Preface

Statistics Canada conducts its *Census of Population* every five years with the most recent census having occurred in 2006. The Census provides information on the demographic, social and economic conditions of the population on Census day (May 16 in 2006).

While the Census aims to enumerate all permanent residents of Canada, it will miss some residents while counting others more than once. In acknowledgement of this Statistics Canada publishes a net undercount that is used to adjust the population count. Based on these adjustments BC Stats produces quarterly and annual population estimates.

The City of Surrey’s Planning Department also maintains building permit statistics. The number of existing buildings (updated with new constructions and demolitions) provides an accurate estimate of occupied dwellings. The dwelling count is combined with Statistics Canada Census variables to produce the City of Surrey’s demographic profiles.

Where possible a comparison is made between the current and previous censuses. A regional comparison is also provided between Surrey and key municipal neighbours. Finally, for the purpose of this and other fact sheets, Surrey is divided into six communities: Cloverdale, Fleetwood, Guildford, Newton, South Surrey, and Whalley. City Centre is also identified as a sub-community planning area within Whalley. Unless otherwise indicated, statistical information provided at the community and sub-community level is based on a twenty percent sample of the Census enumeration.
Employment Income

For the first time in 2006 the Census provided detailed employment income information in addition to total income. Employment income includes income from wages and salaries, non-farm unincorporated business or professional practice, and farm self-employment. Employment income information is provided for the population 15 years and over excluding institutional residents. It is also specified according to the work activity – the number of weeks worked in a year and whether the weeks worked were mostly full time or part time.

In the last Census 223,770 persons earned an employment income in Surrey. This is 71.5% of the population 15 years and over. Of those who earned an employment income 107,815 worked full year, full time, while 99,635 worked part year or part time.

Employment Income in Surrey’s Communities

In 2005 between 67.3% and 78.0% of the population 15 years and over in Surrey’s communities reported earning an employment income. Additionally, in the City Centre sub-area of Whalley 66.8% reported an employment income.

South Surrey had the lowest proportion of its population earning employment income. However, it also had the highest average employment income ($47,981) of Surrey’s six communities. Only South Surrey and Cloverdale ($37,993) had average incomes higher than the City’s average employment income of $34,042.
Work activities in Surrey’s communities were more or less balanced between those who worked full year, full time and those who worked part year or part time. A small proportion of those with employment income also did not work during the year. This group accounted for between 5.2% in Cloverdale and 9.7% in South Surrey.
Regional Comparison of Employment Income

In 2005 seventy-one and a half percent of Surrey’s population earned employment income compared with 70.9% in Metro Vancouver as a whole. At the same time it had the third lowest median income in the region ($25,981), below the Metro Vancouver median of $27,596. Surrey also had the fourth lowest average income ($34,042), below the Metro Vancouver average of $37,627.

Surrey’s work activity closely resembled that of Metro Vancouver. In Surrey 48.2% worked full year, full time and 44.5% work part year or part time. The complimentary figures for Metro Vancouver were 48.0% and 44.9%.