

Rural and Small Town Alberta¹: Educational Attainment

	% Distribution					
	Total	Less than High School	High School Certificate	Any Post-Secondary	Certificate / Diploma	University Degree
Alberta	100.0	23.4	26.2	50.4	32.9	17.5
Urban	100.0	20.8	26.3	52.9	33.0	19.9
Rural and Small Town	100.0	33.5	25.9	40.4	32.2	8.1
Strong MIZ	100.0	25.4	28.0	46.2	35.5	10.7
Moderate MIZ	100.0	31.7	26.3	41.8	33.5	8.3
Weak MIZ	100.0	35.5	25.6	38.7	31.1	7.7
No MIZ	100.0	48.4	19.7	31.0	26.2	4.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006

- Rural and small town Albertans (15 years of age and older) are more likely than their urban counterparts to have less than a high school diploma (33.5% compared to 20.8%).
- While urban Albertans are more than two times as likely than the rural population to have obtained a university degree (19.9% compared to 8.1%), rural and small town Albertans are only slightly less likely to have a post-secondary certificate or diploma (33.0% compared to 32.2%).
- A general pattern is evident within rural Alberta: As metropolitan influence (MIZ) increases so too does level of educational attainment. For example, the population living in No MIZ communities are the least likely to have any postsecondary education (31.0%) while Strong MIZ communities are the most likely to have attained this level of education (46.2%).

¹ **Rural and Small Town:** Includes rural communities that have a population of less than 10,000 and where less than 50% of employed individuals commute to a Census Metropolitan Area or Census Agglomeration.

MIZ stands for "Metropolitan Influence Zone" and denotes the level of integration of rural communities with urban economies, as measured by work commuting flows. The larger the proportion of the working population commuting to an urban centre, the stronger the level of integration with the urban economy. The level of commuting defining each MIZ is as follows:

Strong MIZ: 30% to 49%; **Moderate MIZ:** 5% to 29%; **Weak MIZ:** 1% to 4%; **No MIZ:** 0%