



**CHAIRE CONDITION AUTOCHTONE**  
Chaire de recherche du Canada sur la condition autochtone comparée

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# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF NUNAVIK**

## **2008 Edition**

**Gérard Duhaime**

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## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF NUNAVIK, 2008 EDITION**

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## FOREWORD

In 2004, the Kativik Regional Government and the Université Laval entered into a long-term co-operation agreement with the goal of improving the availability of statistical information about Nunavik. The agreement solidified a long-standing work relationship. For several years, the Kativik Regional Government has recognized the importance of using sound information to make decisions in all fields of public politics related to socio-economic issues. Beginning with Jean-Jacques Simard<sup>1</sup> in the 1970s, the work carried out at the Université Laval has led to the accumulation of a major body of knowledge to describe, analyze and understand the situation of Nunavik. The co-operation agreement incorporated the common interests of both parties and has furthermore led to the creation of Nunivaat, the Nunavik statistics program. The Program involves the implementation of certain studies and the operation of a public database (accessible over the Internet at [www.nunivaat.org](http://www.nunivaat.org)). The database was especially helpful in the preparation of the current document.

As further regards the *Socio-economic Profile of Nunavik, 2008 Edition*, it was recognized at the outset that, given the current state of statistical information, the realization of a socio-economic profile for the region would be difficult to achieve based solely on the statistical data published by the Québec government in the *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*. In that recurrent publication, Nunavik is grouped together with the neighboring Cree territory and the Jamésie to form the administrative region Nord-du-Québec, with the result that there exists no useful indicator for Nunavik independently.

Several objectives guided the preparation of the *Socio-economic Profile of Nunavik, 2008 Edition*. First, the aim was to produce a regional profile that would serve to correct the limits contained in the *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*. Consequently, the Profile was designed on the same model and, whenever possible, reproduces the same indicators, presentation, etc. Moreover, certain texts have been reproduced, for example, to provide a definition or the meaning of a specific indicator. In those instances where the *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec* is not cited verbatim, we hope that the authors of that document will forgive us: we have sincerely tried our best.

A further aim of the *Socio-economic Profile of Nunavik, 2008 Edition* was to draw comparisons between Nunavik, the Nord-du-Québec (of which Nunavik is an administrative subregion) and Québec as a whole. And these comparisons lead to a descriptive analysis that highlights the most meaningful similarities and differences.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer for example to Simard, Jean-Jacques et al. (1996) *Tendances nordiques. Les changements sociaux 1970-1990 chez les Cris et les Inuit du Québec*. Québec, GÉTIC, Université Laval, "Métrinord" collection, 263p. + 127p. statistical appendices. Simard, Jean-Jacques (2004) *La Réduction. L'Autochtone inventé et les Amérindiens d'aujourd'hui*. Québec, Éditions du Septentrion, 252 p. Governor General's Book Award, 2004.

As in the first edition<sup>2</sup>, the research work required to prepare this document eventually lead to a widening of the scope of the *Socio-economic Profile of Nunavik*. In other words, it became relevant not only to describe the situation but to include a few explanatory comments and hypotheses, often founded on other work that has been carried out in Nunavik over the past years. It was concluded that simple descriptive analysis would be too restrictive, and that readers would benefit from explanatory comments, gaining a better understanding of the raw data presented.

At the same time however, considerations related to statistical accuracy did not permit all the sections and tables included in the *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec* to be repeated in this document. Indeed, research of the data available from the Institut de la statistique du Québec, from government databanks and from Statistics Canada clearly demonstrated that the statistical information available about Nunavik is less complete than for other regions. Even at this point in time, it is still often impossible to obtain indicators for Nunavik that are similar to the indicators normally used for the administrative regions of a province, for the provinces and territories of Canada, and for Canada as a whole. That these circumstances exist is not in itself a new discovery; this situation has been known for some time. As for the rest, our on-going research over the years has been oriented by this missing information and, in other cases, the limits inherent in government statistical compilation work have been corrected by the Kativik Regional Government and the Université Laval. Notwithstanding, the state of this incomplete information placed restrictions on the contents of the *Socio-economic Profile of Nunavik, 2008 Edition*.

Some tables have not been updated simply due to the fact that no new data are available. This is the case for the data concerning economic activity, the domestic product and the labour force in particular. This having been said, the 2008 Edition contains several new tables dealing mainly with the fields of demography (fertility, language) education, health and housing.

As a result, this new edition draws a broader profile of the regional situation and provides a more in-depth understanding of the major contemporary issues affecting Nunavik.

Gérard Duhaime

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<sup>2</sup> Duhaime, Gérard (2007), *Socio-Economic Profile of Nunavik 2006*, Québec, Canada Research Chair on Comparative Aboriginal Condition, Université Laval, 70p.

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## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Population**

- Nunavik's population is younger, and its growth more rapid than the population of Québec.
- Individuals of working age support more dependents than elsewhere in Québec.
- Life expectancy at birth is lower in Nunavik than in Québec and has declined recently in Nunavik.

### **Labour market**

- The creation of regular, full-time jobs is more rapid in Nunavik than in Québec.
- The number of individuals entering the labour market is much higher than in Québec.
- The number of regular, full-time jobs held by non-beneficiaries is smaller than the number of similar positions held by beneficiaries. Nonetheless, the relative growth of employment for non-beneficiaries is greater than for beneficiaries.
- Inuktitut is the language of work for the majority.
- The proportion of regular, full-time jobs held by women has increased to the current level of 42%.
- Labour force participation is similar in Nunavik and Québec, but the unemployment rate is higher in Nunavik.
- The number of employment assistance recipients slightly decreased.

### **Industrial structure**

- Primary industry is relatively much more important to Nunavik's economy compared with the economy of Québec; the processing industry is much less important.
- The service industry in Nunavik carries an economic weight that is similar to the service industry in all of Québec.
- Of all industries, public administration is the most important.
- It appears that investment in Nunavik is lower than in Québec, and that the contribution of the private sector is greater in this respect.

## **Education**

- In Nunavik, school enrolment continues to increase with the growth of the population.
- The proportion of individuals aged 15 and older who attend school is similar with the proportion in Québec.
- The highest level of schooling obtained is lower than in Québec.
- All indicators point to an improvement in the general level of education.

## **Personal income**

- Per capita, personal disposable income and employment income are slightly higher in Nunavik compared with Québec. Notwithstanding, per capita personal disposable income and employment income for residents alone are lower than levels for all of Nunavik and the whole of Québec.
- Per capita public transfer income is lower than in Québec.
- Employment income represents 82% of personal income, public transfers 11%, and investment income 6%.

## **Prices**

- Prices for all categories of consumer goods and services are higher in Nunavik compared with the Quebec City area; as regards food prices, they are roughly 60% higher.

## **Dwellings**

- Rental housing units, housing units requiring major repairs and over-populated housing units are more numerous in Nunavik than in Québec.

## **Health services, health and social conditions**

- Physicians, nurses, hospital beds and childcare places are all more numerous in Nunavik than in Québec.
- Hospital admissions are more numerous in Nunavik than in Québec.
- Deaths related to tobacco, daily tobacco consumption and heavy alcohol consumption are greater in Nunavik than in Québec.
- Crime and family violence rates are higher in Nunavik than in Québec

## INTRODUCTION

Québec is divided into administrative regions. The region Nord-du-Québec (identified as region 10 by the Institut de la statistique du Québec) comprises two subregions. The first subregion is known as the Jamésie (identified as 991 by the Institut de la statistique du Québec). The Jamésie is bordered in the south by Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Mauricie and in the east by Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and the Côte-Nord. The second subregion is known as Kativik (identified as 992 by the Institut de la statistique du Québec). Kativik lies north of the 55th parallel and reaches Québec's border in the east, the north and the west; for statistical purposes, the subregion of Kativik is the same as Nunavik<sup>3</sup>. These distinctions mean that a good deal of information about the Nord-du-Québec as a whole, as well as each of its subregions, is available from the Institut de la statistique du Québec. In this document, data on the Nord-du-Québec, including Nunavik, is systematically reproduced for comparative purposes as well as whenever appropriate.

In 2006, Nunavik had a population of approximately 10,800, representing roughly one quarter of the population of the Nord-du-Québec, but a very small proportion of the population of Québec.

Given the sheer size of the region, population density is low. In reality however, the population is distributed in 14 coastal villages. Even in this respect, the density of Nunavik's population is very low compared with the density of the population of Québec as a whole.

Nunavik's economic weight is proportional to its demographic weight in Québec as a whole. In 2003, the region's gross domestic product was around \$290.5 million, which is to say \$28,675 per capita, or approximately \$5000 lower per capita than that of Québec.

In terms of its absolute value and its per capita value, Nunavik's gross domestic product grew twice as quickly as Québec's between 1998 and 2003. As discussed later in this document, this growth was largely the result of the weakness of Nunavik's economy in 1998. During the same period, the difference between the gross domestic product per capita values for Nunavik and Québec remained unchanged, likely due to Nunavik's steady population growth.

Rapid population and economic growth therefore differentiate Nunavik from Québec as whole.

---

<sup>3</sup> "Nunavik is slightly larger than the Kativik administrative region created under the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* in 1975 and lying north of the 55th parallel. [...] The name *Nunavik* was chosen from among eight proposals presented to the Inuit communities of Northern Québec in a referendum held between October and November 1986. It was approved by the Commission de toponymie du Québec in April 1988. Formed from the roots *nuna* and *vik*, it literally means the *land where we live*. [translation]" Source: Commission de toponymie du Québec.

<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/ct/topos/carto.asp?Speci=212518&Latitude=58,43333&Longitude=-71,48333&Zoom=1700>





**Figure 1: Nord-du-Québec and its equivalent territories**

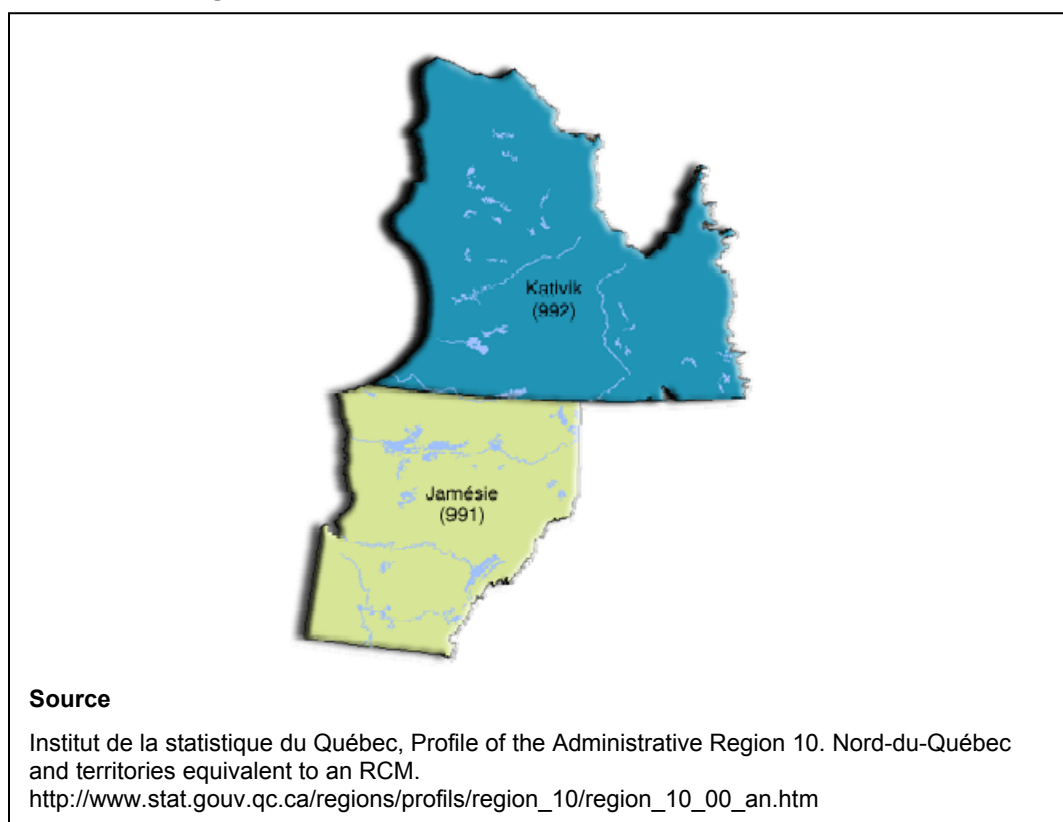


Table 1a  
**Population, area and economy, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006**  
 (N, %, km<sup>2</sup>)

Regions	Population	Demographic weight	Area	Density	Economic weight
	N	%	km <sup>2</sup>	Inhabitant/km <sup>2</sup>	
Nunavik	10 784	0,1	507 000	0,02	0,1
Nord-du-Québec	40 637	0,5	718 229	0,10	0,7
Québec	7 651 531	100,0	1 312 126	5,80	100,0

**Sources**

Nunavik: Statistics Canada. 2008. Nunavik, Québec (table). Aboriginal Population Profile, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-594-XWF. Ottawa. Released January 15, 2008.

Nord-du-Québec and Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2007 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

**Note**

Nunavik's economic weight is calculated based on the gross domestic product for Nunavik and for Québec in 2003. The total area of Nunavik, including coastal waters, is 660 000 km<sup>2</sup>, according to the Makivik Corporation.



Table 1b

**Gross domestic product, expenditure-based, Nunavik and Québec, 1998 and 2003**

(current \$, per capita \$ and %)

Regions	Gross domestic product				Change in \$		Change in \$ per capita	
	1998	2003	1998	2003	annual average	1998-2003	annual average	1998-2003
	\$		\$ per capita		%		%	
Nunavik	179 686 600	290 588 600	19 128	28 675	15,4	61,7	12,5	49,9
Québec	196 258 000 000	250 626 000 000	26 936	33 561	6,9	27,7	6,1	24,6

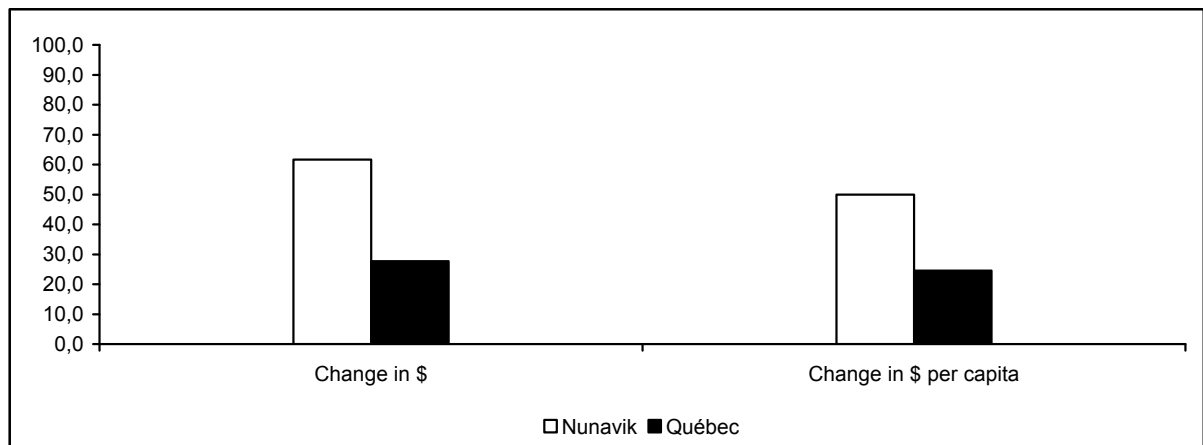
**Sources**Nunavik: Robichaud, V. (ed.by G. Duhaime), 2007. *L'économie du Nunavik 2003*. Canada Research Chair in Comparative Aboriginal Condition.

Québec: Statistics Canada. CANSIM, table 384-0002. Gross domestic product, expenditure-based, provincial economic accounts, annual data. Institut de la statistique du Québec. Population migration (total population, births, deaths, net migration), Québec, 1971-2006.

Graph 1a

**Gross domestic product, Nunavik and Québec, 1998 and 2003**

(%)



## **SECTION 1 – DEMOGRAPHY**

### **1.1 POPULATION DEVELOPMENT**

The pace of population growth in Nunavik, the Nord-du-Québec and Québec is very different. In Québec, growth has slowed considerably since 1991 in particular, and was recorded at 4.7% in 2001. In the Nord-du-Québec, overall growth is less regular, and seems to be tied to changing economic conditions, specifically those of the mining sector.

Population growth in Nunavik is much more pronounced. In the 30 years between 1971 and 2001, the region's population more than doubled. The pace of growth between 1981 and 1991 was especially high, likely due to the impact of improved living conditions in the region (new housing and better health care) and improved airport infrastructure that in particular permitted safer and more frequent travel to hospitals outside of the region in the case of high-risk pregnancies.

As well, population growth in Nunavik during this period may be associated with the increase and consolidation of regional and local governments. This phenomenon resulted in a positive net migration to the region as many workers from outside of Nunavik took up regular employment in the region. Notwithstanding, the data needed to confirm this statement remain incomplete.

The projections for the upcoming decades indicate that the growth rate of Nunavik's population should slow down. However, based on these projections, the growth rate of Nunavik's population should remain greater than that of Québec.

Table 1.1

**Population changes, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1971-2021**  
(%)

Regions	1971-2001	1971-1981	1981-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011	2011-2021
Nunavik	193,8	25,5	87,0	25,2	15,0	9,4
Nord-du-Québec	31,2	26,4	-2,0	5,9	-1,0	-3,6
Québec	22,7	6,8	9,7	4,7	5,0	3,2

**Sources**

Nunavik, 1971-2001: Statistics Canada, Census of 1971, 1981, 1991, and 2001, Data compiled in Nunivaat (Table 2007-03-13-30).

Nunavik, 2011-2021: Institut de la statistique du Québec, Direction de la méthodologie, de la démographie et des enquêtes spéciales, *Perspectives démographiques, Québec et régions, 2001-2051*, 2003 Edition.

