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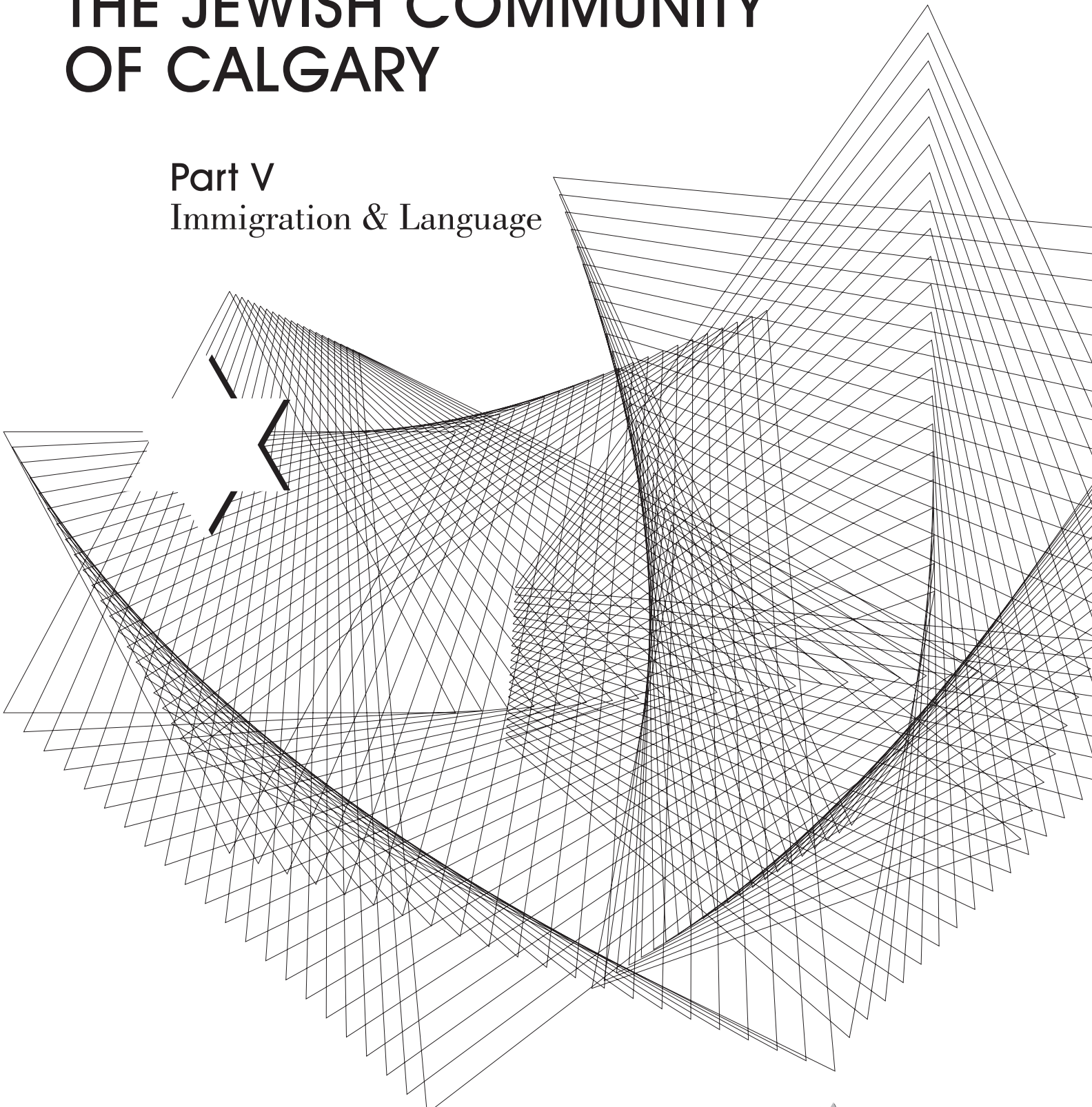
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2001 Census Analysis Series **THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF CALGARY**

Part V
Immigration & Language



By Charles Shahrar
May 2005



**2001 Census Analysis
The Jewish Community of Calgary**

**Part 5
Immigration & Language**

**By
Charles Shahr**

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Highlights of Results

- Approximately a third (31.8%) of the Calgary Jewish population are immigrants, comprising 2,530 individuals. About two-thirds (68.2%) were born in this country, or 5,420 persons.
- The proportion of Jewish immigrants in the Calgary CMA (31.8%) is similar to that of the national Jewish population (32.5%).
- In the local Jewish population, there are 995 Jews who were born in the Former Soviet Union. There are also 420 Jews who were born in the United States, 280 in Israel, 275 in Western Europe, and 240 in Eastern Europe.
- Those born in Israel have the youngest median age (24.4 years) of any immigrant group in the local Jewish community. The oldest groups include Jews born in Czechoslovakia (76.1 years), Poland (75.5 years), and Romania (74.7 years).
- The significant influx of Jews from the Former Soviet Union between 1990-2001 has contributed a large recent increase to the Calgary Jewish population. In fact, it represents among the largest immigrant influxes from a single country or region to the Calgary metropolitan area in the history of the local Jewish community here.
- Of 2,530 foreign-born Jews residing in the local community, the SW Sector has by far the largest number (1,850), followed by the SE (275), the NW (270), and the NE (115).
- The dominant mother tongue of Calgary Jews is English (78%). About one in ten (11.2%) say Russian is their mother tongue.
- About a tenth (11%) of Jewish immigrants rely on social assistance or training benefits during the decade after their arrival, whereas about three-quarters (74.7%) earn wages or are self-employed. Jewish immigrants appear to be more self-sufficient than immigrants in the overall Calgary population.

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Census Analysis Series

Immigration & Language

The Calgary Jewish community has a long history of responding to the needs of its immigrants. Throughout many decades, immigrants have enriched the fabric of the community here, bringing with them different cultural expressions, languages, and occupational skills.

Jews from Eastern Europe began arriving to Calgary before the turn of the last century. These immigrants brought with them a rich tradition and cultural life, both religious and secular. But the life of an immigrant in the early 1900's was not easy. The Jewish immigrant often worked from morning to night, and was poorly paid.

The Ladies' Aid Society of Calgary, organized in 1906, and the first Jewish charitable organization in the city, devoted itself in its early days to giving care and attention to new arrivals.

In the last decade, the influx of Jewish immigrants from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) has been particularly noteworthy. This large influx of Jews has changed the

face of the Jewish population of Calgary and made immigration an important issue on the local communal agenda.

