

Growing Your Community

Virден Insight: Demographic & Income Report

- The community of Virден is compared to other select communities in three ways.
 - Nearby communities are defined as urban communities and rural regions within roughly 50 km and Brandon given that it's the major community in the larger region.
 - Similar communities are defined as Census Divisions within the SE Saskatchewan and SW Manitoba oil and gas region.
 - The provincial average comparison is Manitoba.
- Comparison Method: A weighted average is used when aggregating nearby and similar communities largely because of the influence of larger populated centres. Provincial data is reported as a weighted average and essentially compares Virден with larger centres like Winnipeg and Brandon.
- Virден is the major urban community within the nearby community group. It means that the comparison to similar communities will be the more relevant analysis in most cases.
- The proportion of people living in rental properties is a case in point. Virден has about 12% of the population living in rental properties, which is understandably higher than the predominately rural nearby communities, but only slightly higher (8%) than similar communities. Virден also has an above average proportion of the population living in condominiums (3%) when compared to nearby communities, but much less than other similar communities.
- Virден has a higher proportion of the population aged 15-34 and this is reflected in the age of home owners within this age group (9.4%)...likely working in the oil and gas industry.
- Virден also has an above average proportion of the population over the age of 65 when compared to nearby and similar communities. It follows that while Virден has a strong young workforce, it's also becoming a retirement community.
- The largest portion of private Virден homes were built between 1961-1980. Then from 1990 to 2010, private home construction lagged behind nearby and similar communities, as well as the Manitoba average. Since 2011, private home construction has grown 33% faster than nearby communities, and roughly equal to other similar communities. Since these homes are newer, it means there are fewer homes needing major repairs than in nearby and similar communities.
- Average monthly costs for owned homes is \$860/month, slightly higher than nearby communities, but less than similar communities and the Manitoba provincial average. Similarly, average rental costs of \$744/month follow the same trends as the costs of owning a home.
- The unemployment rate in 2015 for Virден was 8.5%, which is higher than both nearby and similar communities, as well as the MB provincial average.