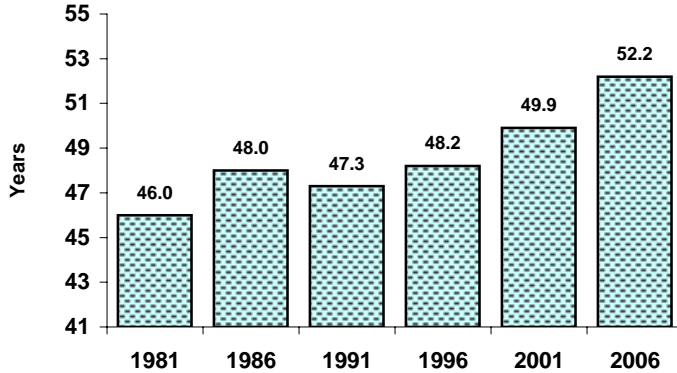


Fig. 40 Average Age of Alberta Farm Operators, 1981-2006



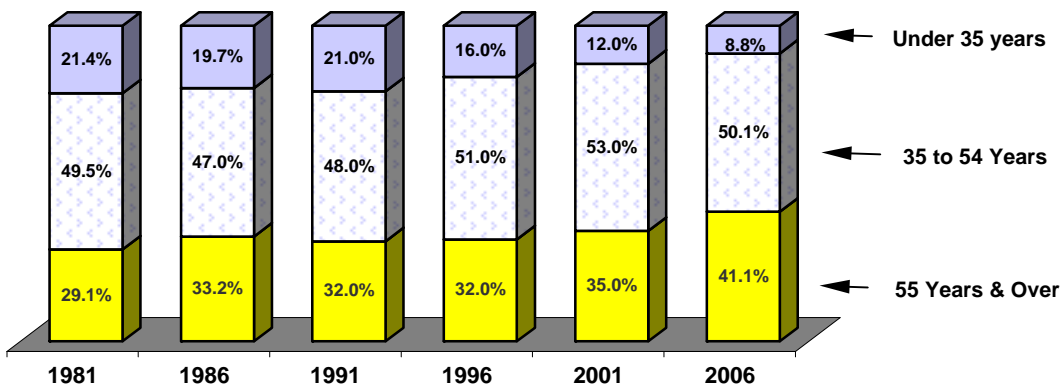
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1981-2006

Census data show the average age of farm operators rising in recent years. In 2006, Alberta's 71,660 farm operators averaged 52.2 years in age, up from 49.9 years in 2001. This trend was consistent across Canada, as average farm operator age rose in every province. Nationally, the average age of the 327,060 farm operators in 2006 was 52.0 years, compared with 49.9 years in 2001.

There were 6,290 farm operators in Alberta under 35 years of age in 2006, down from 8,900 in 2001. This compares with 35,935 operators aged between 35 and 54 years (40,430 in 2001), and 29,440 operators aged 55 years and over (26,875 in 2001).

The distribution of operators by age class shows that the percentages under 35 years and 35 to 54 years were lower in 2006 than in 2001, while the percentage 55 years and over was higher.

Fig. 41 Per Cent Distribution of Alberta Farm Operators by Age Class, 1981-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1981-2006