The current analysis attempts to shed further light on some of the issues regarding the Jewish immigrant population in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), based on figures from the 2001 Census.

The topics covered in this monograph include the place of birth of immigrants, their year of immigration, and their geographic distribution. Other topics include the mother tongue, home language, income distribution, income source, and poverty status of Jewish immigrants in the Calgary CMA.

A number of important appendices are included in the back of this report. Appendix 1 describes how "Jewishness" is defined in this analysis, specifically as a combination of religious and ethnic affiliations. There is also a discussion of Census accuracy given population size in Appendix 2.

Table 1
Place of Birth
Calgary Jewish Population

Place of Birth	#	%
Canada	5,420	68.2
Israel	280	3.5
Eastern Europe (excl. FSU)	240	3.0
Former Soviet Union	995	12.5
Western Europe	275	3.5
North Africa / Middle East (excl. Israel)	55	0.7
United States	420	5.3
South America	70	0.9
Other	195	2.5
Total	7,950	100.0

Appendix 3 describes the criteria used to define poverty in this report. Finally, Appendix 4 presents additional data tables related to the local Jewish immigrant population.

The reader should note that any minor discrepancies found when totaling columns or rows in the tables described throughout this report are due to random rounding of data. Such rounding up or down is built into the Statistics Canada processing and cannot be avoided. Given the small nature of these rounding errors, their impact on the overall interpretation and reliability of the data is minimal.

The Birthplace of Jews Living in the Calgary CMA

Table 1 examines the place of birth of the Jewish population in the Calgary CMA. About a third (31.8%) of the local community are immigrants, that is, were born outside Canada. They comprise 2,530 individuals. About two-thirds (68.2%) are non-immigrants. They comprise 5,420 individuals. In short, there is about twice the number of Jews in the Calgary CMA who were born in this country compared to those born outside Canada.

The level of immigrant Jews in the Calgary CMA (31.8%) is similar to that of the national Jewish population (32.5%). It is lower than that of the Vancouver Jewish community (35.2%), the Toronto community (34.9%), and the Montreal community (33.9%). However, it is higher than that of the Ottawa Jewish community (24.3%), and the Winnipeg community (16.4%).

Table 1 reveals that the largest immigrant segment was born in the Former Soviet Union, comprising 995 individuals. There are 420 Jews born in the United States, 280 born in Israel, 275 in Western Europe, 240 in Eastern Europe (excluding the FSU), 70 in South America, and 55 in North Africa / Middle East (excluding Israel). There are 195 Jews from other parts of the world (such as Central America, Australia, the rest of Africa, and Asia).

Table 2 contains a detailed breakdown of the country of birth of Jews living in the Calgary CMA. In terms of Western Europe, 190 local Jews were born in the United Kingdom, and 95 in the rest of Western Europe.

Table 2
Country of Birth
(Detailed Breakdowns)
Calgary Jewish Population

Country of Birth	#	Country of Birth	#
United Kingdom	190	Morocco	35
France	25	Libya	0
Spain / Portugal	0	Algeria	10
Belgium	10	Egypt	0
Netherlands	15	Ethiopia	0
Germany	25	Syria	0
Austria	10	Lebanon	0
Italy	10	Iraq	0
Greece	0	Iran	0
Rest of Western Europe	0	Rest of N. Africa / Middle East	15
Czechoslovakia	55	South Africa	145
Hungary	45	Israel	280
Poland	90	Canada	5,420
Romania	40	United States	420
Bulgaria	10	Mexico	0
Yugoslavia	0	Argentina	60
Russia	525	Chile	0
Ukraine	190	Brazil	10
Georgia	0	Rest of South America	0
Belarus	25	Rest of World	45
Kazakhstan	20	Total Jewish Population	7,965
Rest of Former Soviet Union	240		

Table 3
Age by Place of Birth
Calgary Jewish Population

Place of Birth	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	1,340	24.7	880	16.3	1,535	28.3	1,260	23.3	400	7.4
Israel	60	21.8	80	29.1	95	34.5	30	10.9	10	3.6
Eastern Europe (excl. FSU)	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	8.5	65	27.7	150	63.8
Former Soviet Union	60	6.0	140	14.0	340	34.0	335	33.5	125	12.5
Western Europe	10	3.6	30	10.7	60	21.4	110	39.3	70	25.0
North Africa / Middle East (excl. Israel)	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	25.0	30	50.0	15	25.0
United States	50	11.9	15	3.6	115	27.4	195	46.4	45	10.7
South America	0	0.0	10	13.3	30	40.0	35	46.7	0	0.0
Other	10	5.1	10	5.1	90	46.2	60	30.8	25	12.8
Total	1,530	19.2	1,165	14.6	2,300	28.9	2,120	26.6	840	10.6

Table 4
Median Age by Country of Birth
Calgary Jewish Population

Country of Birth	Median Age	Country of Birth	Median Age
United Kingdom	51.8	Morocco	46.4
France	64.1	Libya	--
Spain / Portugal	--	Algeria	--
Belgium	--	Egypt	--
Netherlands	--	Ethiopia	--
Germany	51.7	Syria	--
Austria	--	Lebanon	--
Italy	--	Iraq	--
Greece	--	Iran	--
Rest of Western Europe	--	Rest of N. Africa / Middle East	--
Czechoslovakia	76.1	South Africa	35.6
Hungary	50.4	Israel	24.4
Poland	75.5	Canada	32.5
Romania	74.7	United States	47.1
Bulgaria	--	Mexico	--
Yugoslavia	--	Argentina	48.8
Russia	36.3	Chile	--
Ukraine	44.4	Brazil	--
Georgia	--	Rest of South America	--
Belarus	63.9	Rest of World	56.3
Kazakhstan	41.8	Total Jewish Population	37.2
Rest of Former Soviet Union	46.4		

Regarding Eastern Europe, 90 Jews were born in Poland, 55 in Czechoslovakia, 45 in Hungary, and 50 in the rest of Eastern Europe. In terms of the Former Soviet Union, 525 Jews were born in Russia, 190 in the Ukraine, and 285 in the rest of the FSU.¹

Of those from North Africa and the Middle East: 280 were born in Israel, 35 in Morocco, and 25 in the rest of this region.

There are also 145 Jews born in South Africa living in the local Jewish community. A number of Jews originate from South America: namely, 60 from Argentina and 10 from the rest of that continent. As noted in Table 1, 420 individuals were born in the United States. Finally, 45 Jews were born in other parts of the world.