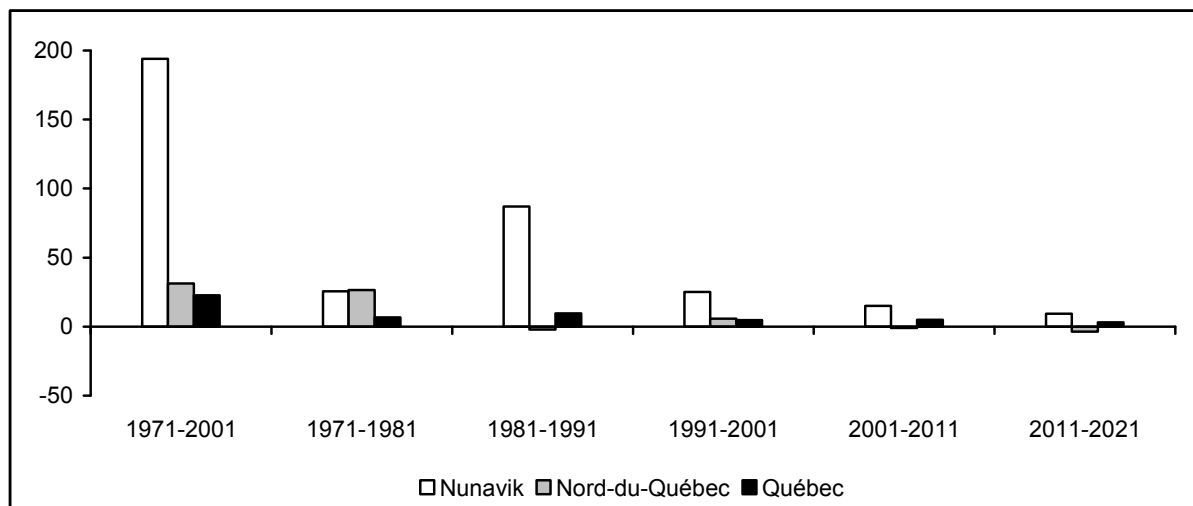
Nord-du-Québec et Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2006 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

**Note**

The population change projections in Nunavik (2001-2011 and 2011-2021) are based on the reference scenario A which is composed of the assumptions considered the most plausible in light of recent trends.

Graph 1.1

**Population changes, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1971 à 2021**  
(%)



## 1.2 FERTILITY

The growth rate of Nunavik's population is mainly explained by a high fertility situation: the indicator generally used to measure the intensity of this phenomenon is the fertility index, namely the average number of children per woman of reproductive age.

In Québec, year after year, this index is below the replacement level, namely the required level to ensure that the parent generation is replaced, i.e. 2.1 children per woman. But in Nunavik, the situation is different. Since 1984, Nunavik's synthetic fertility index has never been below 3.4 children per woman. This index, which is well above the replacement index, has tended to decline somewhat, in particular since 1994, but remains high all the same.

In Nunavik, the fertility rate according to the mother's age shows significant particularities as compared to the rate for Québec as a whole.

In Québec, the fertility rate is relatively low among women from 14 to 24 years of age, and is highest among women from 25 to 29 years of age. In comparison, in Nunavik, it is high among women from 14 to 19 years of age and women from 25 to 34 years of age, and is highest among women from 20 to 24 years of age.

Table 1.2.1

**Synthetic Fertility Index, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1984-2003**

(Index)

Regions	Synthetic Fertility Index				Variation
	1984-1988	1989-1993	1994-1998	1999-2003	1984-1988 to 1999-2003
	Index				Children per woman
Nunavik	3,79	3,84	3,52	3,41	-0,38
Nord-du-Québec	2,86	2,81	2,73	2,66	-0,20
Québec	1,40	1,62	1,58	1,48	0,08

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Notes**

The synthetic fertility index is the average number of children to whom a cohort of women would give birth assuming that these women would be subject throughout their reproductive period to the fertility rates per age observed during a given period (INSPQ, 2006).

The rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 1.2.1

**Synthetic Fertility Index, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1984-2003**

(Index)

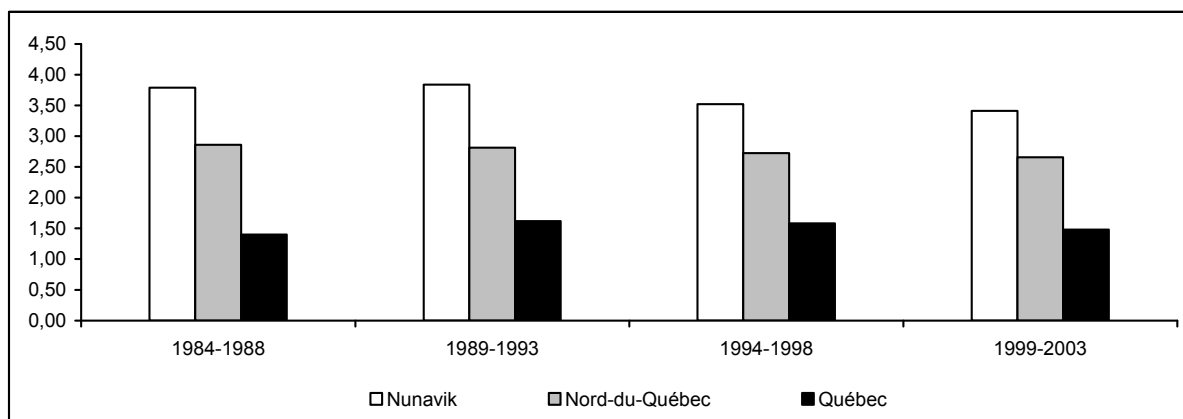






Table 1.2.2

**Fertility rate by age of mother, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1999-2003**

(Average annual rate for 1000 women)

Regions	Fertility				
	14-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-49
	rate				
Nunavik	153,2	232,3	181,3	104,9	33,8
Nord-du-Québec	98,6	187,2	152,3	82,9	20,1
Québec	15,2	71,1	112,7	61,2	7,8

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Notes**

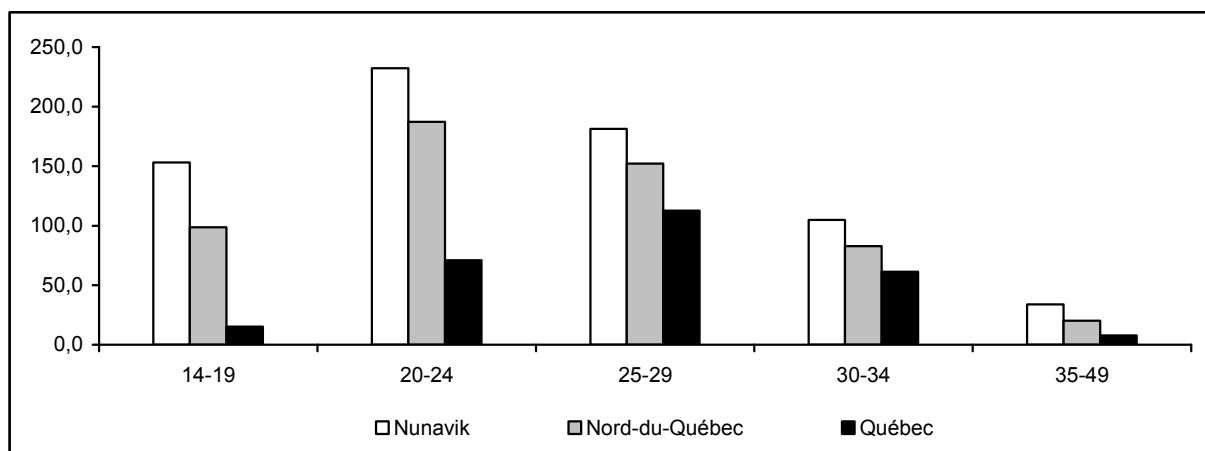
The fertility rate according to age is the ratio, for a given period, of the average annual number of live births of mothers of a specific age group and the female population of this age group in the middle of the same period (INSPQ, 2006).

The fertility rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 1.2.2

**Fertility rate by age of mother, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1999-2003**

(Average annual rate for 1000 women)



### **1.3 PREGNANCIES**

These results concur with the data concerning pregnancies according to the mother's age.

In Québec, pregnancies are most numerous among women from 25 to 29 years of age. However, in Nunavik, the average annual pregnancy rate is greater than in Québec in all age groups and it is highest among women from 20 to 24 years of age.

Finally, teen pregnancies are much higher in Nunavik than in Québec as a whole. The rate is 4 times higher among adolescent girls from 14 to 17 years of age, and more than 3 times higher among adolescent girls aged 18 and 19.

Table 1.3.1

**Pregnancies by age of women, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1999-2003**

(Average annual rate for 1000 women)

Region	Pregnancies				
	14-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-49
	rate				
Nunavik	128,7	258,1	210,2	131,4	28,3
Nord-du-Québec	88,2	203,5	173,1	110,6	21,3
Québec	34,7	98,4	144,2	109,3	17,3

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The average annual rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 1.3.1

**Pregnancies by age of women, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1999-2003**

(Average annual rate for 1000 women)

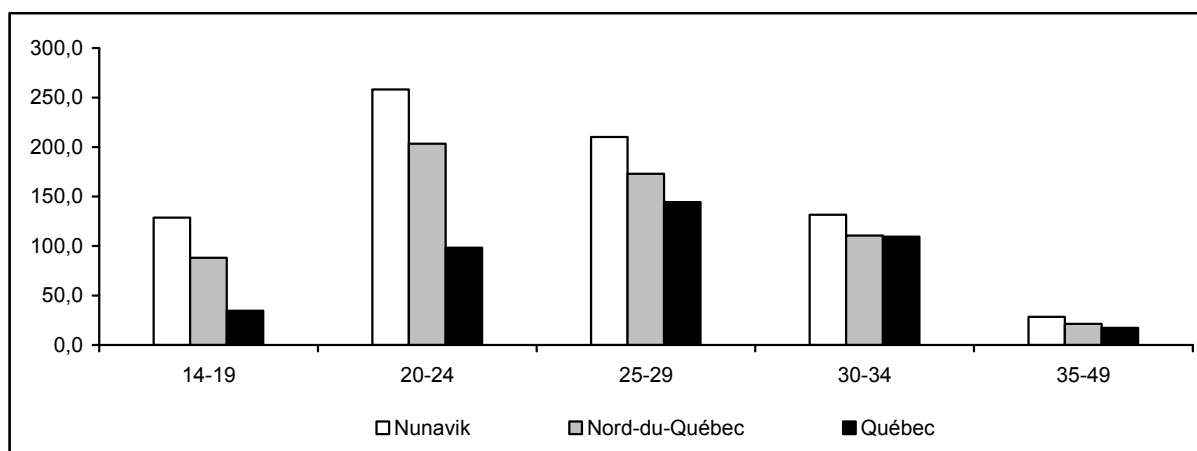




Table 1.3.2

**Teen pregnancy by age, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1995-1998 and 1999-2003**

(Average annual rate for 1000 females aged 14 to 19)

Regions	Teen pregnancy by age			
	1995-1998		1999-2003	
	14-17	18-19	14-17	18-19
	rate			
Nunavik	101,3	292,8	85,6	217,8
Nord-du-Québec	62,6	200,5	53,4	161,1
Québec	19,4	68,5	18,2	65,9

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

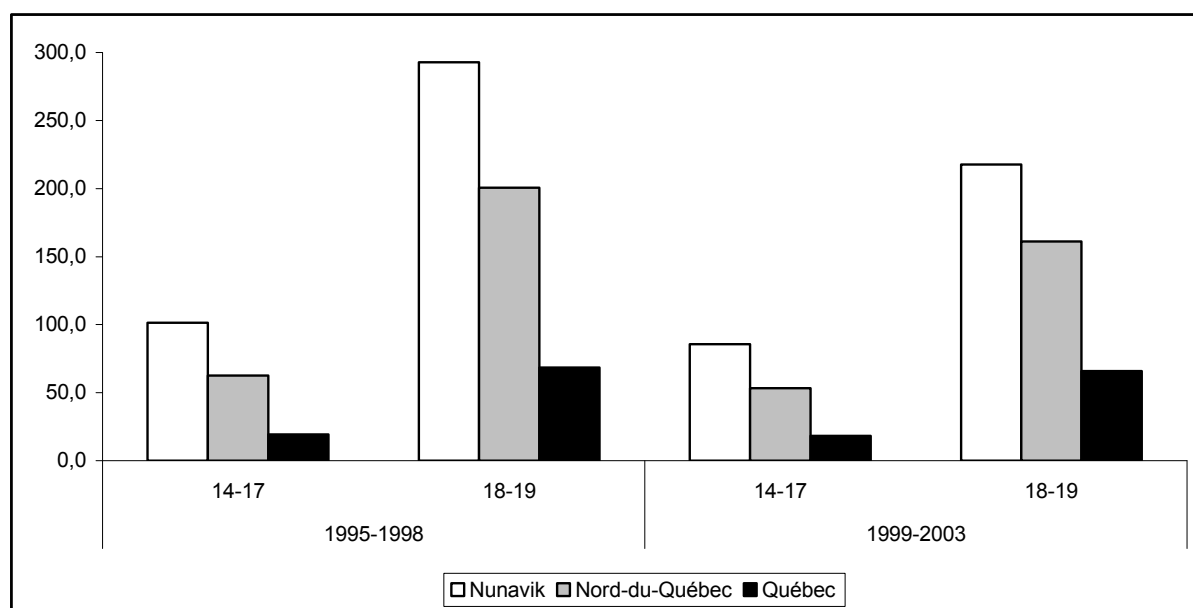
**Note**

The average annual rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region is calculated from the data of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik, and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once grouped together, these three health regions form the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 1.3.2

**Teen pregnancy by age, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1995-1998 and 1999-2003**

(Average annual rate for 1000 females aged 14 to 19)



#### **1.4 LIVE BIRTHS**

In Nunavik, the proportion of live births according to the mother's level of schooling is characterized by significant differences, as compared to Québec as a whole.

In Québec, the majority of live births are attributed to women with 11 years of schooling or more. Meanwhile, in Nunavik, the majority of live births are attributed to women with less than 11 years of schooling. As we will see later, this situation corresponds to the overall schooling situation in Nunavik.

Table 1.4

**Distribution of live births by education of mother, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1999-2003**  
(%)

Regions	Live births by education of mother					Average schooling %
	Less than 11 years	11 years	12-13 years	14-15 years	16 or more years	
	%					
Nunavik	52,6	16,8	21,3	5,4	3,9	10,5
Nord-du-Québec	39,8	14,3	23,5	11,1	11,3	11,5
Québec	13,0	10,9	20,6	23,7	31,9	13,9

**Source**

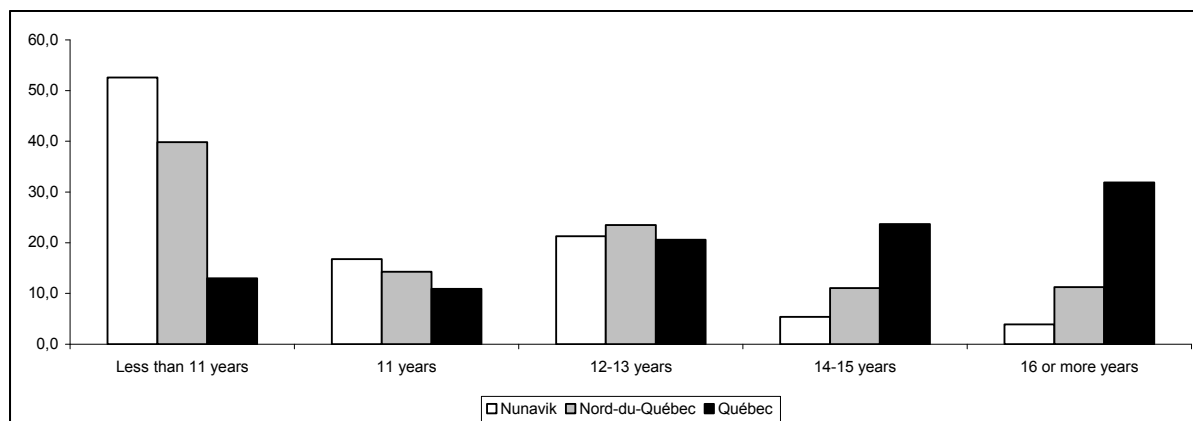
Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec.  
*Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The percentage of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region is calculated from the data of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik, and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once grouped together, these three health regions form the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 1.4

**Distribution of live births by education of mother, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1999-2003**  
(%)





## **1.5 LIFE EXPECTANCY**

Two main elements characterize the situation with respect to life expectancy at birth in Nunavik, as compared to that for Québec as a whole.

In Québec, life expectancy is constantly progressing. For the most recent period, it stands at 79.4 years. However, the same cannot be said for Nunavik. Life expectancy at birth was on the rise up until the period from 1990 to 1994 and has been on the decline ever since. Moreover, life expectancy at birth is 16 years lower in Nunavik than in Québec.

