

FEB 2019

# ECONOMIC SECURITY

Indicators around employment, income & cost of living.

## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME<sup>1</sup>

**\$61,119** vs. **\$61,280**

CRD

CANADA

<sup>1</sup>after-tax income, based on total population of 383,360 people

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE<sup>2</sup>

**3.7%** vs. **5.8%**

CRD

CANADA

<sup>2</sup> calculated as a % by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labor force

## POVERTY RATE<sup>3</sup>

**13.3%** vs. **13.9%**

CRD

CANADA

<sup>3</sup>after-tax poverty rate (Low Income Measure)

Source (refers to all data found in this section) : Census 2016

## EMPLOYMENT

All the indicators below apply to civilian, non-institutionalized persons 15-65 years of age.



### LABOUR FORCE

**199,700**

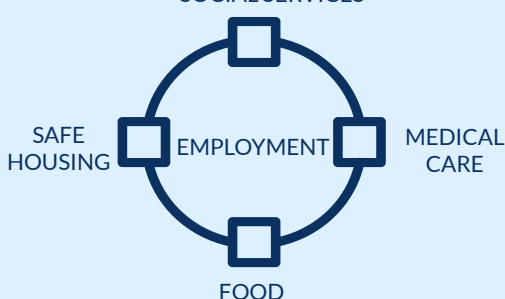
people

# of persons who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed.

Employment is a critical social determinant of health.

Those who earn higher wages have more access to **safe housing, nutritious foods, social services and medical care** that provide pathways to better health.

SOCIAL SERVICES



### PARTICIPATION RATE

**64.5%** vs. **65.1%**

CRD

CANADA

% of the population that is either employed or able, and seeking a job



How is this different from the unemployment rate?

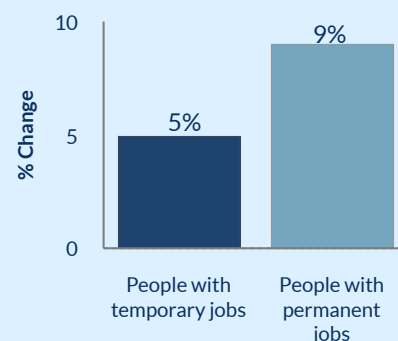
The denominator is the entire population (not just the labour force).

Also includes people who are not actively seeking employment but still actively contributing to society (i.e. students or retirees)



### TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

The number of people holding permanent and temporary jobs<sup>1</sup> has increased between 2014-2018.



Precarious employment<sup>2</sup> can impact **mental and family health**, and increase susceptibility to **chronic illnesses**.

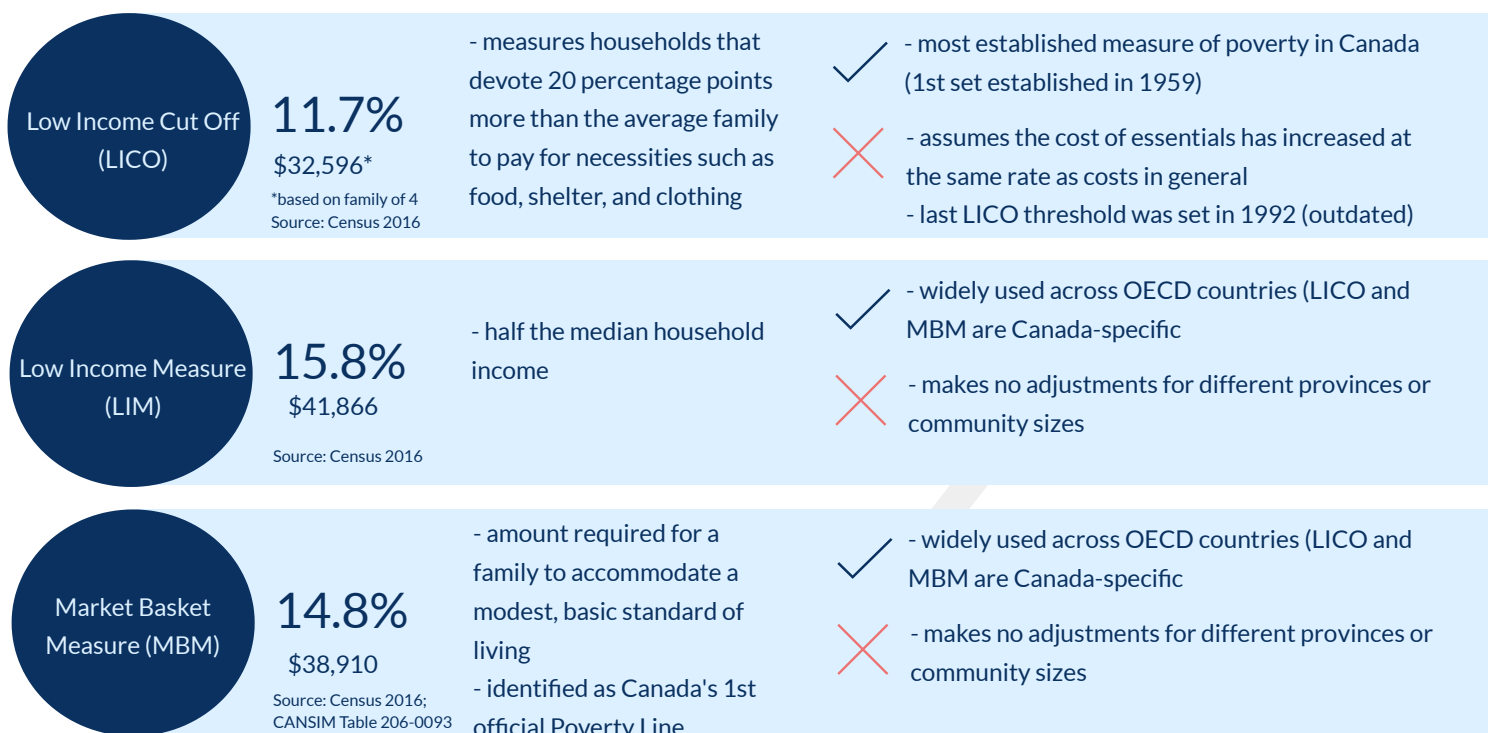
<sup>1</sup>A temporary job includes temporary, term or contract, or casual jobs.