The Age Breakdowns of Immigrants

Table 3 examines age cohorts by country of birth. The percentages are read across rows. It can be seen that the age distribution of Israelis peaks between 25-44 years (34.5%), with 95 individuals. In other words, about a third of Israelis are in this age group.

¹ The last figure includes those who said they were born in the Former Soviet Union, but did not report a currently identifiable country, such as Russia or the Ukraine.

The age distribution of Jews from Eastern Europe is skewed toward the 65+ year group. Almost two-thirds (63.8%) of Jews born in Eastern Europe are elderly, comprising 150 individuals.

Jews born in the Former Soviet Union have approximately equal representation in the 25-44 year cohort (34%), and 45-64 year cohort (33.5%). There are 340 FSU-born Jews who are between 25-44 years, and 335 between 45-64 years.

Jews from Western Europe peak at 45-64 years, with 110 individuals, or more than a third (39.3%) of their age distribution. Likewise, individuals born in the United States peak between 45-64 years. Almost half (46.4%) of their age distribution, or 195 persons, are middle-aged.

Table 4 is a detailed summary of median age by country of birth for the Jewish population of the Calgary CMA. Non-immigrants (those born in Canada) have a median age of 32.5 years. The youngest age among major immigrant groups involves those born in Israel (24.4 years). Jews from South Africa (35.6 years) and Russia (36.3 years) also have relatively young median ages.

Table 5
Year of Immigration
Calgary Jewish Population

Year of Immigration	#	%
Non - Immigrants	5,460	68.8
Before 1950	110	1.4
1950-1959	140	1.8
1960-1969	180	2.3
1970-1979	485	6.1
1980-1989	570	7.2
1990-2001	840	10.6
(Subtotal 1995-2001)	(440)	(5.5)
Non-permanent residents	155	2.0
Total	7,940	100.0

At the other end of the distribution, Jews from Czechoslovakia (76.1 years), Poland (75.5 years), and Romania (74.7 years) have median ages that are much higher than the median for the Jewish community as a whole (37.2 years).

Year of Immigration of Jews Residing in the Calgary CMA

Table 5 is a breakdown of the year of immigration of Calgary Jews. It should be noted that this table does not represent the total number of immigrants who came to Calgary during the specified time periods (some may have left or died in the interim), but rather, is a “snapshot” of those who stayed or survived to be enumerated by the 2001 Census.

According to Table 5, 840 immigrants arrived in the period between 1990-2001. This is a higher total than any other period described in the table, suggesting that the *momentum for Jewish immigration to Calgary is increasing at a significant pace.*

There were 440 immigrants who arrived between 1995-2001. These are the most recent immigrants, and further data tables in this report will provide more information

regarding their characteristics and their economic adjustment.

There were 570 immigrants who came between 1980 and 1989, 485 immigrants between 1970-1979, and 180 between 1960-1969.

Finally, 140 Jews came between 1950 and 1959, and 110 before 1950. Almost all of the individuals in these latter groups are now elderly. Those who came before the Second World War are now well into their advanced years, and are at least in their eighties.

There are 155 non-permanent Jewish residents living in the Calgary CMA. Non-permanent residents are those from another country who have had an employment authorization, a student visa, a Minister’s permit, or who were refugee claimants at the time of the 2001 Census. Family members living with them are also included in this count.

Table 6 shows place of birth by year of immigration. In terms of immigrants arriving between 1990 and 2001, it is clear that the largest number came from the Former Soviet Union (565). *This significant influx from the FSU has contributed a large*

Table 6
Place of Birth by Year of Immigration
Calgary Jewish Population
(Immigrants Only)

Place of Birth	Before 1960		1960-1969		1970-1979		1980-1989		1990-2001		Non-Permanent Residents	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	0	0.0	10	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Israel	0	0.0	30	15.0	25	5.1	90	15.8	75	8.8	45	25.7
Eastern Europe (excl. FSU)	115	45.1	25	12.5	50	10.1	35	6.1	20	2.4	0	0.0
Former Soviet Union	20	7.8	0	0.0	130	26.3	260	45.6	565	66.5	20	11.4
Western Europe	85	33.3	40	20.0	45	9.1	60	10.5	25	2.9	20	11.4
North Africa / Middle East (excl. Israel)	0	0.0	10	5.0	30	6.1	15	2.6	10	1.2	0	0.0
United States	35	13.7	55	27.5	115	23.2	40	7.0	90	10.6	70	40.0
South America	0	0.0	10	5.0	40	8.1	15	2.6	10	1.2	10	5.7
Other	0	0.0	20	10.0	60	12.1	55	9.6	55	6.5	10	5.7
Total	255	100.0	200	100.0	495	100.0	570	100.0	850	100.0	175	100.0

recent increase of immigrants to the Calgary Jewish population. In fact, it represents among the largest immigrant influxes from a single country or region to the Calgary metropolitan area in the history of the Jewish community here.

Between 1990 and 2001, 90 American-born immigrants settled in the Calgary CMA, as well as 75 immigrants born in Israel. Between 1980 and 1989, the largest number came from the Former Soviet Union (260), followed by Israel (90).

In the period between 1970 and 1979, the largest contingent of immigrants also came from the Former Soviet Union (130), followed by the United States (115).

Between 1960 and 1969, the largest group of immigrants arrived from the United States (55), followed by immigrants from Western Europe (40). Finally, the largest immigrant group before 1960 came from Eastern Europe (115) followed by Western Europe (85).

The reader is referred to Table 18 in Appendix 4, for a more detailed breakdown of country of birth by year of immigration for the Calgary Jewish community.

It should be noted that the 2001 Census does not take into account more recent waves of Jewish immigration to the Calgary CMA. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to get a description of their numbers until the next major Census in 2011.

The Geographic Distribution of Immigrants

Table 7 examines the geographic distribution of Jewish immigrants residing in the Calgary CMA. Totaling the figures across rows in this table indicates that the SW Sector has the largest number of foreign-born Jews in the metropolitan area (1,850), followed by the SE (275), the NW (270), and the NE (115). The miscellaneous area of “Rest of Calgary CMA” has 35 Jewish immigrants. In short, it is clear that the great majority (72.7%) of immigrant Jews reside in the SW Quadrant.

The largest contingent of Israeli-born is found in the SW Sector (210), but there are smaller pockets of such individuals in the SE and NW areas as well. In terms of Jews born in Eastern Europe, the largest contingent is found in the SW Sector (215).