Table 1.5.1

**Life expectancy at birth, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1985-1989 to 2000-2003**

(Years)

Regions	Life expectancy at birth				Variation
	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2003	1985-1989 to 2000-2003
	Years				Years
Nunavik	64,4	66,8	65,5	63,3	-1,1
Nord-du-Québec	70,9	74,2	71,7	72,9	2,0
Québec	76,1	77,4	78,0	79,4	3,3

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The life expectancy of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region is calculated from the data of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik, and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once grouped together, these three health regions form the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 1.5.1

**Life expectancy at birth, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1985-1989 to 2000-2003**

(Years)

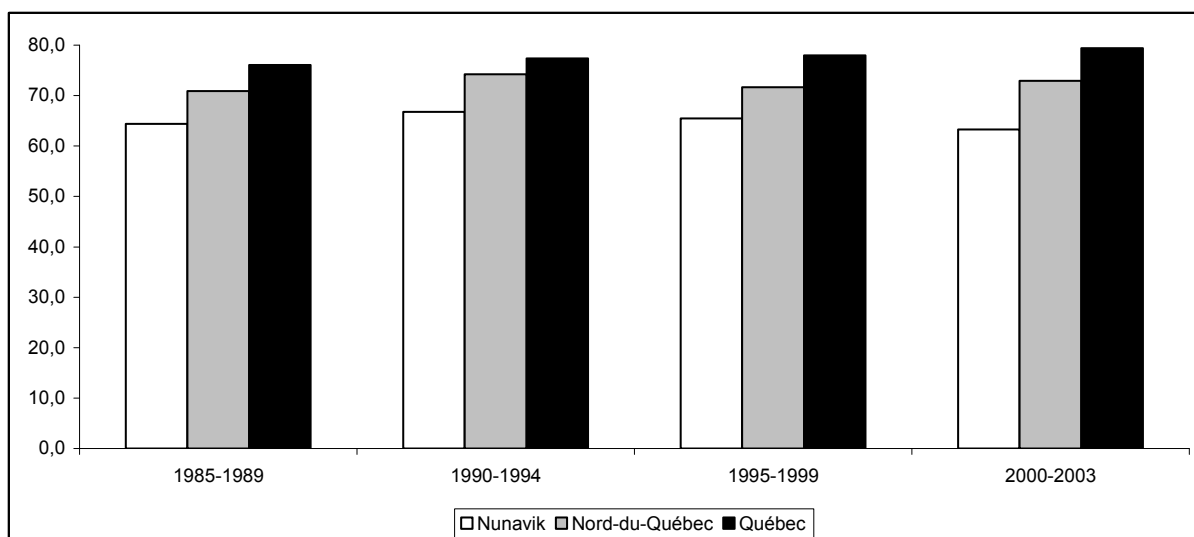




Table 1.5.2

**Life expectancy at birth by sex, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1985-1989 to 2000-2003**

(Years)

Regions	Life expectancy at birth							
	Males				Females			
	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2003	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2003
	Years				Years			
Nunavik	61,3	65,4	61,8	59,5	66,7	68,5	69,3	67,5
Nord-du-Québec	68,7	71,7	69,6	70,1	73,0	77,1	73,8	75,6
Québec	72,4	73,8	74,8	76,5	79,9	80,8	81,1	82,1

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec.  
*Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

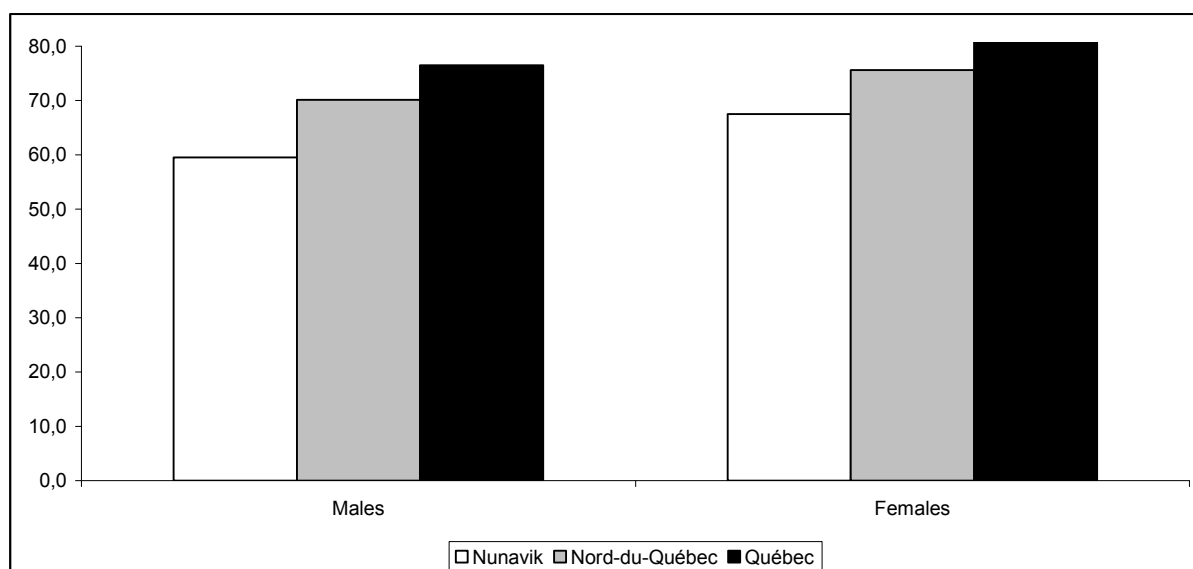
**Note**

The life expectancy of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region is calculated from the data of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik, and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once grouped together, these three health regions form the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 1.5.2

**Life expectancy at birth by sex, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2000-2003**

(Years)



## **1.6 CROSS-SECTION OF THE POPULATION BY AGE**

Cross-sections of a population by age illustrate changes in that population over time. The comparison of cross-sections ten years apart underscores major differences between the populations in Nunavik, the Nord-du-Québec and Québec.

In Nunavik, rapid population growth considerably influences the cross-section of the population. Individuals aged 15 and younger still represented more than one third of the population in 2006. Between 1996 and 2006 however, there was noticeable movement: Nunavik's population is growing older in relative terms. Whereas the 30 to 64 year old age group grew by close to 4% over 10 years, the 65 and over age group rose by 0.5%

There are certain similarities between the cross-section of the population in Nunavik and that in the Nord-du-Québec: the populations aged 15 and younger are higher than in Québec as a whole and the proportion of elders is smaller. This situation may be attributed to two main factors: the significant size of the Cree population in the Nord-du-Québec, which shares many characteristics with the Inuit population of Nunavik, and the recent negative net migration from the Jamésie, for all age groups including elders, as a result of economic slowdown.

These results are clearly different than the results obtained for Québec as a whole. The population of Québec is older. The proportion of individuals aged 15 and younger is twice as small as in Nunavik, while the proportion of seniors is nearly five times greater.

These differences are illustrated by the shapes of the age pyramids for Nunavik and Québec. The relatively regular pyramid-shape for Nunavik illustrates a growing population. Its slightly narrowed base representing the youngest age group indicates a slow in growth, while its short, pointed peak reflects the relatively limited number of elders. In contrast, the pear-shape of the Québec age pyramid illustrates an aging population.

These data are important: the characteristics of Nunavik's population provide a backdrop that allows certain unique regional issues to be identified. These will be discussed later in this document.

Table 1.6

**Cross-section of the population by age group, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996 and 2006 (%)**

Regions	1996				2006			
	0-14	15-29	30-64	65 et +	0-14	15-29	30-64	65 et +
	%				%			
Nunavik	39,3	28,3	29,9	2,5	36,1	27,4	33,6	3,0
Nord-du-Québec	30,6	26,7	39,5	3,3	28,1	23,9	42,8	5,2
Québec	19,1	20,3	48,7	12,0	16,2	19,7	50,0	14,1

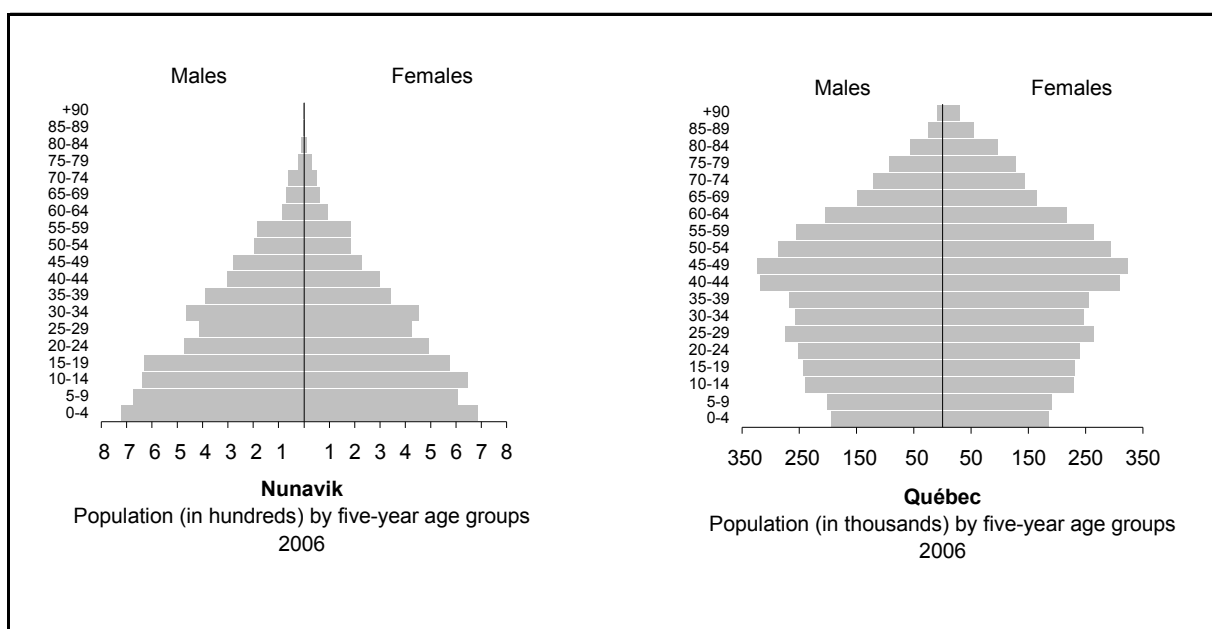
#### Sources

Nunavik 2006: Institut de la statistique du Québec. Population estimate for regional county municipalities and equivalent territories by age group and sex, July 1<sup>st</sup> of the years 1996 to 2007 (Geographic detail on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008).

Nord-du-Québec and Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2007 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

Graph 1.6

**Cross-section of the population by five-year age groups and sex, Nunavik and Québec, 2006 (N)**



## **1.7 DEPENDENCY RATIO**

Population dependency ratios show the demographic weight of dependent individuals, which is to say those aged between 0 and 19 as well as 65 and older, in relation to individuals who are working or of working age. The greater the dependency ratio, the larger the dependent population in relation to the working-age population.

Based on population estimates produced by the Institut de la statistique du Québec, the dependency ratio was calculated to be consistently much higher in Nunavik than in Québec as a whole. Statistically in Nunavik, every individual of working-age supports at least one dependent individual. On the other hand in Québec, the dependency ratio is nearly half as great. Statistically in the whole of Québec, every individual of the working-age population supports only 0.6 dependent individuals, which is to say less than one dependent individual. This means that, even if household resources were the same in Nunavik and Québec, Nunavik households would still have to cover the needs of a greater number of dependent individuals. The effect of this result is re-examined later in this document in light of available household resources.

In Nunavik, the dependency ratio fell between 2001 and 2006. This drop was caused by a slowdown in population growth. In Québec, the dependency ratio fell between 1996 and 2001 as well as between 2001 and 2006. This drop was the result of a decrease in the number of youth. However, even while the two trends seem to correspond, the difference between Nunavik and Québec in 2006 remained practically the same as it was in 1996.

Table 1.7

**Population dependency ratio, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**

Regions	Population dependency ratio			Difference		
	1996	2001	2006	1996-2001	2001-2006	1996- 2006
Nunavik	104,0	105,5	100,1	1,5	-5,3	-3,9
Nord-du-Québec	75,6	73,7	72,9	-1,9	-0,8	-2,6
Québec	61,1	58,8	57,4	-2,3	-1,3	-3,7

**Sources**

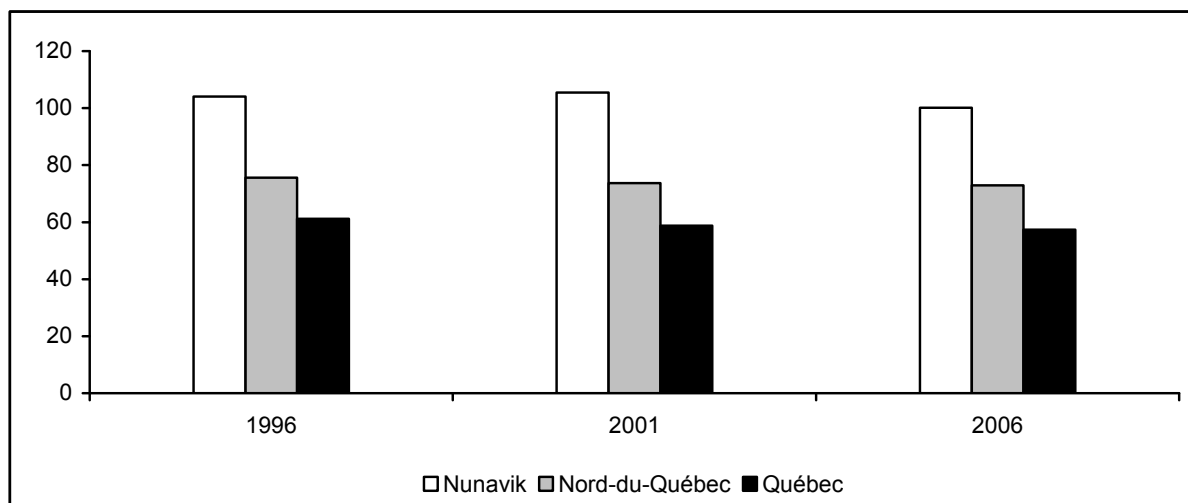
Nunavik: Institut de la statistique du Québec. Population estimate for regional county municipalities and equivalent territories by age group and sex, July 1<sup>st</sup> of the years 1996 to 2007 (geographic detail on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008)

Nord-du-Québec and Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2007 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

**Note**

Population dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the total of those aged 0-19 and 65 and older by those aged 20-64. The result is then multiplied by 100.

Graph 1.7

**Population dependency ratio, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001, and 2006**



## 1.8 REPLACEMENT INDEX

The replacement index measures the substitution of those individuals in the labour market who are on the verge of retirement (aged 55 to 64) by those individuals entering the labour market (aged 20 to 29). A replacement index of 100 indicates that for every person preparing to leave the labour market, a younger person is available to replace him.

The replacement index for Nunavik is very different from the index for the whole of Québec. In Nunavik in 1996, there were more than four substitutes for each individual approaching retirement, and in 2006 the number of available substitutes was still greater than three. Even though the replacement index decreased relatively in Nunavik, the situation remains unique in relation to the situation of Québec as a whole.

The replacement index for Québec is lower than the index for Nunavik. In 2006, the Québec index was falling towards 100. Notwithstanding, care must be taken not to misinterpret the more moderate decrease in Québec: even though the Québec decrease is smaller than in Nunavik, the replacement index for Québec was already much lower than the index for Nunavik in 1996.

The situation in the Nord-du-Québec is also particular since the drop in the replacement index was greater over the last ten years than elsewhere. This decrease is likely related to the economic hardships experienced in the Jamésie.

The replacement indices for Nunavik and Québec do not have the same meaning. Québec will face a potential labour force shortage in the near future, which is being countered with extended working period measures for older workers. On the other hand in Nunavik, despite the relative decrease, the high replacement index represents a major challenge since the number of jobs will have to rise sharply to accommodate those individuals entering the labour market. Even while throughout Québec economic development remains an on-going issue, in Nunavik it is especially important.

Table 1.8

**Replacement index, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**

Regions	Replacement index			Difference		
	1996	2001	2006	1996-2001	2001-2006	1996-2006
Nunavik	435,8	456,9	327,8	21,1	-129,1	-108,0
Nord-du-Québec	305,5	259,2	197,4	-46,3	-61,8	-108,0
Québec	147,3	128,7	109,6	-18,7	-19,1	-37,8

**Sources**

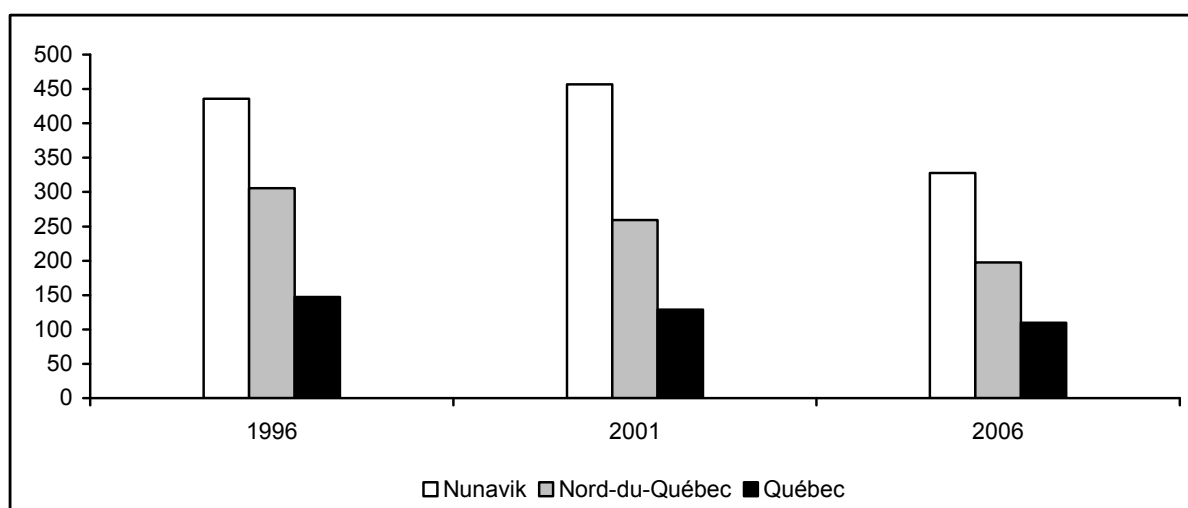
Nunavik: Institut de la statistique du Québec. Population estimate for regional county municipalities and equivalent territories by age group and sex, July 1<sup>st</sup> of the years 1996 to 2007 (geographic detail on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008)

Nord-du-Québec et Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2007 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

**Note**

The replacement index is the ratio between those aged 20-29 and 55-64 multiplied by 100.

Graph 1.8

**Replacement index, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**

## **1.9 ETHNIC COMPOSITION**

Whereas for Québec as a whole, the Aboriginal population represents a small minority, this same population is in a strong majority in Nunavik. It represents more than 90% of the total population.

This generalization does not reflect the situation at the local level very adequately. In the most populated villages, the non-Aboriginal population has a greater presence, due notably to the jobs that are held by non-Aboriginals. However, in the least populated villages, the population is almost exclusively Inuit.

