

Councillor Request Inquiry # 16-2019

2019

April 16, 2016 Information Request:

Please provide any population projections by any County department (from all departments, and not restricted to Planning and Development) that show population growth going forward in Strathcona County or any part thereof at less than 1500 per year (i.e. any population projections that result in 1500 people or less per year).

Dear Members of Council,

In response to the Information Request made on April 16, 2019 regarding population projections by any County department (from all departments, and not restricted to Planning and Development) that show population growth going forward in Strathcona County or any part thereof at less than 1500 per year (i.e. any population projections that result in 1500 people or less per year) please see the following:

Legislative and Legal Services has canvassed all departments in the County. Many departments extrapolate population projections from secondary sources. For example, a number of departments base projections on Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board growth projections, as can be seen in the Bremner Project documents prepared by Planning and Development Services. Some others have based their projections on historical census data, at times coupled with indications of potential growth from the development community. All of these informal projections yield growth numbers higher than the 1500 threshold in the information request.

The Market Research Officer in the Communications Department provides "Population forecast based on census data and occupied dwelling units". The five year projection (2018 - 2023) would see an overall increase of 4700 people (less than 1500 per year). Many departments rely on this information. We are including the projections in the response as an attachment.

Thank you,

Mavis Nathoo
Director, Legislative and Legal Services

STRATHCONA COUNTY
POPULATION FORECAST BASED ON CENSUS DATE & OCCUPIED DWELLING UNITS

YEAR	< Historical						Projection >				
	2013	2014	2015*	2016**	2017	2018*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
URBAN SERVICE AREA	66,181	67,014	68,782	70,700	71,541	71,332	71,850	72,463	73,077	73,691	74,304
Percent Increase (from previous year)		1.26%	2.64%	2.79%	1.19%	1.18%	0.73%	0.85%	0.85%	0.84%	0.83%
RURAL STRATHCONA	27,095	27,339	26,815	27,344	27,556	27,049	27,186	27,586	27,986	28,386	28,787
Percent Increase (from previous year)		0.90%	-1.92%	1.97%	0.78%	-1.84%	0.51%	1.47%	1.45%	1.43%	1.41%
TOTAL COUNTY	93,276	94,354	95,597	98,044	99,097	98,381	99,036	100,049	101,063	102,077	103,091
PERCENT CHANGE IN COUNTY (from previous year)		1.16%	1.32%	2.56%	1.07%	-0.72%	0.67%	1.02%	1.01%	1.00%	0.99%

NOTES:

1. Historical data (2015, 2018) are based on Municipal Census* information and constitutes the official population based on May 1st of that calendar year.
2. Historical data from 2016 is based on Federal Census** information and constitutes the official population based on June 1st of that calendar year.
3. Percentages noted in this table are based on a calendar spread that begins in May and ends in April of the following year. This is done to reflect a consistent 12 month tracking of population change, and to mirror the fact that official municipal censuses are conducted in May of a given year.
4. Population projections for 2019 - 2023 are calculated using OCCUPIED dwelling units and applying a persons per dwelling unit factor of 2.61 (urban) and 2.82 (rural). The persons per dwelling unit factors remain constant for each consecutive year of the projection. A correction factor for new housing stock is also built into the estimates of occupied dwellings to account for vacant dwellings as well as new housing stock that would be under construction in any given year.
5. The number of vacant dwellings in Strathcona County is 1.8% urban and 3.3% rural (based on the 2018 Municipal Census).
6. Projected growth rates for Strathcona County in 2019 through 2023 is continues to rise, based on previous years' growth rates, though growth has slowed due to the sluggish economy.
7. Based on the issuing of 2018 building permits, the percentage of growth in Sherwood Park is projected to be slightly lower than Rural Strathcona County.
8. Single unit errors in totals may occur due to rounding.

Information supplied by: Communications, Dr. Phil Kreisel 464-8252. Date: December 19, 2018.