The largest number of Jews from the Former Soviet Union is also found in the SW

Table 7
Place of Birth of Immigrants by Geographic Area
Calgary Jewish Population

District	Israel		Eastern Europe (excl. FSU)		Former Soviet Union		Western Europe		South America		Other	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
SW Sector	210	76.4	215	91.5	730	73.0	175	64.8	65	76.5	455	66.9
SE Sector	45	16.4	0	0.0	145	14.5	15	5.6	10	11.8	60	8.8
NW Sector	20	7.3	0	0.0	80	8.0	30	11.1	10	11.8	130	19.1
NE Sector	0	0.0	10	4.3	45	4.5	40	14.8	0	0.0	20	2.9
Rest of Calgary CMA	0	0.0	10	4.3	0	0.0	10	3.7	0	0.0	15	2.2
Total Calgary CMA	275	100.0	235	100.0	1,000	100.0	270	100.0	85	100.0	680	100.0

Table 8
Year of Immigration by Geographic Area
Calgary Jewish Population
(Immigrants Only)

District	Before 1960		1960-1969		1970-1979		1980-1989		1990-2001		(Subtotal:1995-2001)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
SW Sector	200	81.6	120	64.9	330	67.3	430	76.1	625	74.9	340	75.6
SE Sector	10	4.1	15	8.1	55	11.2	55	9.7	125	15.0	55	12.2
NW Sector	15	6.1	15	8.1	95	19.4	55	9.7	55	6.6	25	5.6
NE Sector	10	4.1	20	10.8	10	2.0	15	2.7	30	3.6	20	4.4
Rest of Calgary CMA	10	4.1	15	8.1	0	0.0	10	1.8	0	0.0	10	2.2
Total Calgary CMA	245	100.0	185	100.0	490	100.0	565	100.0	835	100.0	450	100.0

Note: Non-Permanent Residents are not included in this table.

Table 9
Mother Tongue
Calgary Jewish Population

Mother Tongue	#	%
English	6,195	78.0
French	60	0.8
Spanish	110	1.4
Russian	890	11.2
Hebrew	305	3.8
Yiddish	165	2.1
Other	220	2.8
Total	7,945	100.0

Table 10
Home Language
Calgary Jewish Population

Home Language	#	%
English	7,070	89.0
French	0	0.0
Spanish	75	0.9
Russian	560	7.0
Hebrew	120	1.5
Yiddish	55	0.7
Other	65	0.8
Total	7,945	100.0

Quadrant (730), followed by the SE (145) and NW (80).

The SW likewise has the largest contingent of Jews born in Western Europe (175). Table 19 in Appendix 4 confirms that many of these individuals were born in the United Kingdom (110). Another area with a pocket of Jews from Western Europe includes the NE (40).

The area with the largest number of Jews from South America is the SW Sector (65). There are also 455 immigrants born in “Other Areas” of the world residing in the SW, mostly from the United States (270) and South Africa (100).

Table 19 in Appendix 4 presents a detailed breakdown of country of birth across geographic areas for the Jewish population in the Calgary CMA.

Table 8 examines year of immigration across geographic areas. Looking at those who arrived most recently (1995-2001), the largest contingent is living in the SW Sector (340), followed by the SE Sector (55).

In all the periods of arrival between 1960 and 2001, the largest proportions of

immigrants are found in the SW Quadrant. However, since 1990 there has been an increasing number settling in the SE Sector.

The Mother Tongue & Home Language of Jews in the Calgary CMA

According to Table 9, the dominant mother tongue of the Calgary Jewish community is English. More than three-quarters (78%) of the local Jewish population reports English as their native language, comprising 6,195 individuals. About one in ten (11.2%) report their native language is Russian, comprising 890 individuals.

There are even smaller percentages of those whose mother tongues are Hebrew (3.8%), Yiddish (2.1%), Spanish (1.4%), or French (0.8%). Finally, 2.8% claim another mother tongue, such as Polish or Romanian.

As Table 10 indicates, a significant majority (89%) of the local Jewish community speaks English at home, or 7,070 individuals. A much smaller proportion (7%) speaks Russian at home, comprising 560 persons. There are 1.5% who speak Hebrew at home, comprising 120 individuals. Smaller proportions speak Spanish (0.9%) or

Table 11
Mother Tongue by Geographic Area
Calgary Jewish Population

District	English		Russian		Spanish		Hebrew		Yiddish		All Other	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
SW Sector	4,170	67.3	670	74.9	95	82.6	235	78.3	150	90.9	210	77.8
SE Sector	860	13.9	125	14.0	10	8.7	35	11.7	15	9.1	20	7.4
NW Sector	660	10.6	70	7.8	10	8.7	30	10.0	0	0.0	40	14.8
NE Sector	335	5.4	30	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rest of Calgary CMA	175	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Calgary CMA	6,200	100.0	895	100.0	115	100.0	300	100.0	165	100.0	270	100.0

Table 12
Place of Birth by Individual Income
Calgary Jewish Population (15+ Years)

Place of Birth	No Income / Under \$25,000		\$25,000 - \$39,999		\$40,000 - \$69,999		\$70,000 - \$99,999		\$100,000 or more		Median Income
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	\$
Canada	1,780	43.6	730	17.9	705	17.3	390	9.5	480	11.8	30,950
Israel	115	52.3	35	15.9	35	15.9	15	6.8	20	9.1	28,070
Eastern Europe (excl. FSU)	85	36.2	60	25.5	25	10.6	15	6.4	50	21.3	36,371
Former Soviet Union	540	57.4	150	16.0	150	16.0	60	6.4	40	4.3	22,749
Western Europe	165	62.3	45	17.0	20	7.5	25	9.4	10	3.8	19,886
N. Africa / Middle East	25	41.7	10	16.7	0	0.0	15	25.0	10	16.7	25,176
United States	125	34.2	55	15.1	80	21.9	50	13.7	55	15.1	40,005
South America	20	25.0	15	18.8	20	25.0	25	31.3	0	0.0	43,263
Other	70	38.9	40	22.2	35	19.4	15	8.3	20	11.1	32,613
Total	2,925	45.5	1,140	17.7	1,070	16.6	610	9.5	685	10.7	30,161

Table 13
Year of Immigration by Individual Income
Calgary Jewish Population (15+ Years)