Table 1.9  
Ethnic composition of the population, Nunavik (villages), Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006  
(N and %)

Villages/Regions	Total population	Inuit population <sup>1</sup>	Non-aboriginal population	Inuit population	Non-aboriginal population
	N			%	
Akulivik	507	500	10	98,6	2,0
Aupaluk	174	n.a. <sup>2</sup>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Inukjuak	1 597	1 340	85	83,9	5,3
Ivujivik	349	340	0	97,4	0,0
Kangiqsualujuaq	735	705	30	95,9	4,1
Kangirsujuaq	605	560	50	92,6	8,3
Kangirsuk	466	425	45	91,2	9,7
Kuujuuaq	2 132	1 635	460	76,7	21,6
Kuujuarapik	568	465	55	81,9	9,7
Puvirnituq	1 457	1 385	40	95,1	2,7
Quaqtaq	315	300	10	95,2	3,2
Salluit	1 241	1 150	85	92,7	6,8
Tasiujaq	248	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Umiujaq	390	375	10	96,2	2,6
Nunavik	10 784	9 565	920	88,7	8,5
Nord-du-Québec	39 550	9 625	16 020	24,3	40,5
Québec	7 435 905	10 950	7 327 475	0,1	98,5

#### Sources

Statistics Canada. 2008. Community Profiles, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue n° 92-591-XWF. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.

Statistics Canada. 2008. Aboriginal population profile, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue n° 92-594-XWF. Ottawa. Released January 15, 2008.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>The data on the Inuit and non-Aboriginal populations has been modified by Statistics Canada following the "random rounding" method: "Under this method, all figures, including totals and margins, are randomly rounded either up or down to a multiple of '5', and in some cases '10'. While providing strong protection against disclosure, this technique does not add significant error to the census data. The user should be aware that totals and margins are rounded independently of the cell data so that some differences between these and the sum of rounded cell data may exist. Also, minor differences can be expected in corresponding totals and cell values among various census tabulations".

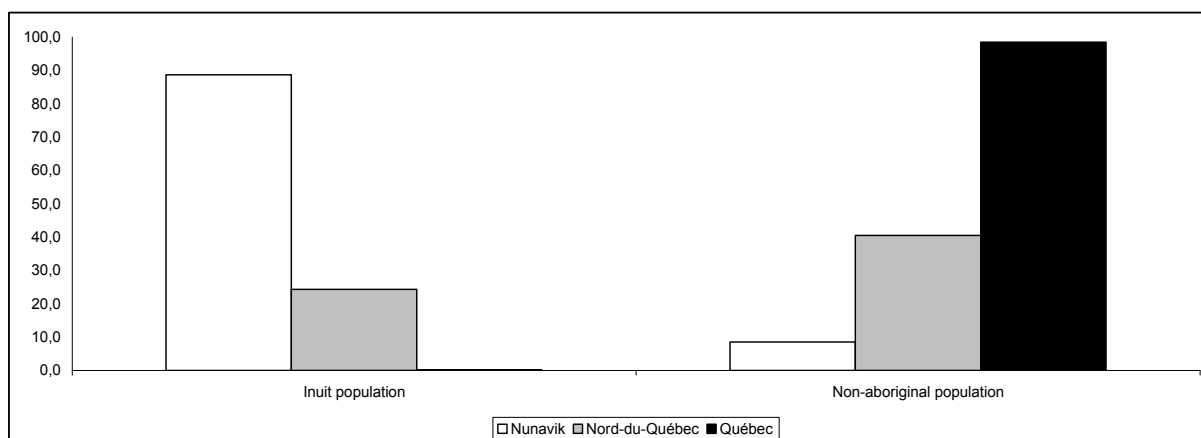
(Statistics Canada, 2006 Census Dictionary, "Appendix B: Data Quality, Sampling and Weighting, Confidentiality and Random Rounding")

<sup>2</sup>Because of the small size of their population, Statistics Canada does not release data on the Inuit and non-Aboriginal populations of Aupaluk and Tasiujaq: "In addition to random rounding, area suppression has been adopted to further protect the confidentiality of individual responses. Area suppression is the deletion of all characteristic data for geographic areas with populations below a specified size".

(Statistics Canada, 2006 Census Dictionary, "Appendix B: Data Quality, Sampling and Weighting, Confidentiality and Random Rounding")

Graph 1.9

Ethnic composition of the population, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec, and Québec, 2006  
(%)



## **1.10 LANGUAGE**

In Nunavik, the mother tongue of 97% of the Inuit is Inuktitut; this is also the language spoken in the home. From this standpoint, the comparison with the other Inuit regions in Canada underscores the exceptional vitality of Inuktitut in Nunavik. Indeed, Nunavik is the Canadian region where Inuktitut is most frequently the mother tongue and the language spoken in the home.

Table 1.10

**Inuit population who reported Inuktitut as mother tongue and as home language, and knowledge of Inuktitut, Nunavik and other Inuit regions, 1996 and 2006.**

(%)

Regions	Inuktitut as mother tongue		Inuktitut as home language		Knowledge of Inuktitut	
	1996	2006	1996	2006	1996	2006
	%		%		%	
Nunavik	98	97	96	94	99	99
Nunavut	88	83	76	64	94	91
Nunatsiavut	20	22	9	7	27	27
Inuvialuit	20	14	4	3	23	20

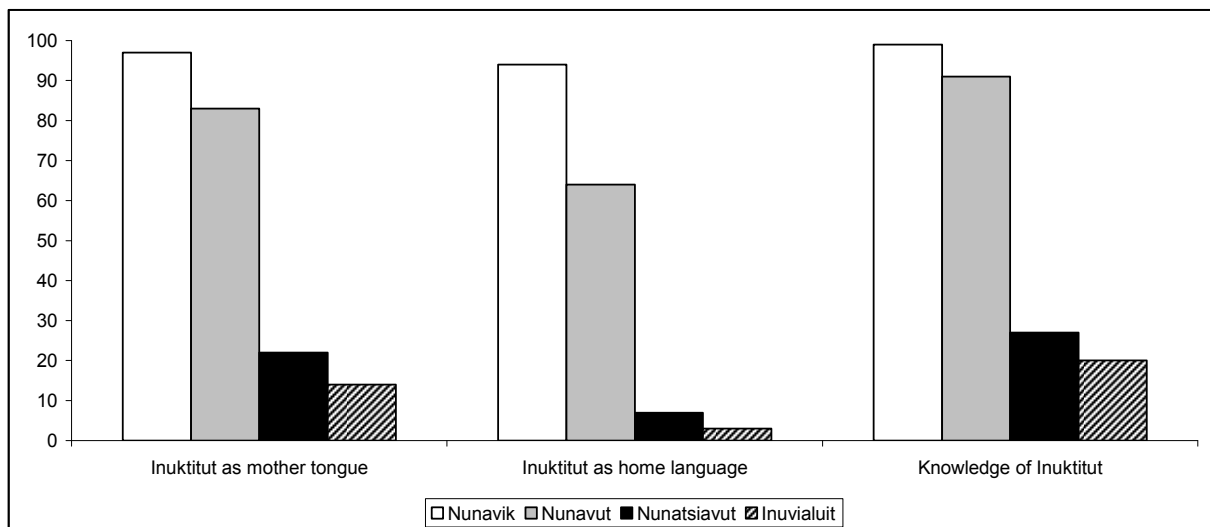
**Source**

Statistics Canada, 2008. *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Métis and First Nations, Censuses 1996 and 2006*, Catalogue no. 97-558-XIF, p. 26.

Graph 1.10

**Inuit population who reported Inuktitut as mother tongue and as home language, and knowledge of Inuktitut, Nunavik and other Inuit regions, 2006.**

(%)



### ***1.10.1 Language spoken most often at home***

In considering the entire regional population (and not only the Inuit population as in the previous table), the situation regarding the language most often spoken in the home once again indicates the importance of Inuktitut in daily life. The proportions obtained concerning the respective use of Inuktitut (identified, in the vocabulary of the Canada Census, as a "non-official" language), French and English, correspond roughly to the overall ethnic composition of the population in Nunavik, as we have seen (section 1.9).

Table 1.10.1a  
Language spoken most often at home, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006  
(%)

Regions	Languages						
	English	French	Non-official language	English and French	English and Non-official language	French and non-official language	English, French and non-official language
	%						
Nunavik	8,0	5,3	85,0	0,1	1,4	0,2	0,0
Nord-du-Québec	7,0	39,1	52,7	0,1	0,9	0,1	0,1
Québec	10,0	81,1	7,0	0,7	0,4	0,7	0,2

**Source**

Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Community Profiles, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue n° 92-591-XWF. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.

Graph 1.10.1a  
Language spoken most often at home, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec, and Québec, 2006  
(%)

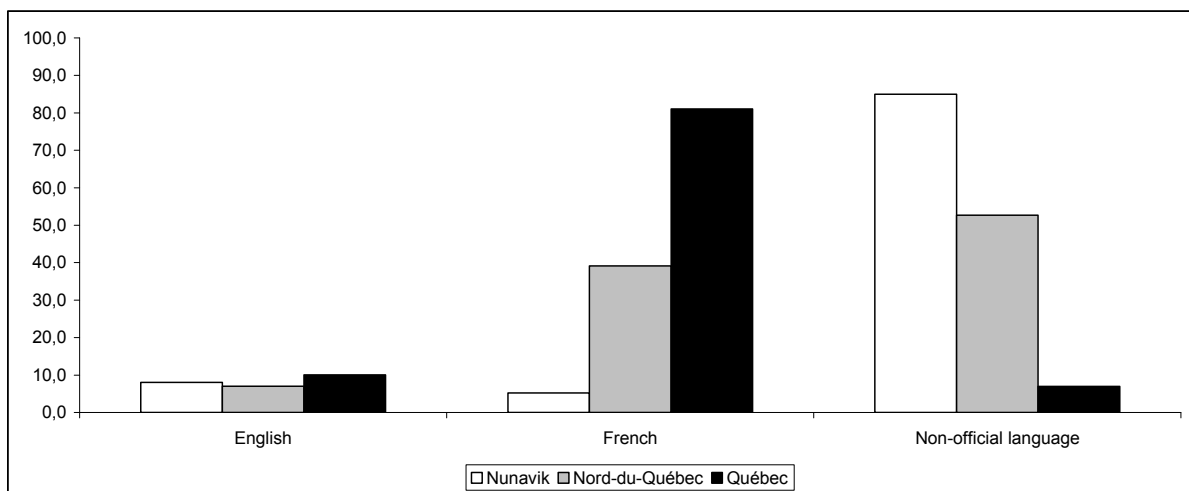






Table 1.10.1b

**Language spoken most often at home (single responses), Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2001 and 2006**  
(%)

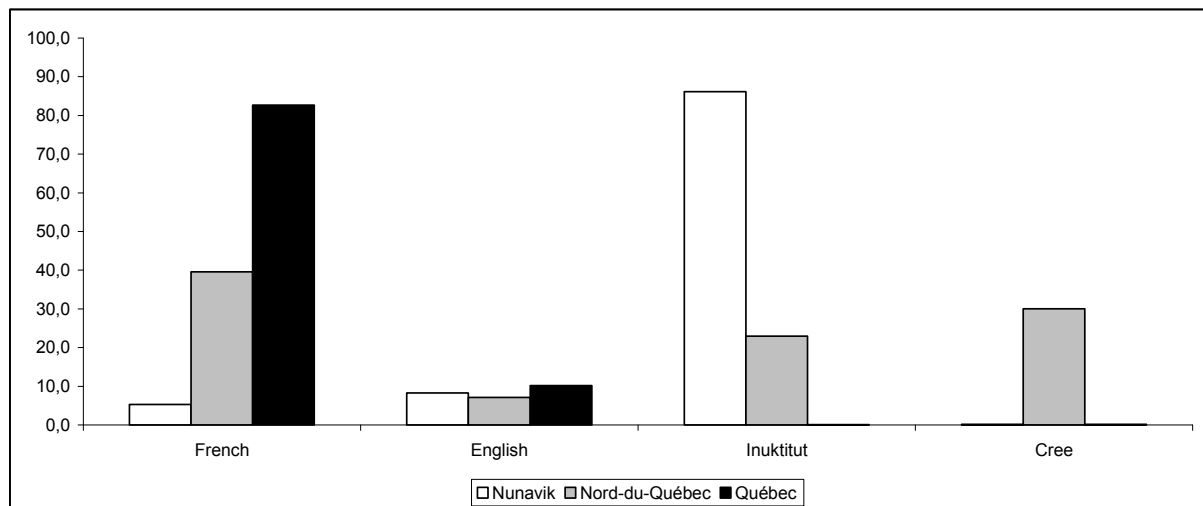
Regions	French		English		Inuktitut		Cree	
	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006
	%		%		%		%	
Nunavik	6,0	5,3	7,6	8,3	85,8	86,1	0,2	0,1
Nord-du-Québec	44,5	39,6	5,1	7,1	21,5	23,0	28,7	30,0
Québec	83,9	82,7	10,0	10,2	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,2

**Sources**

2001: Statistics Canada, Profile - Language characteristics, for Canada, provinces, territories, Census divisions and Census subdivisions, 2001 Census, Catalogue no. 95F0494XCB2001001.  
2006: Statistics Canada, Profile - Language, immigration, citizenship, mobility and migration, for Canada, provinces, territories, Census divisions and Census subdivisions, 2006 Census, Catalogue no. 94-577-XCB2006001.

Graph 1.10.1b

**Language spoken most often at home (single responses), Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec, and Québec, 2006**  
(%)



### ***1.10.2 Language most often used at work***

Finally, Inuktitut is the language most often used at work in Nunavik. Nevertheless, English holds an important place in this respect, since 30% of the respondents to the 2006 Canada Census state that they use this language most often at work.

Table 1.10.2

**Language used most often at work, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006**

(% of the total population 15 years and over who worked since 2005)

Regions	Languages						
	English	French	Non-official language	English and French	English and non-official language	French and non-official language	English, French, and non-official language
	%						
Nunavik	30,7	6,3	58,0	0,2	3,9	0,2	0,5
Nord-du-Québec	19,2	43,4	33,8	1,2	2,0	0,1	0,3
Québec	12,5	82,0	0,8	4,4	0,1	0,1	0,2

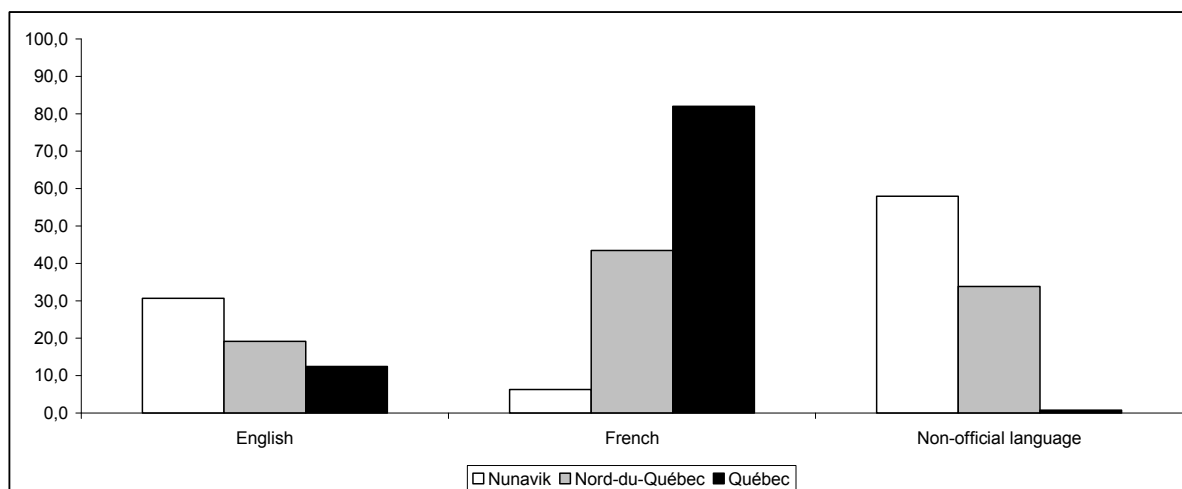
**Source**

Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Community Profiles, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue n° 92-591-XWF. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.

Graph 1.10.2

**Language used most often at work, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec, and Québec, 2006**

(% of the total population 15 years and over who worked since 2005)



## **SECTION 2 – LABOUR MARKET**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Special care must be exercised when comparing the labour markets of Nunavik and Québec since the statistics obtained from census data are not equally valid for the two areas. In Nunavik, the Kativik Regional Government conducted field investigations in 1995, 1998 and 2005; in this document, the data from these investigations are preferred to census data. Nonetheless, the results obtained from this source are difficult to compare with those for the Nord-du-Québec due to the methodology used by the Institut de la statistique du Québec to produce data for the administrative regions and for territories equivalent to regional county municipalities. For this reason, only the data produced through the Kativik Regional Government field investigations and data for Québec as a whole are compared.

### **2.1 EMPLOYMENT**

Job creation is considered a good indicator of regional economic vitality. In Nunavik, job creation jumped during the period under review. Between 1995 and 2005, the number of regular, full-time jobs nearly doubled. This situation stands in contrast to that of Québec, where job creation progressed at a steady but more moderate pace.

The unusually rapid pace of job creation in Nunavik is attributable to several factors. First, certain characteristics of the region's population played a role in this result. For example, ever-increasing numbers of school-aged children in the education system have forced public authorities to increase educational services, which translates into more personnel. This same reasoning can also help explain job growth

in other public service fields. As well, the transfer of new responsibilities to the Kativik Regional Government by the governments of Québec and Canada has contributed to job creation. Take for example the creation of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau and the region's childcare network. Finally, the growth of business activities (such as the upgrading of the hotels of the Federation of Co-operatives of Northern Québec and the creation of local businesses by dynamic local entrepreneurs) with the support of economic development programs has also contributed to job creation.