<sup>2</sup>Precarious employment is defined non-standard and temporary employment with fewer protections, often lower wages and no benefits

Source (refers to this entire section): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2018

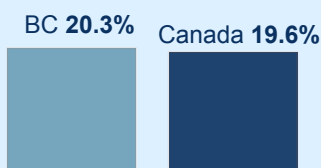
# POVERTY MEASURES & COST OF LIVING

Each measure has pros and cons. Considering all three measures provides us with a better understanding of low-income. The chart below outlines the different measures, the poverty rates associated with each ones, and considerations to keep in mind.



## CHILD\* POVERTY

**1 IN 5** of BC children are poor.



Child poverty rates are more than **5 times higher** for children in lone-parent families than children in couple families.

\*0-17 years of age  
Source: SPARC BC, 2018

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

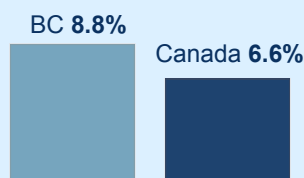


This indicator looks at the rate of inflation. It calculates the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food and medical care.

Source: Census 2016

## SENIOR\* POVERTY

BC has the **highest** seniors poverty rate of any province or territory in Canada.

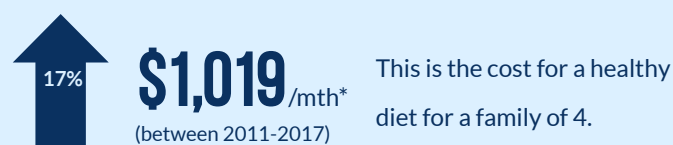


In the Victoria CMA, there are 2 Census tracts where:

**1 IN 10** of seniors lived in poverty.

\*65+ years of age  
Source: SPARC BC, 2018

## AVERAGE COST OF FOOD



This is the cost for a healthy diet for a family of 4.

**1/2 MILLION**

British Columbians can't afford a basic healthy diet.

\*BC data  
Source: BC Centre for Disease Control, 2017

# LIVING WAGE

What an individual needs to earn to enjoy an adequate quality of life in our region.

For 2019:

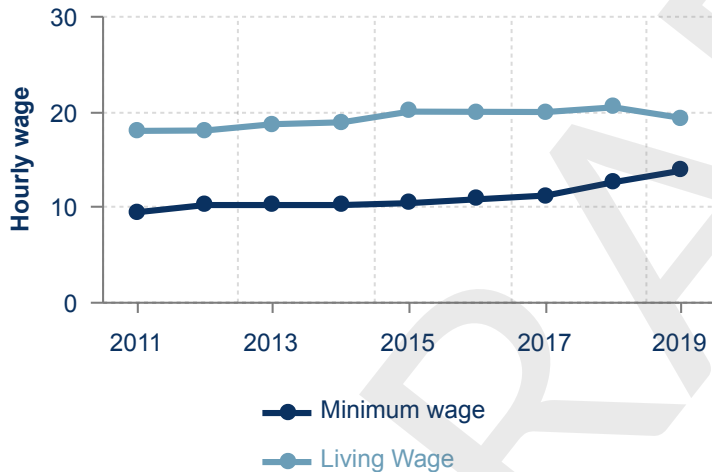
Living Wage  
↑ 14%  
**\$19.39**

In 2011, the living wage was \$18.03.

Minimum Wage  
↑ 33%  
**\$12.65**

In 2011, the minimum wage was \$9.50.

## Wages (per hour) in Greater Victoria



The Community Social and Planning Council of Greater Victoria calculates and releases the living wage each year. This calculation assumes 2 adults, working 35 hours/week each, while providing a home for 2 children; one in preschool and one in Grade 2.

Source (for this entire section): Living Wage Report, 2019

Approximately **27%** of Greater Victoria's 2-parent, 2-children families had incomes less than the living wage.

While the living wage is more than a survival wage or minimum wage, it is not an affluent wage, and it is lower than what is needed to obtain much of what is considered normal in our community.



The living wage does not include:



Saving for children's education, purchase a home, holidays or retirement



Servicing debts or credit card bills



Being able to care for an elderly relative/a disabled family member

## Childcare Costs & Shelter Costs\*

are the 2 largest household expenses in our region.



\*Please refer to Thriving Children and Youth and Housing infographics for more information.

### Created by:

The Regional Outcomes Monitoring Group



For more info: <https://bit.ly/2sOEbbl>

### Resources:

#### Data Sources

- Census 2016

#### Reports

- Living Wage Report 2018
- Food Costing in BC 2017

#### Networks

- Greater Victoria Acting Together
- Community Social Services
- Social Enterprise Vancouver Island