Year of Immigration	No Income / Under \$25,000		\$25,000 - \$39,999		\$40,000 - \$69,999		\$70,000 - \$99,999		\$100,000 or more		Median Income
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	\$
Non-immigrants	1,790	43.6	725	17.7	705	17.2	395	9.6	490	11.9	30,968
Before 1970	195	44.3	80	18.2	45	10.2	45	10.2	75	17.0	30,368
1970 - 1979	175	35.7	110	22.4	100	20.4	65	13.3	40	8.2	36,389
1980 - 1989	285	50.9	100	17.9	85	15.2	45	8.0	45	8.0	23,187
1990 - 2001	415	56.8	100	13.7	120	16.4	70	9.6	25	3.4	23,478
(Subtotal: 1995-2001)	(230)	(61.3)	(55)	(14.7)	(50)	(13.3)	(30)	(8.0)	(10)	(2.7)	(22,210)
Non-permanent residents	60	63.2	10	10.5	15	15.8	0	0.0	10	10.5	15,529
Total	2,920	45.5	1,125	17.5	1,070	16.7	620	9.7	685	10.7	30,161

Yiddish (0.7%). About 1% speak other languages at home.

Table 11 examines the distribution of mother tongue across geographic areas in the Calgary CMA. The largest number of individuals with Russian as their native language is found in the SW Sector (670), followed by the SE (125).

The largest segments of Jews with Spanish as their mother tongue reside in the SW Quadrant (95). Those with Hebrew as their mother tongue are likewise concentrated in the SW Sector (235). Finally, the SW Sector has the largest number of individuals with Yiddish as their mother tongue (150).

The reader is referred to Table 20 in Appendix 4 for an examination of home language across geographic areas.

Individual Income & Income Source of Immigrants

Table 12 examines place of birth by individual income. The percentage of adults earning under \$25,000 is highest for Jewish immigrants born in Western Europe (62.3%) and those born in the Former Soviet Union (57.4%).

Almost 80% of Jewish immigrants from Western Europe earn under \$40,000. About three-quarters (73.4%) of Jews from the FSU earn under \$40,000.

Table 12 also presents median incomes by place of birth (last column). Jews born in South America show the highest median income (\$43,263), although their numbers are few. Those born in the United States also have a high median income (\$40,005), followed by those born in Eastern Europe (\$36,371), in “Other Areas” (\$32,613), and Canada (\$30,950).

All the other groups have incomes below the median for the overall Jewish community, which is \$30,161. Those from Israel have a median income of \$28,070, followed by those born in North Africa / Middle East (excl. Israel) (\$25,176). The lowest median incomes are found among those born in the Former Soviet Union (\$22,749) and Western Europe (\$19,886).

Table 13 shows year of immigration by individual income. Almost two-thirds (61.3%) of immigrants who recently arrived (1995-2001) earn under \$25,000 per year. This low-end income is earned by 56.8% of those who came between 1990-2001, 50.9%

Table 14
Place of Birth by Major Income Source
Calgary Jewish Population (15+ Years)

Place of Birth	Wages & Salaries		Self-Employment Income		Government Pensions		Other Income from Gov't Sources		All Other Sources		No Income	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	2,640	64.5	350	8.6	205	5.0	295	7.2	515	12.6	85	2.1
Israel	130	57.8	25	11.1	0	0.0	40	17.8	20	8.9	10	4.4
Eastern Europe (excl. FSU)	80	34.0	35	14.9	65	27.7	0	0.0	55	23.4	0	0.0
Former Soviet Union	655	69.7	50	5.3	90	9.6	70	7.4	45	4.8	30	3.2
Western Europe	140	53.8	0	0.0	60	23.1	20	7.7	40	15.4	0	0.0
N. Africa / Middle East	40	66.7	10	16.7	10	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
United States	240	64.0	35	9.3	25	6.7	30	8.0	35	9.3	10	2.7
South America	65	86.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	13.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	140	75.7	0	0.0	10	5.4	20	10.8	15	8.1	0	0.0
Total	4,130	64.1	505	7.8	465	7.2	485	7.5	725	11.2	135	2.1

Note: "Other Income from Government Sources" includes social assistance benefits and training income.

of those who came between 1980-1989, 35.7% of those who came between 1970-1979, and 44.3% of those who came before 1970.

At the high end of the income scale, immigrants who arrived before 1970 have a higher percentage earning at least \$100,000 (17%) than any other immigrant group, or even non-immigrants (11.9%).

Table 13 also examines median incomes across various periods of immigration. The most recent arrivals (1995-2001) have a median income of \$22,210. Those who arrived between 1990-2001 have a median income of \$23,478, whereas immigrants who settled here between 1980-1989 have a median income of \$23,187.

The median income of those who arrived between 1970-1979 is \$36,389. For those who came before 1970 it is \$30,368, and it is \$30,968 for non-immigrants.

The above findings clearly show there is *a window of economic vulnerability for immigrants particularly in the first five years after settlement, but stretching for as long as two decades after immigration. It appears to require an adjustment of at least*

two decades for many immigrants to reach their full economic potential.

Table 14 looks at place of birth by major income source. The percentages are read across rows. The immigrant group with the highest percentage of employed individuals earning wages or salaries is South American Jews (86.7%), although they are relatively few in numbers. A large percentage of individuals born in the Former Soviet Union are also earning employment wages and salaries (69.7%), but their wages are likely relatively small given their median income (see Table 12).

Jews from Eastern Europe have the lowest percentage of wage and salary earners (34%), because many of them are seniors who rely on government or private pensions. Those from Western Europe (53.8%) and Israel (57.8%) also have relatively low percentages of individuals earning wages or salaries.

Those from North Africa / Middle East (excl. Israel) have the highest percentage of individuals relying on self-employment income (16.7%), although their numbers are very small. Jews born in Eastern Europe have the highest percentage of individuals

Table 15
Year of Immigration by Major Income Source
Calgary Jewish Population (15+ Years)

Year of Immigration	Wages & Salaries		Self-Employment Income		Government Pensions		Other Income from Gov't Sources		All Other Sources		No Income	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Non-immigrants	2,645	64.3	365	8.9	210	5.1	295	7.2	515	12.5	85	2.1
Before 1970	175	39.8	30	6.8	130	29.5	15	3.4	90	20.5	0	0.0
1970 – 1979	350	72.2	35	7.2	35	7.2	20	4.1	45	9.3	0	0.0
1980 – 1989	385	68.1	40	7.1	50	8.8	50	8.8	40	7.1	0	0.0
1990 – 2001	510	69.9	35	4.8	40	5.5	80	11.0	20	2.7	45	6.2
(Subtotal: 1995-2001)	(250)	(68.5)	(25)	(6.8)	(15)	(4.1)	(35)	(9.6)	(10)	(2.7)	(30)	(8.2)
Non-permanent residents	65	65.0	0	0.0	10	10.0	15	15.0	10	10.0	0	0.0
Total	4,130	64.2	505	7.8	475	7.4	475	7.4	720	11.2	130	2.0

Note: "Other Income from Government Sources" includes social assistance benefits and training income.

relying on government pensions (27.7%), and the percentage is also high for those born in Western Europe (23.1%).