Table 2.1

**Full-time employment, Nunavik and Québec, 1995, 2000 and 2005**

(N and %)

Regions	Jobs			Difference		
	1995	2000	2005	1995-2000	2000-2005	1995-2005
	N			%		
Nunavik	1 747	2 114	3 189	21,0	50,9	82,5
Québec	3 135 300	3 402 800	3 717 300	8,5	9,2	18,6

**Sources**Nunavik: Kativik Regional Government, *Jobs in Nunavik in 2005*.

Québec: Institut de la statistique du Québec. Main economic indicators, Québec, annual levels.

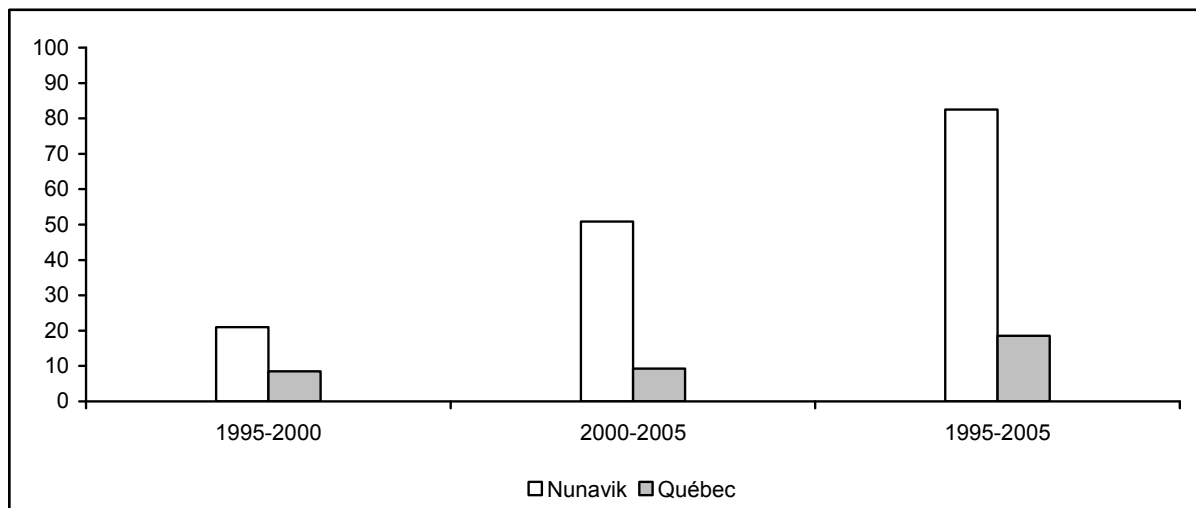
**Note**

The data for Nunavik shown as 2000 are actually for 1998.

Graph 2.1

**Full-time employment, Nunavik and Québec, 1995-2000, 2000-2005 and 1995-2005**

(%)



## 2.2 REGULAR, FULL-TIME JOBS

*Jobs in Nunavik in 2005* identifies significant trends related to the distribution of regular, full-time jobs. The document contains the most recent results in a series of studies conducted by the Kativik Regional Government over the past ten years concerning employment in Nunavik. It shows that the increase in regular, full-time jobs has benefited most often non-beneficiaries of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA), which is to say individuals hired for the most part for fixed terms of service from outside of Nunavik who possess skills not often held by JBNQA beneficiaries or other permanent residents. *Jobs in Nunavik in 2005* also shows that over the past ten years the increase in regular, full-time jobs has benefited women more than men.

Strikingly, in absolute terms the increase in the number of jobs over the past ten years is the same for JBNQA beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, but in relative terms this increase has benefited non-beneficiaries to a greater degree. This trend has led to a situation where, even though JBNQA beneficiaries make up a large majority of Nunavik's population, beneficiaries hold only a little more than half of all regular, full-time jobs. Moreover, this proportion has decreased over the past ten years: JBNQA beneficiaries held 61% of regular, full-time jobs in 1995, but only 56% in 1998 and 2005. All indications suggest that the increase in the proportion of non-beneficiaries is related to the skills needed to perform the available jobs, which even to this day are only rarely met by JBNQA beneficiaries. If true, this analysis indicates that skills development and certification efforts will need to be patiently maintained in order to reverse the situation in the coming years.

In 2005, women held 42% of all regular, full-time jobs, which represents a trend increase. The proportion of women holding regular, full-time employment was 38% in 1995 and 34% in 1998. The recent increase in this proportion is the result of job creation in traditionally female job fields, including health and education.

Table 2.2

**Regular, full-time employment by status and sex, Nunavik, 1995, 1998 and 2005***(N and %)*

Status	Jobs			Difference		
	1995	1998	2005	1995-1998	1998-2005	1995- 2005
	N			%		
Beneficiaries	1 059	1 184	1 782	11,8	50,5	68,3
Non-beneficiaries	688	930	1 407	35,2	51,3	104,5
Men	1 087	1 395	1 863	28,3	33,5	71,4
Women	660	719	1 326	8,9	84,4	100,9
Nunavik	1 747	2 114	3 189	21,0	50,9	82,5

**Source**Kativik Regional Government, *Jobs in Nunavik in 2005*.

Graph 2.2

**Regular, full-time employment by status and sex, Nunavik, 1995, 1998 and 2005***(N)*



### **2.3 FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, SEASONAL AND CASUAL JOBS**

In Nunavik, regular, full-time jobs do not make up the entire labour market. The region also has a large number of part-time, seasonal and casual jobs. According to *Jobs in Nunavik in 2005*, there are a greater number of jobs in these other categories in Nunavik than in the full-time category, at least according to the 2005 version of the study.

Regular, part-time jobs are essentially in the service industry. Their number increased over the past ten years, in particular most rapidly over the past five years. Seasonal jobs are mainly found in the construction and tourism sectors; their number fluctuated over the past ten years, but in 2005 seemed to have returned to their 1995 level.

These results illustrate several unique phenomena in Nunavik. First, they underscore the significant growth of regular, full-time jobs throughout the labour market. Despite this growth, the labour market is grossly inadequate to meet the demand for jobs. If regular, full-time employment increases by close to 82% over ten years, the replacement index will rise at a greater rate (as discussed earlier in this document, section 1.8) since each worker approaching retirement will be replaced by more than three new workers. Theoretically, to meet this demand, the increase in jobs will need to be greater than 300%. Secondly, these results indicate the economic significance of jobs other than those that are regular, full time. Not only are there many of these other categories of jobs, but it seems that they contribute significantly to total family incomes.

Table 2.3

**Jobs by employment period, Nunavik, 1995, 1998 and 2005**

(N and %)

Employment period	Jobs			Difference		
	1995	1998	2005	1995-1998	1998-2005	1995- 2005
	N			%		
Regular, full-time	1 747	2 114	3 189	21,0	50,9	82,5
Regular, part-time	718	787	979	9,6	24,4	36,4
Seasonal	892	415	853	-53,5	105,5	-4,4
Casual	n.a.	n.a.	1 638	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

**Source**Kativik Regional Government, *Jobs in Nunavik in 2005*.**Notes**

Part-time jobs are found in the service sector.

Seasonal jobs are found mainly in the construction and tourism sectors.

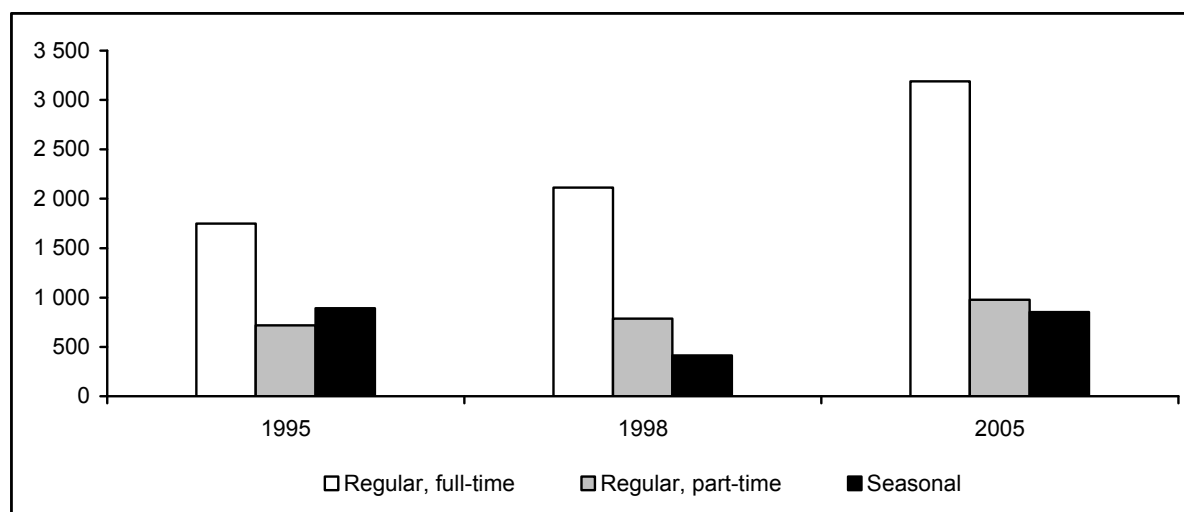
Casual jobs are found mainly in the service sector.

Data for 2005 show jobs outside of Nunavik.

Graph 2.3

**Jobs by employment period, Nunavik, 1995, 1998 and 2005**

(N)



## **2.4 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

For Nunavik, there exists very little data concerning the labour force participation rate and the unemployment rate. Based on the little data available, the labour force participation rate is slightly higher in Nunavik than in the whole of Québec. Nunavik's unemployment rate is also higher than Québec's as a whole. Moreover, while the unemployment rate dipped in Québec as a whole between 1996 and 2001, it rose slightly in Nunavik over the same period.

In the end, there is very little that can be learned from the available data, which does not contain recent indications for Nunavik. Taken as they are, the data indicate that, relatively speaking, the labour force is slightly bigger in Nunavik than in Québec, but there exists less employment.

Table 2.4.1

**Labour force participation, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**  
(%)

Regions	Labour force participation			Difference		
	1996	2001	2006	1996-2001	2001-2006	1996-2006
	%			%		
Nunavik	66,0	66,2	n.a.	0,2	n.a.	n.a.
Nord-du-Québec	n.a.	64,7	68,8	n.a.	4,1	n.a.
Québec	62,3	64,2	64,9	1,9	0,7	2,6

**Sources**

Statistics Canada. 1996 Census of population. Statistics Canada. 2002. 2001 Community Profiles. Released June 27, 2002. Modified : 2005-11-30. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 93F0053XIF. Statistics Canada. 2007. Nord-du-Québec, Québec (table). 2006 Community Profiles, Census 2006, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 92-591-XWF. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.

**Note**

The labour force participation rate represents the proportion of the labour force during the week (from Sunday to Saturday) preceding the day of the census (May 15, 2001 and May 16, 2006) in relation to those aged 15 and over.

Graph 2.4.1

**Labour force participation, Nunavik and Québec, 1996 and 2001**  
(%)

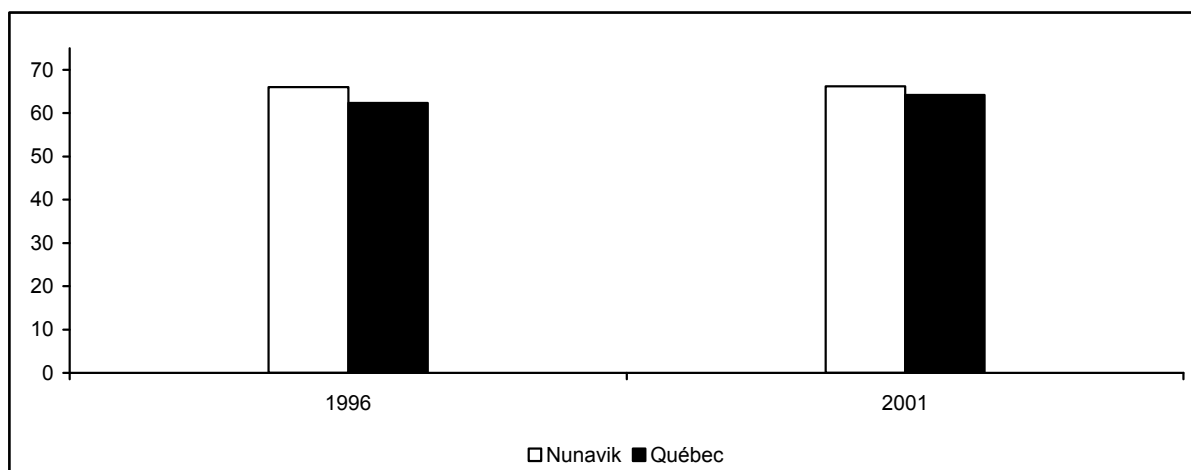




Table 2.4.2

**Unemployment rate, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**  
(%)

Regions	Unemployment rate			Difference		
	1996	2001	2006	1996-2001	2001-2006	1996- 2006
	%			%		
Nunavik	13,6	14,4	n.a.	0,8	n.a.	n.a.
Nord-du-Québec	5,7	14,6	14,2	8,9	-0,4	8,5
Québec	11,8	8,2	8,0	-3,6	-0,2	-3,8

**Sources**

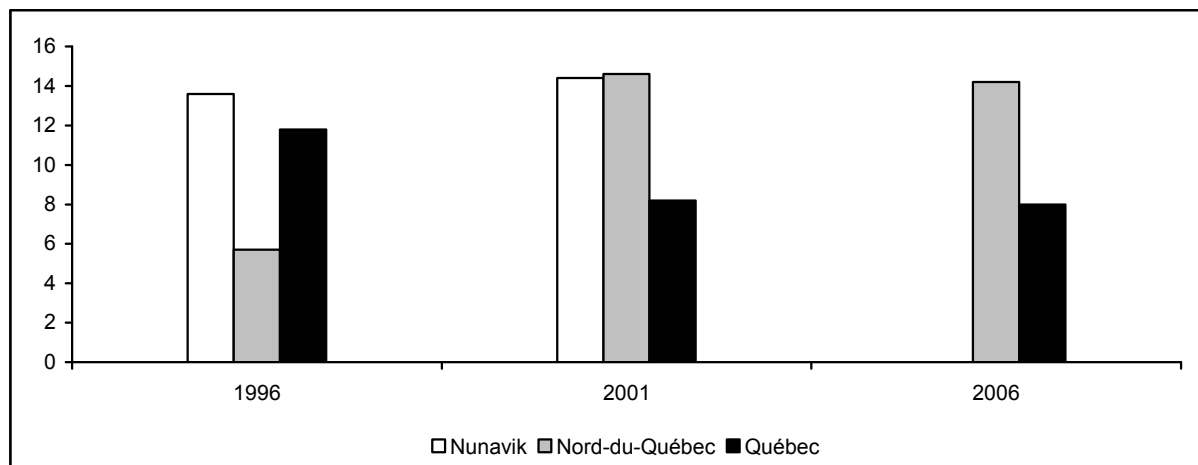
Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec (2001 and 2006) and Québec: Statistics Canada. 1996 Census of population. Statistics Canada. 2002. 2001 Community Profiles. Released June 27, 2002. Modified : 2005-11-30. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 93F0053XIF. Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Community Profiles, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 92-591-XWF. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007. Nord-du-Québec (1996): *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2006 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

**Notes**

The unemployment rate represents the proportion of the population that is unemployed in relation to the total labour force during the week (from Sunday to Saturday) preceding the day of the census (May 15, 2001 and May 16, 2006).  
The data for the Nord-du-Québec shown as 1996 are actually for 1995.

Graph 2.4.2

**Unemployment rate, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec, and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**  
(%)



## 2.5 EMPLOYMENT-ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

The number of adult employment-assistance recipients is more accurate, and especially more up to date, than unemployment figures. Notwithstanding, it is a different type of measurement. The unemployment rate measures the proportion of the population that is unemployed in relation to the entire labour force during the week preceding the census. Employment assistance measures the number of persons who receive last resort financial assistance under the Québec government's Employment-assistance Program<sup>4</sup>.

Notwithstanding, the numbers are so low, and the data so irregular, it is impossible to say whether they reveal a trend or rather a simple combination of current conditions.

Elsewhere in Québec, the number of employment-assistance recipients decreased, in greater proportions than in Nunavik and with an annual regularity that suggests a trend.

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<sup>4</sup> R.S.Q., c. S-32.001. *Act respecting Income Support, Employment Assistance and Social Solidarity*, s. 13.

Table 2.5

**Adult employment-assistance recipients, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2002-2006**

(N and %)

Regions	Total recipients					Difference
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002-2006
	N					%
Nunavik	598	588	588	570	596	-0,3
Nord-du-Québec	1 523	1 417	1 336	1 238	1 305	-14,3
Québec	412 703	404 360	398 040	390 090	382 857	-7,2

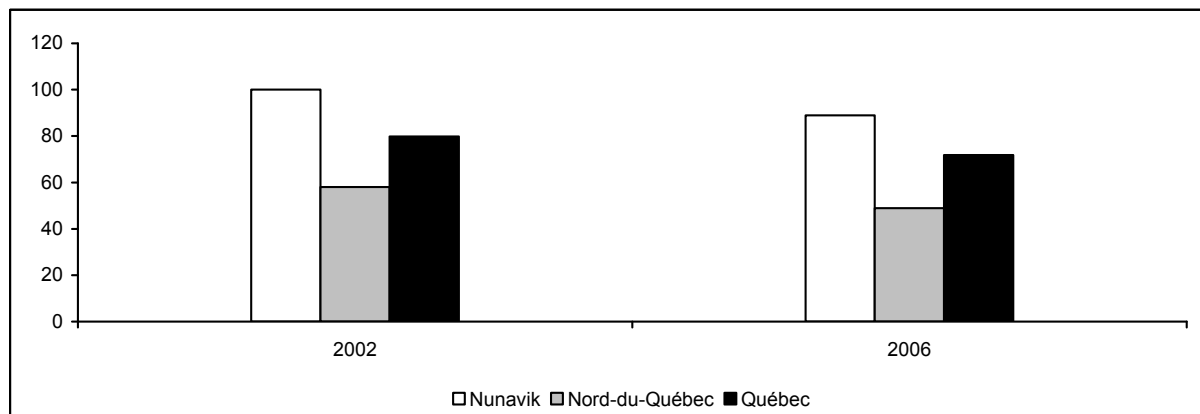
**Source**

Institut de la statistique du Québec. Trends in recipients of employment-assistance by capacity for employment and sex, equivalent territories of the Nord-du-Québec region, 2002-2006.

