community indicator system that was developed to inspire action and create change through tracking key measures of well-being. Peg measures the health of our community year-over-year in ways that count. Our mission is to build the knowledge and capacity of Winnipeggers to work together to achieve and sustain the well-being of current and future generations.

For more information:

Peg: www.mypeg.ca

PEG PARTNERS



REPORT PARTNER