In terms of immigrants relying on “Other Government Sources” (such as training income and social assistance), those born in Israel (17.8%) and South America (13.3%) have the highest percentages, although in absolute terms, the latter group is represented by very few individuals.

The data on those earning no income are difficult to interpret since they may represent not only individuals looking for work, but students and homemakers as well.

Table 15 looks at year of immigration by major income source. Those who came between 1990 and 2001 have the highest level of reliance on “Other Government Sources”, including social assistance and training incomes (11%). Reliance drops to 8.8% for those who came between 1980 and 1989, and 4.1% for those who arrived between 1970 and 1979.

With the passage of time, there is clearly a drop in reliance on social assistance and training incomes among immigrants, with

the most significant drop-off occurring between 20-30 years after arrival.

How do these figures compare with immigrants in the general population of the Calgary CMA? An analysis indicates that 16.7% of immigrants who arrived between 1990 and 2001 into the overall Calgary population rely on such government benefits, a figure somewhat above that of Jewish immigrants (11%).

In terms of economic productivity, about three-quarters (74.7%) of Jewish immigrants arriving between 1990-2001 earn wages or are self-employed.

Jewish immigrants have a higher level of economic productivity than immigrants who arrived between 1990 and 2001 into the overall Calgary population. Almost two-thirds (66.7%) of immigrants who arrived between 1990-2001 into the general Calgary population earn employment wages or are self-employed, compared to 74.7% of Jewish immigrants.

Poverty Levels of Immigrants

Table 16 contains a breakdown of poverty status by place of birth. The highest level of economic disadvantage is found for Jewish

Table 16
Place of Birth by Poverty Status
Calgary Jewish Population

Place of Birth	Total	Poor		Not Poor	
	#	#	%	#	%
Canada	5,395	495	9.2	4,900	90.8
Israel	280	10	3.6	270	96.4
Eastern Europe (excl. FSU)	235	50	21.3	185	78.7
Former Soviet Union	1,000	125	12.5	875	87.5
Western Europe	275	20	7.3	255	92.7
N. Africa / Middle East	55	0	0.0	55	100.0
United States	415	85	20.5	330	79.5
South America	70	0	0.0	70	100.0
Other	195	30	15.4	165	84.6
Total	7,920	815	10.3	7,105	89.7

immigrants from Eastern Europe (21.3%). Jewish immigrants from the United States also have a high level of disadvantage (20.5%). The lowest level of poverty of any major immigrant group is experienced by individuals born in Israel (3.6%).

In absolute terms, the largest number of poor among immigrant groups is counted among those coming from the Former Soviet Union (125), followed by individuals born in the United States (85).

Table 17 examines poverty status by year of immigration. This table suggests that the burden of poverty is somewhat more prevalent among most recent immigrants. Those who arrived between 1995-2001 have an 11.2% level of economic disadvantage, compared to 9% of those who arrived between 1990-2001, and 8.8% of those who arrived between 1980-1989.

However, the level of disadvantage then increases significantly to 15.3% for those who arrived between 1970 and 1979, and 11.4% for those who came before 1970. Many of those who arrived before 1970 rely on government pensions and this may explain why they have a relatively high level of poverty. However, it is not clear why

immigrants who came between 1970 and 1979 should have the highest percentage of disadvantaged of any immigrant group in this table.

The Challenges Ahead

Jewish immigrants have settled in Alberta in large numbers for several decades. Many of these individuals left their home countries due to severe political, economic or social difficulties to create a safe haven for themselves, their families and future generations.

The majority of recent Jewish immigrants to Calgary are from the Former Soviet Union, Israel and Argentina, each with their own unique cultural identities. As can be seen by the figures cited in this report, immigration is a dynamic process that does not end upon one's arrival to a new country. The challenges extend to include difficulties associated with how one settles, integrates and transitions into a new culture.

Jewish Family Service Calgary has welcomed the majority of immigrants who arrived since the 1970s. In order to welcome these newcomers into the Jewish community as well as into Alberta society, Jewish

Table 17
Year of Immigration by Poverty Status
Calgary Jewish Population

Year of Immigration	Total	Poor		Not Poor	
	#	#	%	#	%
Non-immigrants	5,445	500	9.2	4,945	90.8
Before 1970	440	50	11.4	390	88.6
1970 – 1979	490	75	15.3	415	84.7
1980 – 1989	570	50	8.8	520	91.2
1990 – 2001	835	75	9.0	760	91.0
(Subtotal: 1995-2001)	(445)	(50)	(11.2)	(395)	(88.8)
Non-permanent residents	155	65	41.9	90	58.1
Total	7,935	815	10.3	7,120	89.7

Family Service and other Jewish communal agencies offer a wide spectrum of services designed to make the transition into Canadian life a smooth one.

Immigration is an important issue in Alberta society and in particular for the Jewish community. Because of low birthrates and an aging population, the future growth of the Calgary Jewish Community is dependant upon immigration and the successful integration of immigrants.

Cultural transitioning can be defined as the process of an immigrant moving from their culture of origin to that of a new country. Those immigrants who are successful in this process are able to secure economic, occupational and social security within the new culture. Cultural transitioning is complex, as the needs of immigrant groups vary based on ethnicity, as well as religious affiliation.²

Yet regardless of country of origin, the literature indicates that there are three predominant factors that influence successful transition: education,

employment, and integration. Thus in order to better assist immigrants, service providers must have the competencies to aid in these factors in a culturally appropriate and sensitive manner.²

Similar to most groups, immigrants are particularly concerned for the well-being of their children. Providing children with access to the Jewish school system also serves to pave the way for immigrant families to become involved in other aspects of Jewish communal life.