Graph 2.5

**Adult employment-assistance recipients, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2002 and 2006**

(N for 1000 inhabitants aged 15 to 64)





## SECTION 3 – INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE

### INTRODUCTION

Comparisons of the distribution of economic activity in Nunavik by industry and sector are very complicated. The *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec* favours a distribution by establishment and job. For Nunavik however, there exists additional data based on valid field investigation; it is these data that are given preference in this document. The use of these data nonetheless results in obvious incompatibilities between the data available for the Nord-du-Québec and those for Nunavik. These incompatibilities, which are further mentioned in the following section, limit the accuracy of inter-regional comparisons.

Moreover, compared with the distributions of establishments and jobs, the distribution of gross domestic product by industry is an equally, if not more, appropriate indicator of industrial structure, even though the *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec* does not use this type of distribution. Since such data for Nunavik could not be located with the Institut de la statistique du Québec, previous independent work performed by the authors of this document is presented herein.

### 3.1 ESTABLISHMENTS BY INDUSTRY

Data on the number of establishments in Nunavik are not complete. Taking into account only private-sector enterprises and regionally owned co-operatives, the data reveal a strong concentration of establishments in the service industry. Proportionally speaking, this situation is close to that for the whole of Québec. The proportion of establishments in Nunavik's

primary industry and manufacturing sector is also similar to the situation of Québec as a whole. On the other hand, the data reveal a lower proportion of establishments in the construction sector.

These results for Nunavik illustrate certain seemingly unique elements. First, the relatively low proportion of establishments in the construction sector may be explained by the large number of these establishments that have their places of business outside of Nunavik. Secondly, the proportion of establishments in Nunavik's manufacturing sector is surprising because it is a sign of relatively recent entrepreneurial vitality. A few years ago, there were few establishments in this sector, or few establishments were identified. Finally, the high proportion of establishments identified in Nunavik's service industry is proof of the importance of this industry, which has grown steadily since the settlement of Inuit in villages around the 1960s and following the signing of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* in the middle of the 1970s.

By and large, if despite their limitations the available data adequately reflect the reality of the situation, the distribution of establishments in Nunavik by industry is close to that of Québec as a whole. This could be interpreted as an indication of the integration of Nunavik's economy into that of Québec.

Table 3.1

**Establishments by industry, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006-2007**

(N and %)

Regions	Establishments	Primary	Processing		Service
	N		Construction	Manufacturing	
			%		
Nunavik	107	5,6	0,0	6,5	87,9
Nord-du-Québec	886	9,0	7,3	2,7	80,9
Québec	237 019	5,8	10,8	7,0	76,4

**Sources**

Nunavik: Kativik Regional Government, Research and economic development department, *Nunavik Regional and Private Business Directory*, 2007

Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2007 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

**Notes**

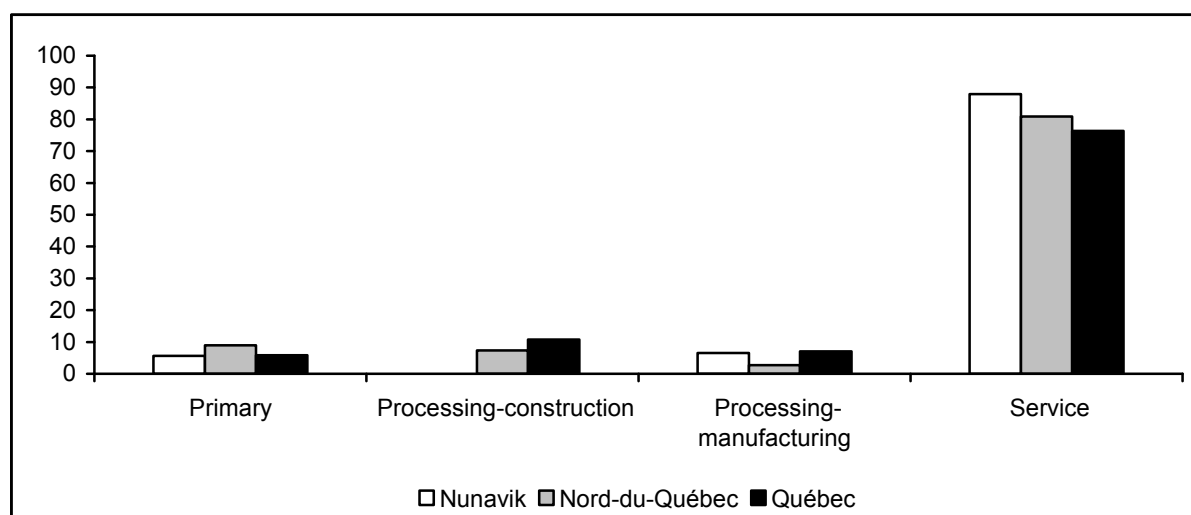
The data for Nunavik are for 2007 while those for Québec are for 2006.

The data for Nunavik do not include establishments which are not regionally owned, such as the mine at Katiniq, and establishments which, even though they have activities in Nunavik, do not have their places of business in the region, such as mineral exploration companies. The data also do not include public administration establishments. With respect to the data for Québec, it is unknown whether or not these kinds of establishments were included in the calculation.

Graph 3.1

**Establishments by industry, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006-2007**

(%)



### 3.2 JOBS BY INDUSTRY

The obvious incompatibilities mentioned in the introduction to this section become particularly evident when comparing the data produced by the Institut de la statistique du Québec for the Nord-du-Québec and the data produced by the Kativik Regional Government for Nunavik. Specifically, the data contained in the *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec* make it possible to calculate roughly 598 jobs throughout the Nord-du-Québec, including Nunavik, in the primary sector in 2005. On the other hand, the Kativik Regional Government's study identifies in Nunavik alone in the very same year 554 regular, full-time jobs. As was the case in the preceding subsection, due to the inconsistency of these results, in this document jobs-by-industry comparisons are only made with Québec. While no attempt is made herein to explain these inconsistencies, such a review should eventually be carried out.

The distribution of regular, full-time jobs by industry also reveals certain unique information about Nunavik, especially when compared with the distribution of establishments. First, the primary industry, which comprises only 4.7% of establishments, provides a much higher proportion of jobs. This situation may be due to the fact that the primary industry is labour intensive.

On the other hand, establishments in the processing industry have a smaller proportion of regular, full-time jobs. In the case of the construction sector, this lower proportion may be explained by the fact that the related jobs are generally casual, and this category of employment is not contemplated herein. Finally, in the manufacturing sector, the lower proportion may be due to the fact that the establishments are generally small businesses, or micro-enterprises to use a

term coined in the *Nunavik Regional and Private Business Directory* (2007). These establishments have few or no regular, full-time employees, and are essentially owner-operated businesses.

The situation described above would be slightly different if regular, part-time jobs as well as seasonal and casual jobs were taken into consideration; as discussed earlier in this document, there are many such jobs in Nunavik. The large majority of regular, part-time and casual jobs are in the service industry. While this additional data would not change the overall pattern, the weight of the processing industry would be affected: as discussed earlier in this document, in 2005 roughly 853 seasonal jobs were identified specifically in the construction sector.

Table 3.2  
**Jobs by industry, Nunavik and Québec, 2005**  
 (N and %)

Regions								
	Primary	Processing		Service	Primary	Processing		Service
		Construction	Manufacturing			Construction	Manufacturing	
		N				%		
Nunavik	551	9	2	2 627	17,3	0,3	0,1	82,4
Québec	100 367	178 430	617 072	2 825 148	2,7	4,8	16,6	76,0

#### Sources

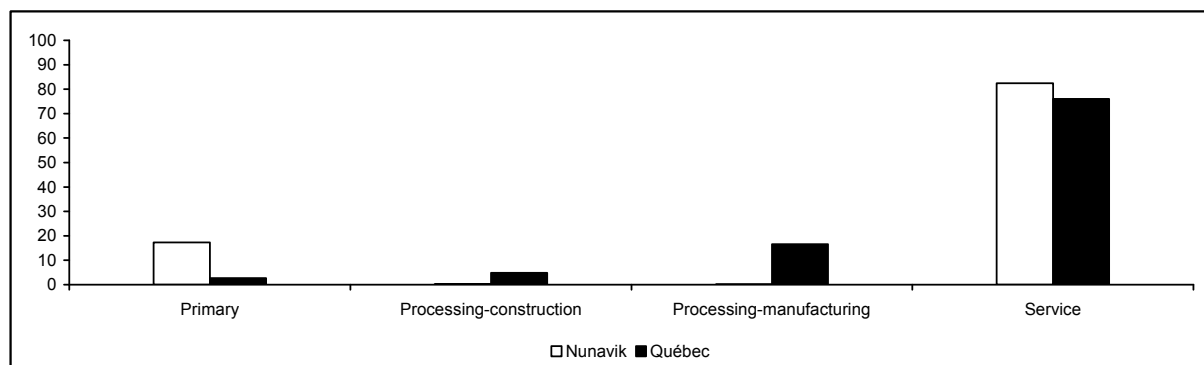
Nunavik: Kativik Regional Government. *Jobs in Nunavik in 2005*.

Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2006 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

#### Notes

The data for Nunavik are solely for regular, full-time equivalent. The data for Québec were calculated based on the proportions available at the source, and the totals may not correspond with those appearing in the tables in the preceding section of employment.

Graph 3.2  
**Jobs by industry, Nunavik and Québec, 2005**  
 (%)



### 3.3 JOBS IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY

The importance of the service industry in Nunavik's economy requires more in-depth analysis. The *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec* divides the distribution of service-industry jobs into three groups: household services (retail, accommodations, etc.), public services (teaching, health, power, etc.) and driving-force services (financial, wholesale, professional and administrative, etc.). As regards regular, full-time jobs in Nunavik's service industry, the distribution reveals a proportion that is twice as great in Nunavik as in the whole of Québec for public services, a slightly lower proportion for household services, and a proportion that is four times less for driving-force services.

The importance of public services is not surprising. The administrative structures resulting from the *James and Northern Québec Agreement*, various subsequent agreements between the Kativik Regional Government and the Canadian and Québec governments, as well as the rising demand for services by a growing population have contributed to make public services the number one source of employment in Nunavik. This same result has furthermore been demonstrated in several other studies.

Household services are proportionally less important in Nunavik than in Québec as a whole, if the data are to be believed. This result is due to the very limited size of the Nunavik market, which does not permit the cost-effective delivery of a range of services as complete as in urban regions. Notwithstanding, it is possible that this result under-estimates the importance of these services since the data contemplated were solely for regular, full-time jobs and since, as discussed earlier in this document, a number of jobs in this field are seasonal or occasional, as in the tourism sector for example.

The clear under-representation of driving-force services is a distinguishing characteristic of Nunavik. This situation may again be explained by the limited size of the regional market, which does not stimulate businesses in this field, as well as by the fact that several establishments in this sector have their places of business outside of Nunavik, and these are not contemplated in this document.

Table 3.3  
**Jobs in the service industry by field, Nunavik and Québec, 2005**  
 (N and %)

Regions	Household services	Public services	Driving-force services	Household services	Public services	Driving-force services
	N			%		
Nunavik	669	1 752	200	21,0	54,9	6,3
Québec	1 018 540	936 760	866 131	27,4	25,2	23,3

**Sources**

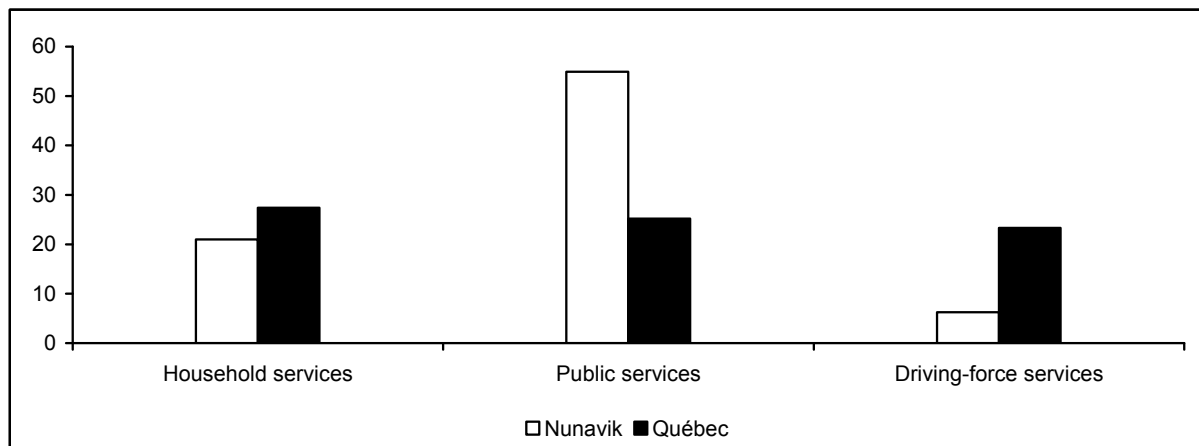
Nunavik: Kativik Regional Government. *Jobs in Nunavik in 2005*.

Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2006 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

**Note**

The data for Nunavik are solely for regular, full-time jobs. The data for Québec were calculated based on the proportions available at the source, and the totals may not correspond to those appearing in the tables in the preceding section on employment, in particular because numbers were rounded off.

Graph 3.3  
**Jobs in the service industry by field, Nunavik and Québec, 2005**  
 (%)



### **3.4 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT BY INDUSTRY**

As stated in the introduction to this section, the industrial structure of Nunavik's economy is more justly illustrated by the distribution of gross domestic product, and it is possible for this purpose to draw on independent work recently completed by the authors.

The distribution of gross domestic product by industry identifies much more clearly characteristics of Nunavik's economy, in addition to qualifying the results obtained concerning the distribution of establishments and jobs. The primary industry comprises a large proportion of Nunavik's gross domestic product. Alone, it represents 20% of all regional economic activity. Yet only 5% of the region's establishments are involved in this industry, indicating that these are large-scale establishments. This situation is very different from that of the whole of Québec where the primary industry makes up less than 3% of all economic activity. This contrast confirms Nunavik's status as a resource region.

With respect to the weight of Nunavik's processing industry, the results obtained through the distribution of establishments and jobs were somewhat ambiguous. The results obtained through the distribution of gross domestic product are much clearer; they show that the processing industry represents roughly 4% of all economic activity or clearly less than the proportion of the industry in Québec as a whole. If it is true that the manufacturing sector comprises a relatively high number of small businesses that generate little employment, it is also true that the value of this sector in Nunavik remains very weak.

Moreover, if it is true that a small number of regional businesses (and likely several businesses from outside of Nunavik) have activities in the construction sector and generate little regular employment, the economic weight of this sector is more accurately measurable by gross domestic product.

Finally, the change observed in the distribution of industries in Nunavik between 1998 and 2003 more or less reflects the change observed during the same period in Québec as a whole, which serves as proof of the integration of Nunavik's economy into that of Québec.

Table 3.4a

**Gross domestic product by industry, Nunavik and Québec, 1998 and 2003**

(\$)

Regions	Year	Primary	Processing		Service
			Construction	Manufacturing	
\$					
Nunavik	2003	48 931 600	9 001 600	868 100	192 041 900
	1998	31 537 100	4 865 500	607 400	119 690 400
Québec	2003	5 693 400 000	11 884 600 000	46 455 000 000	168 696 600 000
	1998	5 152 400 000	8 792 700 000	39 593 700 000	128 713 100 000

Table 3.4b

**Gross domestic product by industry, Nunavik and Québec, 1998 and 2003**

(% )

Region	Year	Primary	Processing		Service
			Construction	Manufacturing	
			%		
Nunavik	2003	19.5	3.6	0.3	76.6
	1998	20.1	3.1	0.4	76.4
Québec	2003	2.4	5.1	20.0	72.5
	1998	2.8	4.8	21.7	70.6

**Sources**

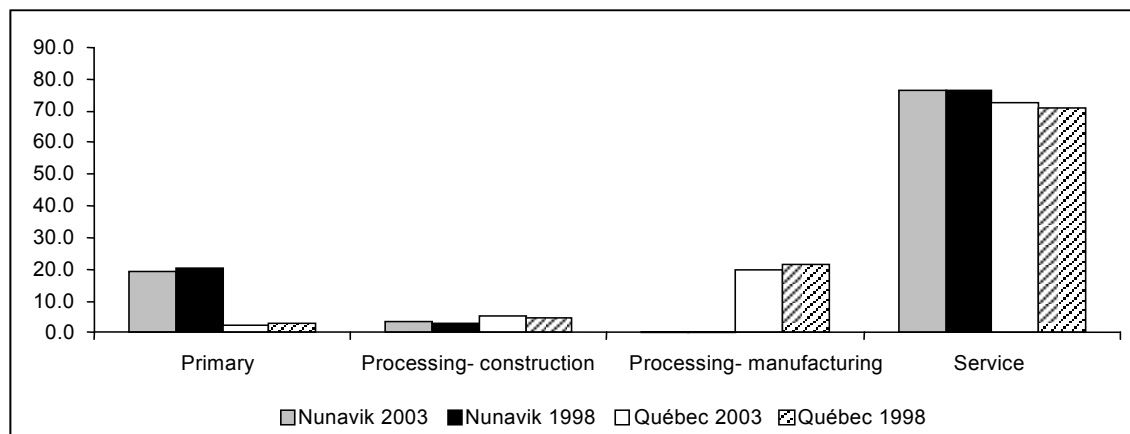
Nunavik: Robichaud, V. (ed. G. Duhaime), 2007 *L'économie du Nunavik 2003*. Canada Research Chair in Comparative Aboriginal Condition.

Québec: Statistics Canada. CANSIM table 379-0025. Gross domestic product (GDP) at base prices, by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and province, annual (dollars x 1,000,000).