Many new arrivals are graduates of colleges and universities. In addition, a significant number of arrivals from European and Latin American countries have vocational training program certificates. These credentials are not always recognized in Alberta. There are many principal actors involved in the discussion of recognizing varying levels of equivalencies, and it is incumbent upon the Jewish community to provide ongoing advocacy in this area as well as that of employment.

Employment is a key factor for social and economic integration. In order to secure meaningful employment in Alberta, it is beneficial to have a working knowledge of

² Sinacore, A. (2005), *Immigrants' Experiences of Cultural Transitioning and Occupational Stress*. To be presented to the Annual Convention of the Canadian Psychological Association. Montreal, Quebec.

English. However, in Calgary, there is a 6-8 month waiting period for government sponsored ESL (English as a Second Language) classes.

While approximately 74.7% of Jewish immigrants who came between 1990-2001 are wage earners or self-employed, nearly 17% rely on government assistance. Many professionals who have trained in their country of origin are not able to practice their chosen occupation in Alberta and experience occupational stress, as they work at low paying jobs or struggle to find employment at all.

While it is impossible to recognize the equivalency of every profession throughout the world, the Jewish Community must remain actively involved with the various professional associations and with provincial government officials to relax the standards of acceptance into these associations and make this area more accessible for immigrants.

Finally, integration is most successful when a community embraces the new immigrant group. Successful integration results when immigrants have been able to maintain aspects of their culture of origin, while at the

same time developing skills and knowledge about the new culture. Other obstacles to successful integration include challenges in family structure, stress related to the trauma of immigration, and racial and ethnic discrimination.² As stated in Table 13 of this report, the *window of vulnerability* for new immigrants is greatest during the first five years here, but can extend up to ten years after settlement.

Community planners and service providers must continue to work in a cooperative manner as immigration impacts on almost every aspect of Jewish communal life. This includes establishing contacts, promoting advocacy and developing partnerships with a variety of government agencies and specialized groups.

As the situation for Jews throughout the world becomes increasingly precarious, the role of Calgary Jewish Community Council and its affiliated agencies remains vital to successful transitioning. We must encourage the promotion of cultural sensitivity amongst ourselves, our children and our community, and embrace the richness of each new group as it arrives.

Appendix 1

The Jewish Standard Definition

This report uses what is known as the “Jewish Standard Definition” to distinguish who is Jewish from the rest of the population. Jim Torczyner of McGill University and the Jewish Federation of Montreal formulated this definition in 1981, using a combination of religious and ethnic identification.

According to this criterion, a Jew is defined as anyone who specified that they were:

- Jewish by religion and ethnicity.
- Jewish by religion and having another ethnicity.
- Jewish by ethnicity with no religious affiliation.

Anyone who specified another religion (Catholic, Muslim, etc.) and a Jewish ethnicity were excluded in the above definition.

Using this criterion, it is not possible to say how a person behaves “Jewishly”: for instance, whether they adhere to traditions or attend synagogue on a regular basis. However, despite this limitation, the fact

that we can identify Jewish affiliation at all is critical for using the Census as a tool to better understand our community. The Jewish Standard Definition is meant to be as inclusive as possible, reflecting the varied expressions that comprise the richness of the Jewish experience.

It is important to note that a significant change to the “Jewish Standard Definition” was implemented in the current analysis of Census data. The category of those who had “no religion and a Jewish ethnicity” was expanded to include those with “no religious affiliation and a Jewish ethnicity”.

The category of “no religious affiliation” is broader than that of “no religion” because it includes those who consider themselves agnostics, atheists and humanists, as well as those having no religion. Since it is possible to be Jewish and have such affiliations, it was felt that this change would better reflect the broad spectrum of Jewish affiliation. Data from previous Censuses have been re-analyzed to ensure compatibility with the current criterion.

Appendix 2

The Reliability of the Census

The Census is a massive and complex undertaking, and although high standards are applied throughout the process, a certain level of error still characterizes the endeavor. Such errors can arise at virtually any point in the Census process, from the preparation of materials to the collection of data and the processing of information.

There are a number of principal types of errors that impact on the Census. In coverage errors, dwellings or individuals are missed, incorrectly enumerated or counted more than once. Regarding non-response errors, responses to the Census cannot be obtained from a certain number of households and/or individuals because of extended absence or extenuating circumstances.

In response errors, the respondent misunderstands a Census question and answers incorrectly or uses the wrong response box. Processing errors occur during the coding and inputting of data.

Finally, sampling errors apply only to the long-form. Statistics based on this form are

projected from a 20% sample of households. The responses to long-form questions, when projected to represent the whole population inevitably differ from the responses that would have been obtained if these questions were asked of all households.

Statistics Canada has a number of quality control measures that ensure Census data are as reliable as possible. Representatives edit the questionnaires when they are returned, and follow up on missing information. There are also quality control measures in place during the coding and data entry stages.

Despite these controls, a number of errors and response-biases can nonetheless impact data obtained from the Jewish population. For instance, certain segments of the Jewish community may be reticent to answer Census questions fully or accurately.

Recent immigrant populations, who are suspicious of government-sponsored projects and are wary of being identified as Jewish, may avoid indicating such an affiliation, or may answer certain questions more cautiously.

Members of the Chassidic and Ultra-Orthodox communities may be more reluctant to participate fully in the Census effort, due to specific Biblical injunctions that prohibit Jews from “being counted.” It is unclear whether such restrictions have had an impact on their responses, but anecdotal evidence suggests that these communities respond adequately. For instance, the Tash Chasidic community of Montreal, which is fairly isolated geographically from the rest of the Jewish population, has had significant representation in previous Censuses, although it is unclear as to what extent their enumeration was complete.

Finally, since both the religion and ethnicity questions are only included in the long-form of the Census, sampling error arising from projections based on a 20% sampling of households is a factor in all Census analyses related to the Jewish community.

The level of sampling error inherent in any cell of a data table can be precisely calculated. Statistics Canada provides a table that measures these errors, and they are summarized below. Obviously, for large cell values, the potential error due to sampling will be proportionally smaller than for smaller ones.

When using the table, the reader should consider the right column as reflective of the average level of error expected for a given cell size. Of course, some cells may reflect errors smaller or larger than the average. About ninety percent of errors will fall between \pm the average error specified below. Ten percent of errors are expected to fall outside this range.

Cell Value	Average Error
50 or less	15
100	20
200	30
500	45
1,000	65
2,000	90
5,000	140
10,000	200
20,000	280
50,000	450
100,000	630

Source for Appendix 2: 2001 Census Dictionary Reference Guide (pg. 275). Published by Statistics Canada, August 2002. Catalogue No. 92-378-XPE.