Graph 3.4

**Gross domestic product by industry, Nunavik and Québec, 1998 and 2003**

(% )





## **SECTION 4 – INVESTMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Few data are available to permit a comparison of investments in Nunavik with those in the Nord-du-Québec and Québec. The Kativik Regional Government's 2005 annual report represented the most reliable source of information in this respect, although it is uncertain if the data reported are exhaustive. It is not clear for example if investments by regional corporations outside of Nunavik were taken into account.

If such comparative data were accurate and exhaustive, they would reveal that the proportion of investments in Nunavik is much lower than those for investments in the Nord-du-Québec and Québec. They would also reveal that the private sector is responsible for close to two thirds of investments, which is lower than the proportion of investments in Québec, but higher than that in the Nord-du-Québec.

Given the current status of these data, it would be risky to propose an interpretation. These data appear to be fragmented and an effort should be made in the future to validate them and, subsequently, to provide analysis.

Table 4.1.1

**Private- and public-sector investment, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Quebec, 2005-2006**

(\$ and %)

Regions	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector
	\$	\$	\$	%	
Nunavik	2 544 064	1 186 686	3 730 750	68,2	31,8
Nord-du-Québec	211 000 000	1 181 000 000	1 392 000 000	15,2	84,8
Québec	37 641 000 000	13 087 000 000	50 728 000 000	74,2	25,8

**Sources**

Nunavik: Kativik Regional Government, 2005 Annual report, p. 104.

Nord-du-Québec et Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2006 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.**Note**

The data for Nunavik are for 2005, while the data for Nord-du-Québec and Quebec are for 2006

Graph 4.1.1

**Private- and public-sector investment, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Quebec, 2005-2006**

(%)

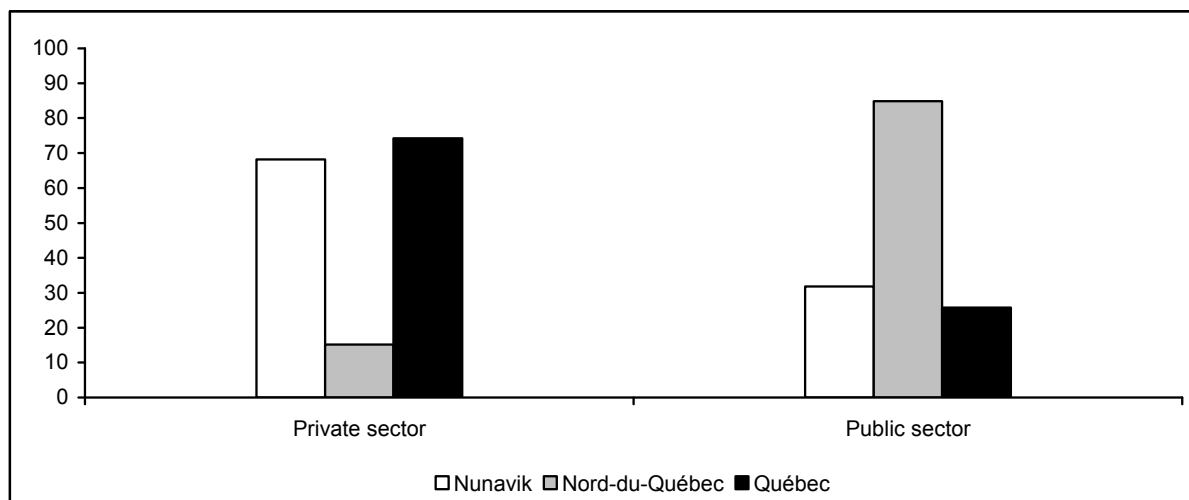




Table 4.1.2

**Private- and public-sector investment, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2005-2006**  
(\$ per capita)

Regions	Private sector	Public sector	Total
	\$ per capita		\$
Nunavik	244	114	358
Nord-du-Québec	5 326	29 812	35 138
Québec	4 951	1 721	6 672

**Sources**

Nunavik: Kativik Regional Government, 2005 Annual report, p. 104.

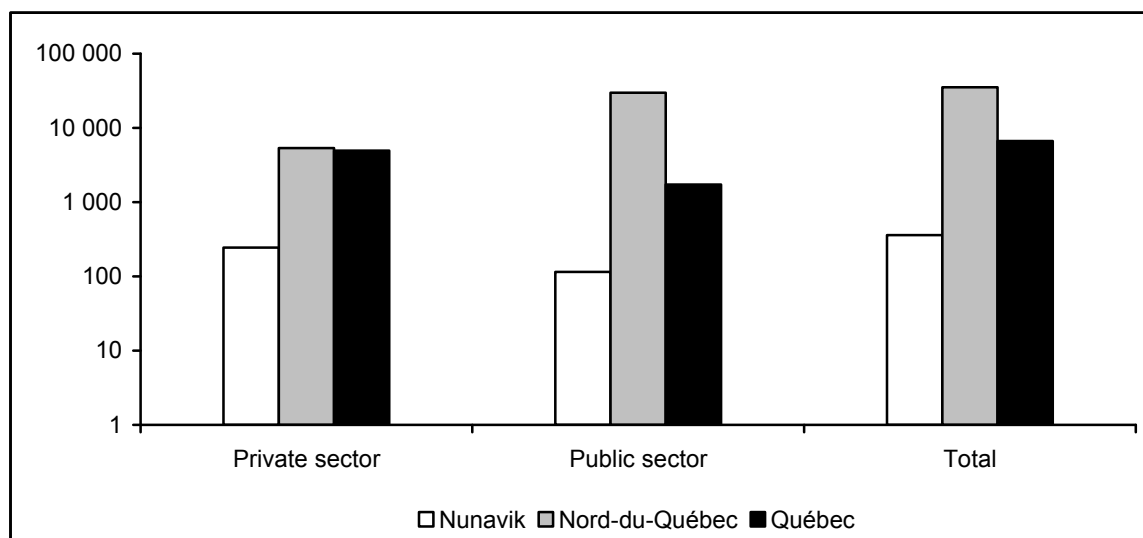
Nord-du-Québec et Québec: *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*, 2006 Edition. Québec, Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation.

**Note**

The data for Nunavik are for 2005, while the data for the Nord-du-Québec and Québec are for 2006

Graph 4.1.2

**Private- and public-sector investment, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2005-2006**  
(\$ per capita, logarithmic scale)



## SECTION 5 – EDUCATION

### 5.1 SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Given the current status of available data, it is difficult to carry out a systematic comparison of school enrolment in Nunavik and enrolment in the whole of Québec, according to the method used in the *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec*. Certain characteristics can nonetheless be described.

Overall, school enrolment has increased in the past ten years, with the difference between 1994 and 2004 being 17.2%. The increase has been slower in the past five years. There is furthermore little difference in enrolment data for elementary students (including pre-schoolers) and for high school students.

These characteristics are closely tied with the population growth discussed earlier in this document. The proportion of school-age youth is high in Nunavik, explaining the jump in enrolment. As well, the slowing pace of population growth explains the less rapid increase in enrolment over the past five years.

Table 5.1

**School enrolment by level, pre-school to high school, Nunavik, 1995, 2000 and 2005**

(N and %)

Level	Enrolment			Difference		
	1995	2000	2005	1995-2000	2000-2005	1995-2005
	N			%		
Pre-school and elementary	1 874	2 112	2 128	12,7	0,8	13,6
High school	779	840	921	7,8	9,6	18,2
Total	2 653	2 952	3 049	11,3	3,3	14,9

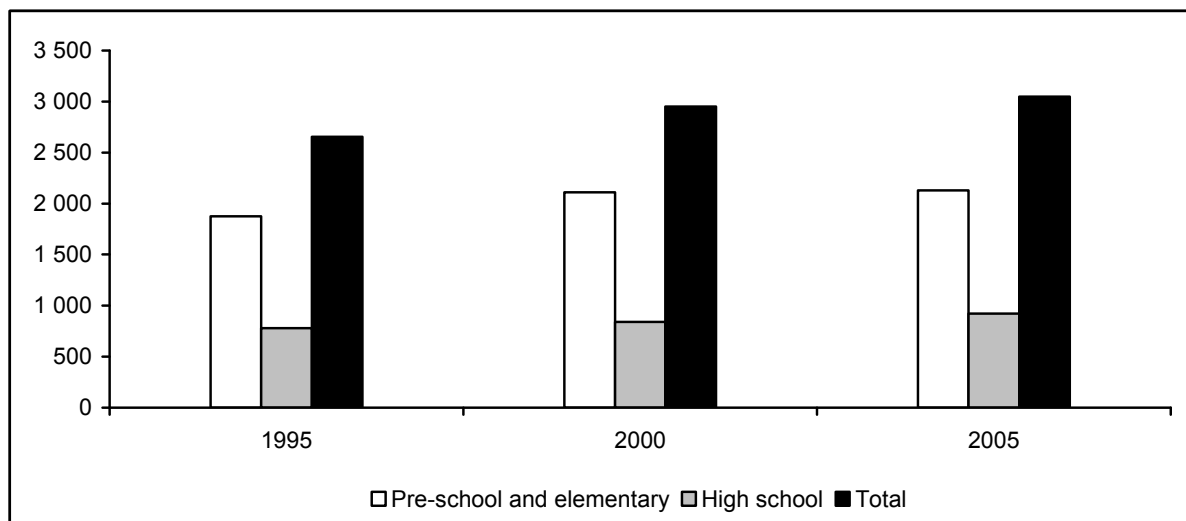
**Source**

Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec 1995; Ministère de l'Éducation des Loisirs et du Sport 2000; Kativik School Board 2005.

Graph 5.1

**School enrolment by level, pre-school to high school, Nunavik, 1995, 2000 and 2005**

(N)



## **5.2 LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

During the first two years at elementary school, the language of instruction is Inuktitut.

During the following years, students receive instruction in French or English, depending on their parents' choice. The breakdown of students between the two languages is practically equal.

Table 5.2a  
**Enrolment by levels and language of instruction, Nunavik, 2005**  
 (N)

Languages	Enrolment by levels				
	Pre-school	Elementary (1-2)	Elementary (3-7)	High school	Total
	N				
Inuktitut	261	516	39	0	816
French	0	0	665	461	1 126
English	0	0	638	469	1 107
Total	261	516	1 342	930	3 049

**Source**

Kativik School Board, "Statistics for the regular sector", [www.kativik.ca](http://www.kativik.ca) (July 2, 2008).

**Note**

In Nunavik, Inuktitut is the language of instruction during the first two years at elementary school (Grades 1 and 2). Grade 3 is taught half in Inuktitut and half in second language. From grade 4, the main language of instruction is either French or English.

Table 5.2b  
**Enrolment by levels and language of instruction, Nunavik, 2005**  
 (%)

Languages	Enrolment by levels				
	Pre-school	Elementary (1-2)	Elementary (3-7)	High school	Total
	%				
Inuktitut	100,0	100,0	2,9	0,0	26,8
French	0,0	0,0	49,6	49,6	36,9
English	0,0	0,0	47,5	50,4	36,3
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

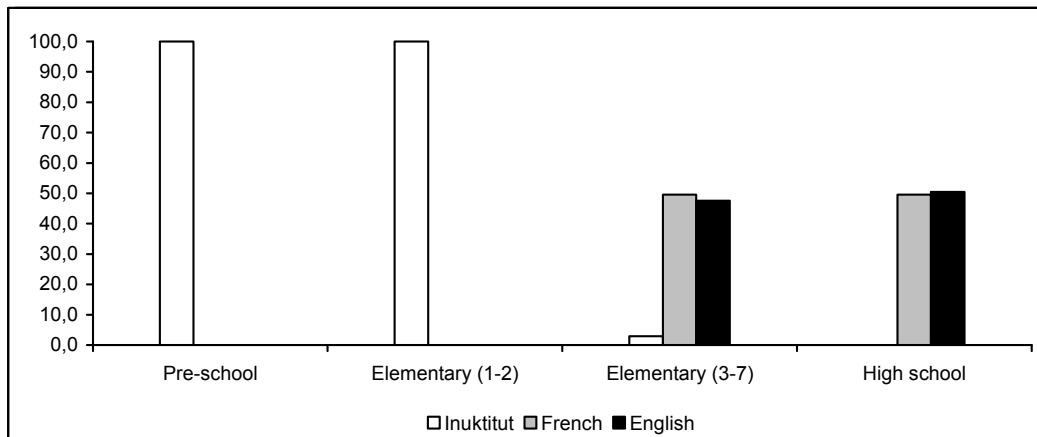
**Source**

Kativik School Board, "Statistics for the regular sector", [www.kativik.ca](http://www.kativik.ca) (July 2, 2008).

**Note**

In Nunavik, Inuktitut is the language of instruction during the first two years at elementary school (Grades 1 and 2). Grade 3 is taught half in Inuktitut and half in second language. From grade 4, the main language of instruction is either French or English.

Graph 5.2  
**Enrolment by levels and language of instruction, Nunavik, 2005**  
 (%)





### **5.3 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF THOSE AGED 15 AND OLDER**

In 2001, the proportion of full-time students aged 15 and older was almost the same in Nunavik and in Québec. The proportion was slightly lower for part-time students.

This result shows that schooling for those aged 15 and older is practically speaking the same in Nunavik as in the whole of Québec. This result could reflect a positive attitude towards schooling among the general population, based on the understanding that increased skills and qualifications can lead to better living conditions.

Table 5.3

**School attendance, individuals aged 15 and older, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2001**  
(*N* and %)

Regions	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time
	<i>N</i>		%	
Nunavik	705	170	12,01	2,90
Nord-du-Québec	3 380	1 185	13,54	4,75
Québec	700 425	258 160	11,78	4,34

**Source**

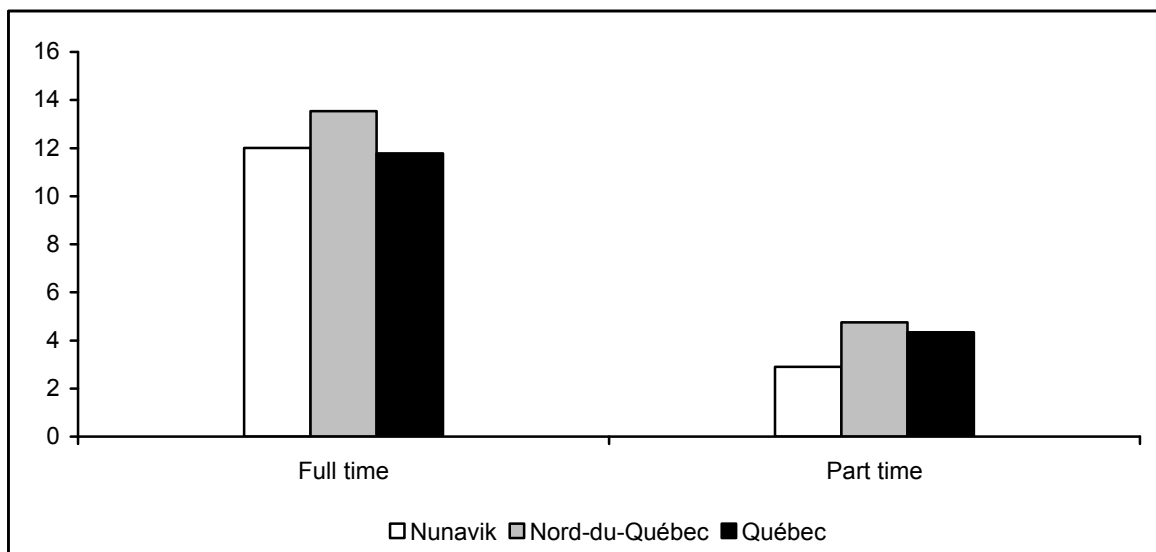
Statistics Canada, 2001 Community Profiles.

**Note**

The percentage data shown was calculated based on the population aged 15 and older.

Graph 5.3

**School attendance, individuals aged 15 and older, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2001**  
(%)



#### **5.4 POPULATION BETWEEN 15 AND 24 YEARS OF AGE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL**

In 2001, 63% of the population between 15 and 24 years of age did not attend school. In ten years, this proportion has risen slightly. But it is a proportion that is almost two times greater than that for Québec as a whole. The result suggests that a large proportion of the students of Nunavik do not continue their schooling beyond the secondary level. Nevertheless, without more comprehensive and more recent data, this interpretation is provisional.

Table 5.4

Proportion of the population aged 15 to 24 not attending school by sex, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1991, 1996 and 2001  
(%)

Regions	Males			Females			Total			Variation
	1991	1996	2001	1991	1996	2001	1991	1996	2001	1991-2001
	%			%			%			%
Nunavik	61,5	60,5	65,1	56,8	56,5	62,8	60,6	59,8	62,9	3,8
Nord-du-Québec	52,5	50,6	54,9	49,3	50,2	51,1	52,5	51,0	52,7	0,4
Québec	38,8	32,5	36,1	35,7	29,2	30,2	37,3	30,9	33,2	-11,0

**Source**

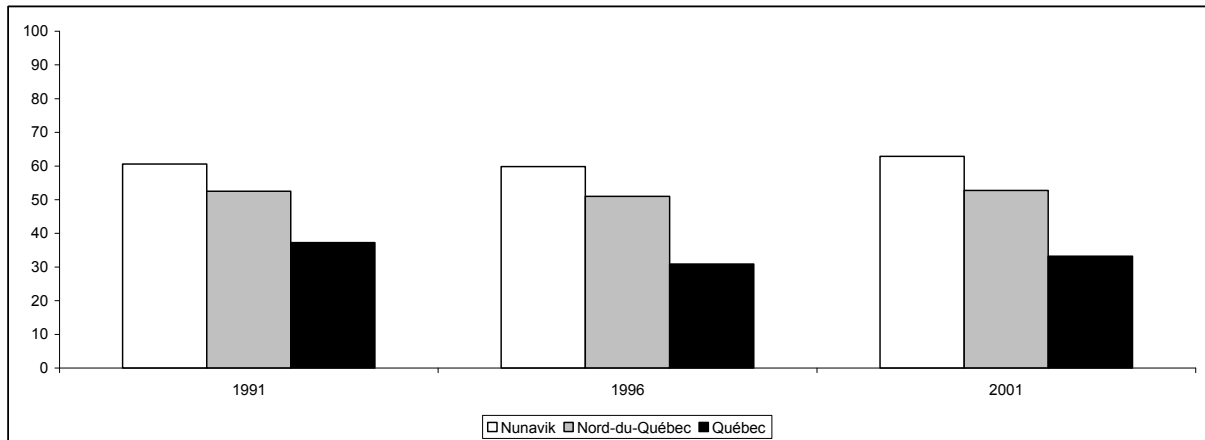
Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The percentage of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region is calculated from the data of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik, and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once grouped together, these three health regions form the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 5.4

Proportion of the population aged 15 to 24 not attending school by sex, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1991, 1996 and 2001  
(%)



## **5.5 HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOLING**

In 2001 in Nunavik, 54% of those aged between 20 and 64 possessed a level of schooling below that of high school graduation certificate, which is proportionally 30% greater than the situation in Québec as a whole. In fact, the highest level of schooling attained in Nunavik is almost always less than the averages for Québec as a whole. The only exception is for trades certificates, a category that comprises tailored training programs.