Appendix 3

The Low-Income Cut-Offs

This report uses the Statistics Canada measure of poverty. According to Statistics Canada, a person is living in poverty if they reside in a household containing a certain number of people who earn a total yearly income that falls under the “Low Income Cut-Off” (LICO). Hence, this criterion is based solely on information related to household size and household income.

There are some limitations related to this measure. Firstly, it does not take into account information regarding a person’s “net worth”. An individual can own a dwelling and an automobile yet can be classified as poor using the LICO criterion because their assets are not taken into account. There are some elderly, for instance, who own a house or a condominium, but receive a low pension income, and therefore fall under the poverty cut-off.

Also, there is a measure of arbitrariness to the definition employed by Statistics Canada. The low-income cut-offs are calculated taking into account how much of their total income Canadian households

spend on food, clothing and shelter, and estimating that households spending about a half or more of their income on such necessities would be in “strained” circumstances.

The reasoning is that any household spending such a high proportion of its income on these essentials has too little money left over for other important expenditures. Using these assumptions, low-income cut-off points are then set for different sizes of households.

Another limitation of the use of the LICO as a measure of poverty is that it takes into account only three basic necessities (food, clothing and shelter). A more meaningful measurement, critics argue, would be to determine the cost of a “basket” of all necessities, including such expenditures as transport, personal care, household supplies, recreation, health, and insurance. The main problem with this alternative approach is the difficulty of determining what ought to be

included in the basket of basic necessities of life and what ought to be excluded.³

Another issue regarding poverty relates to the cost of living “Jewishly”. The current definition of poverty does not take into account the cost of maintaining a Kosher diet, of buying various accoutrements necessary for proper holiday observances, or paying synagogue dues. Households experiencing financial strains may not be able to meet some of the basic demands of their traditions. This can represent a reality to disadvantaged Jews that is not necessarily part of the life experiences of secular Jews or non-Jews.

Despite the limitations described above, “The Poverty Line”, as derived from the low-income cut-off specified by Statistics Canada, remains the most comprehensive method for assessing financial disadvantage. In the case of the Census, it can be cross-tabulated with other important variables (such as age, family structure, labor force activity, income source, etc.), to yield a broad profile of the characteristics and

conditions of economically disadvantaged Jews.

The 2000 Low-Income Cut Offs were used for the 2001 Census analysis. The table below describes the interactions of household size and household income that determine these cut-offs.

**Low Income Cut-Offs for the year 2000
Urban areas of 500,000+ people**

Household Size	Household Income Cut-Off (\$)
1	18,371
2	22,964
3	28,560
4	34,572
5	38,646
6	42,719
7+	46,793

Source for the above table: 2001 Census Dictionary Reference Guide (pg. 149). Published by Statistics Canada, August 2002. Catalogue No. 92-378 XPE.

³ For a more comprehensive analysis of the LICO as a measure of poverty, see: “Poverty: Where to Draw the Line. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, May 31, 2000.” Their Web Site can be accessed at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/manitoba/FastFactsMay31-00.pdf>

Appendix 4 Additional Data Tables

**Table 18
Country of Birth by Year of Immigration
Calgary Jewish Population
(Immigrants Only)**

Country of Birth	Before 1960	1960-1969	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-2001	(Subtotal: 1995-2001)
United Kingdom	50	30	15	55	20	0
France	15	0	0	0	10	10
Spain / Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belgium	0	0	10	0	0	0
Netherlands	10	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	0	10	15	0	0	0
Austria	10	0	10	0	0	0
Italy	0	10	0	10	0	0
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rest of Western Europe	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czechoslovakia	25	10	10	10	0	0
Hungary	35	0	15	0	10	0
Poland	60	10	15	10	0	0
Romania	10	0	0	15	10	10
Bulgaria	0	10	10	0	0	0
Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russian Federation	15	0	70	80	350	145
Ukraine	0	0	25	50	105	55
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belarus	0	0	0	15	0	0
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	15	15
Rest of FSU	20	0	25	120	90	60

Table 18
Country of Birth by Year of Immigration
Calgary Jewish Population
(Immigrants Only)
(cont'd)

Country of Birth	Before 1960	1960-1969	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-2001	(Subtotal: 1995-2001)
Morocco	0	0	25	0	10	10
Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0
Algeria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rest of N.Africa / Mid.East	0	0	0	15	0	0
South Africa, Republic of	0	10	45	45	40	30
Israel	0	30	20	90	70	45
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States	40	50	115	40	90	60
Mexico	0	0	0	10	0	0
Argentina	0	10	40	10	10	0
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rest of South America	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rest of World	0	10	10	10	15	15
Total	290	190	475	585	845	455

Note: Non-Permanent Residents are not included in this table.

Table 19
Country of Birth by Geographic Area
Calgary Jewish Population

District	United Kingdom	France	Belgium	Germany	Austria	Rest of W. Europe	Czech.	Hungary	Poland	Romania	Rest of E. Europe
SW Sector	110	25	10	10	0	20	50	35	85	40	10
SE Sector	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
NW Sector	20	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0
NE Sector	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Rest of Calgary CMA	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Calgary CMA	185	25	10	20	0	30	50	55	95	40	10

Table 19
(cont'd)

District	Russian Fed.	Ukraine	Rest of FSU	Morocco	Egypt	Rest of N. Africa / Mid East	South Africa	Israel	South America	United States	Canada	Rest of World
SW Sector	350	150	235	20	0	15	100	210	65	270	3,680	45
SE Sector	125	0	25	0	0	0	20	45	10	35	785	0
NW Sector	40	30	10	15	0	0	15	20	0	95	545	10
NE Sector	10	0	30	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	270	0
Rest of Calgary CMA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	150	0
Total Calgary CMA	525	180	300	35	0	15	145	275	75	425	5,430	55

Table 20
Home Language by Geographic Area
Calgary Jewish Population

District	English		Russian		Spanish		Hebrew		Yiddish		All Other	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
SW Sector	4,860	68.7	405	71.1	65	100.0	105	91.3	55	100.0	40	66.7
SE Sector	960	13.6	90	15.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
NW Sector	750	10.6	40	7.0	0	0.0	10	8.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
NE Sector	325	4.6	35	6.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	33.3
Rest of Calgary CMA	180	2.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Calgary CMA	7,075	100.0	570	100.0	65	100.0	115	100.0	55	100.0	60	100.0