One of the reasons for this unique difference is likely the small proportion of elders who received little or no formal schooling at a young age. In 2004 for example, 68% of Inuit aged 60 and older declared that they had received no formal schooling, while 30% had participated, at least partially, in high school studies or some postsecondary education.

Table 5.5a

Population aged between 20 and 64 by highest level of schooling, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006

(N)

Regions	Population aged between 20 and 64	Less than high school	High school certificate or some secondary studies	Trades certificates	College certificate or diploma	University certificate, diploma or degree
	N	N				
Nunavik	5 265	2 780	720	955	445	485
Nord-du-Québec	22 410	8 840	3 550	4 475	3 155	2 375
Québec	4 709 490	796 555	1 015 945	834 895	881 305	1 180 775

**Source**

Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population, Topic-based tabulations, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-560-XCB2006008.

**Notes**

Postsecondary certificates or diploma: from any non-university institution that does not award degrees, such as community colleges, Cégeps, private-commercial colleges and technical institutes.

University degree: bachelor's degree or higher.

Table 5.5b

Population aged between 20 and 64 by highest level of schooling, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006

(%)

Regions	Population aged between 20 and 64	Less than high school	High school certificate or some secondary studies	Trades certificates	College certificate or diploma	University certificate, diploma or degree
	%	%				
Nunavik	100	52,8	13,7	18,1	8,5	9,2
Nord-du-Québec	100	39,4	15,8	20,0	14,1	10,6
Québec	100	16,9	21,6	17,7	18,7	25,1

**Sources**

Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population, Topic-based tabulations, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-560-XCB2006008.

**Notes**

Postsecondary certificates or diploma: from any non-university institution that does not award degrees, such as community colleges, Cégeps, private-commercial colleges and technical institutes.

University degree: bachelor's degree or higher.

Graph 5.5a

Population aged between 20 and 64 by highest level of schooling, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006

(%)

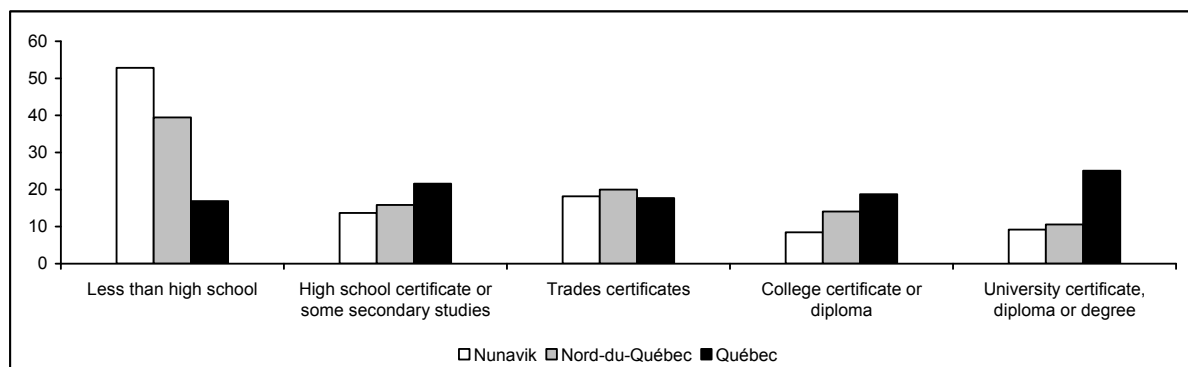




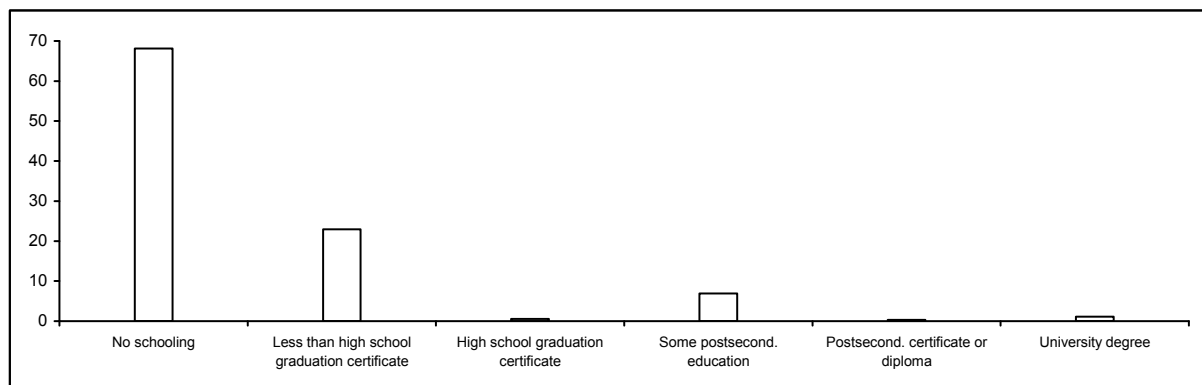
Table 5.5c  
**Inuit population aged 60 and older by highest level of schooling, Nunavik, 2004**  
 (N and %)

Units	Inuit population aged 60 +	No schooling	Less than high school graduation certificate	High school graduation certificate	Some postsecond. education	Postsecond. certificate or diploma	University degree
N	348	237	80	2	24	1	4
%	100,00	68,10	22,99	0,57	6,90	0,29	1,15

**Source**

Bernard, Nick (ed. G. Duhaime), 2005, *Socio-economic Profile of Elders in Nunavik*, Québec, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Aboriginal Condition, Université Laval, Table 5, p.23

Graph 5.5b  
**Inuit population aged 60 and older by highest level of schooling, Nunavik, 2004**  
 (%)





## SECTION 6 – LIVING CONDITIONS

### INTRODUCTION

The *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec* basically chooses disposable personal income as an indicator of living conditions since, as the authors explain "the standard of living of a population directly reflects the wealth of a region and remains a major indicator of the economic well-being of people. The more a population increases its standard of living, the more this population acquires autonomy and a greater leeway in terms of its development" (free translation)<sup>5</sup>.

Other indicators are also useful for describing and understanding the living conditions. This 2008 edition has been enriched with additional indicators not found in the *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec* published by the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation: housing, health care services and social services, the state of health and crime. Wherever possible, comparative data for Northern Québec and Québec have been incorporated in the tables.

### 6.1 PERSONAL INCOME

#### 6.1.1 Personal disposable income

According to the results produced by the authors of this document, personal disposable income per capita was \$22,655 in Nunavik in 2003. This amount is slightly higher than that for Québec as a whole.

As described earlier in this document, a certain number of the jobs in Nunavik are held by workers whose permanent residences are situated outside of the

region. As a result, a portion of the income generated through regional economic activity ends up being transferred out of the region. Taking into consideration only permanent residents, the level of personal disposable income is different than the level mentioned above. Personal disposable income per capita for permanent residents is \$18,973. This amount is 16% lower than the personal disposable income for all Nunavik workers and 9% lower than personal disposable income per capita in Québec as a whole.

This result suggests that a high level of employment income is paid to non-residents. This situation may be explained by the high salaries paid in certain industries (such as mining, where a majority of jobs are held by workers from outside of Nunavik) and by the fact that many of the jobs that require advanced schooling and have higher pay are held by non-residents.

The results also show that the growth of personal disposable income is twice as great in Nunavik compared with the whole of Québec.

Analysis of available data over 20 years suggests that this greater increase in Nunavik may relate to the regional economic slowdown that occurred in 1998 as a result to limited housing construction and mining production.

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<sup>5</sup> *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec, Édition 2007*, p.87.

Table 6.1.1

**Personal disposable income per capita, Nunavik, Nunavik residents only and Québec, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**

(current \$ per capita and %)

Regions	Personal disposable income per capita				Variation
	1983	1991	1998	2003	1998-2003
	\$ per capita				%
Nunavik	8 772	14 684	15 048	22 655	50,6
Nunavik residents only	6 904	11 815	17 003	18 973	11,6
Québec	9 687	15 437	17 223	21 325	23,8

**Sources**

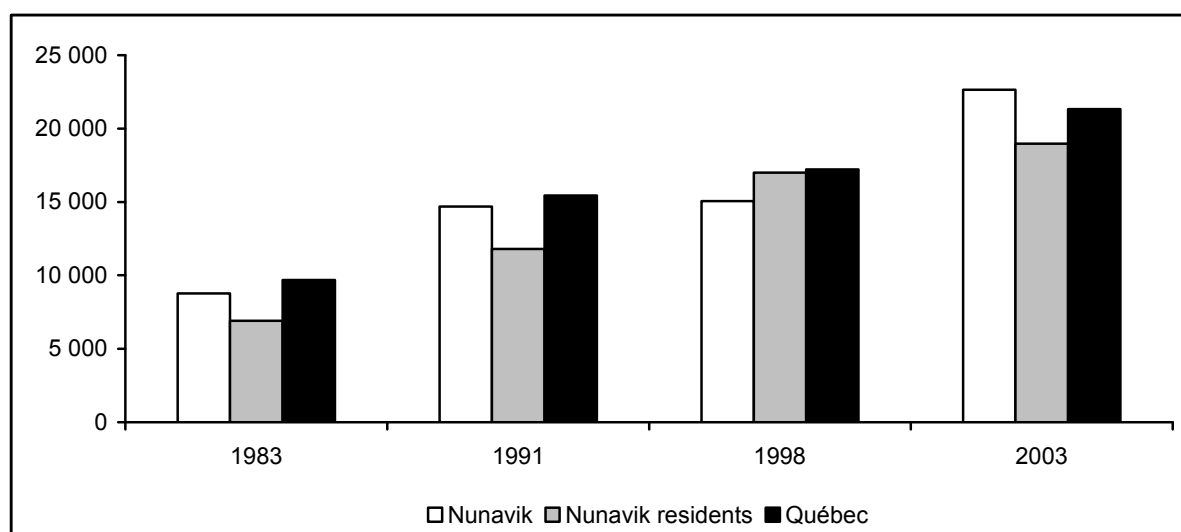
Nunavik: Robichaud, V. (ed. G. Duhaime), 2007. *L'économie du Nunavik 2003*. Québec, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Aboriginal Condition. Duhaime, G., Fréchette, P. and V. Robichaud, 1998. *Social Accounting Matrix for the Nunavik Regional Economy*, Québec, GÉTIC, Université Laval, collection "Recherche", 14 p. Robichaud, V. 1994. *La construction d'un modèle calculable d'équilibre général pour le Québec arctique*. Québec, Université Laval (Master's thesis in economics), 83 p. Duhaime, G. 1991, "Contraintes économiques à l'autonomie politique. Une matrice de comptabilité sociale du Nunavik (Canada)". *Canadian Journal of Regional Sciences*, 14 (1): 93-112.

Québec: calculations based on the Institut de la statistique du Québec, Source of personal income and personal disposable income, expressed in millions of dollars, Québec, 1961-2005. Population migration (total population, births, deaths, net migration), Québec, 1971-2006.

Graph 6.1.1

**Personal disposable income per capita, Nunavik, Nunavik residents only and Québec, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**

(current \$ per capita)



### **6.1.2 *Employment income***

Taking into consideration only employment income, the results produced are in line with the results for personal disposable income. Employment income is slightly higher in Nunavik than in Québec as a whole, but it is lower for Nunavik residents compared with Nunavik as a whole and with Québec.

These results could reflect a difference in salaries. For example, salaries in the mining industry are high, and employee remote-region benefits are included in labour costs. This latter factor could clarify the difference in employment income in Nunavik as a whole compared with the income of only residents: not all residents receive remote-region benefits. The difference could also be attributed to the fact that Nunavik residents hold more lower-paying jobs (retail and seasonal jobs, for example).

In addition, the growth of employment income is greater in Nunavik than in Québec as a whole. But as was stressed earlier in this document, the difference between Nunavik and Québec is relatively unchanged, in all likelihood due to the steady growth of the population in Nunavik.

Table 6.1.2

**Employment income per capita, Nunavik, Nunavik residents only and Québec, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**  
(\$ per capita and %)

Regions	Employment income per capita				Variation
	1983	1991	1998	2003	1998-2003
	\$ per capita				%
Nunavik	8 184	14 793	15 184	22 119	45,7
Nunavik residents only	6 316	11 921	12 481	18 437	48,3
Québec	8 657	13 758	15 907	20 135	26,6

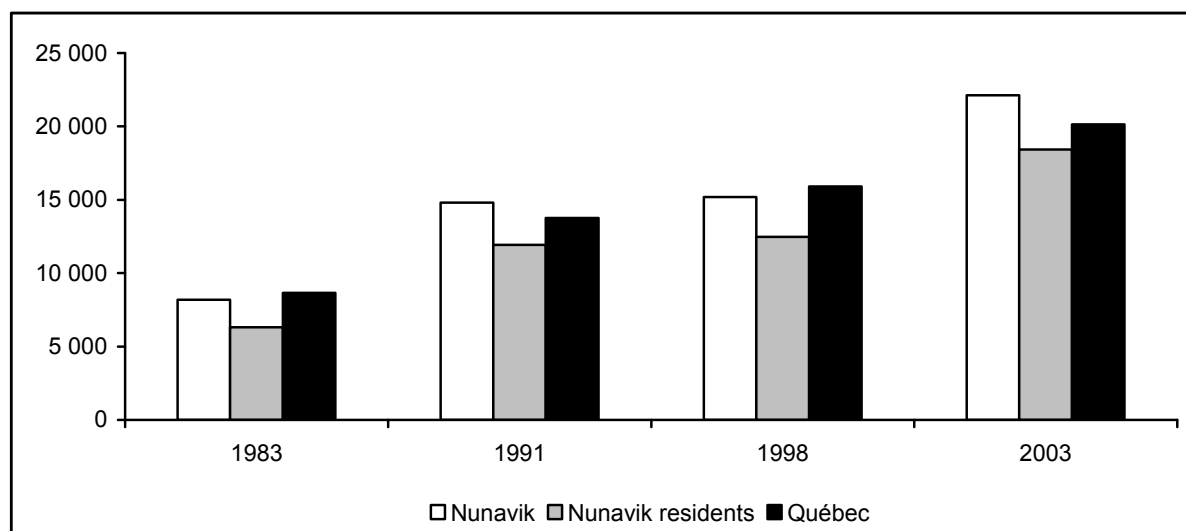
**Sources**

Nunavik: Robichaud, V. (ed. G. Duhaime), 2007. *L'économie du Nunavik 2003*. Québec, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Aboriginal Condition. Duhaime, G., Fréchette, P. and V. Robichaud, 1998. *Social Accounting Matrix for the Nunavik Regional Economy*, Québec, GÉTIC, Université Laval, collection "Recherche", 14 p. Robichaud, V. 1994. *La construction d'un modèle calculable d'équilibre général pour le Québec arctique*. Québec, Université Laval (Master's thesis in economics), 83 p. Duhaime, G. 1991, "Contraintes économiques à l'autonomie politique. Une matrice de comptabilité sociale du Nunavik (Canada)". Canadian Journal of Regional Sciences, 14 (1): 93-112.

Québec: calculations based on the Institut de la statistique du Québec, Source of personal income and personal disposable income, expressed in millions of dollars, Québec, 1961-2005. Population migration (total population, births, deaths, net migration), Québec, 1971-2006.

Graph 6.1.2

**Employment income per capita, Nunavik, Nunavik residents only and Québec, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**  
(\$ per capita)



### **6.1.3 Public transfer income**

Transfer income includes all types of payments made by public authorities to individuals. In Nunavik, transfer income is lower per capita than transfer income of individuals in Québec as a whole, taking into account the same transfers. This same situation has existed since 1991, according to the observations made by the authors of this document. The difference is significant: per capita transfer income in Nunavik is 25% lower than per capita transfer income in the whole of Québec.

Having not completed in-depth analysis of the data and their components, it is difficult to propose a credible explanation for this situation. One hypothesis maintains that transfer income for Québec as a whole is influenced by the province's aging population, which increases the benefits payable to seniors.

It should also be noted that, during the last five years, transfer payments have increased more rapidly in Nunavik than in Québec. Although a more solid explanation requires more thorough analysis of the data and their components, it may be proposed that the rapid growth of the population (due to a high birth rate) has partially contributed to this result.

Finally, over the past 20 years during which time this data was periodically produced, transfer payments have increased twice as much in Québec as whole compared with Nunavik. Based on current knowledge, this situation may be attributed to a relatively high level of transfer payments early in the period under study, followed by a relatively rapid increase in jobs (and of course employment income). But this statement is merely speculation and needs to be verified.

Table 6.1.3

**Public transfer income per capita, Nunavik and Québec, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**

(\$ per capita and %)

Regions	Public transfer income per capita				Variation
	1983	1991	1998	2003	1998-2003
	\$ per capita				%
Nunavik	1 870	2 022	1 725	3 063	77,6
Québec	1 785	3 035	3 596	4 187	16,5

**Sources**

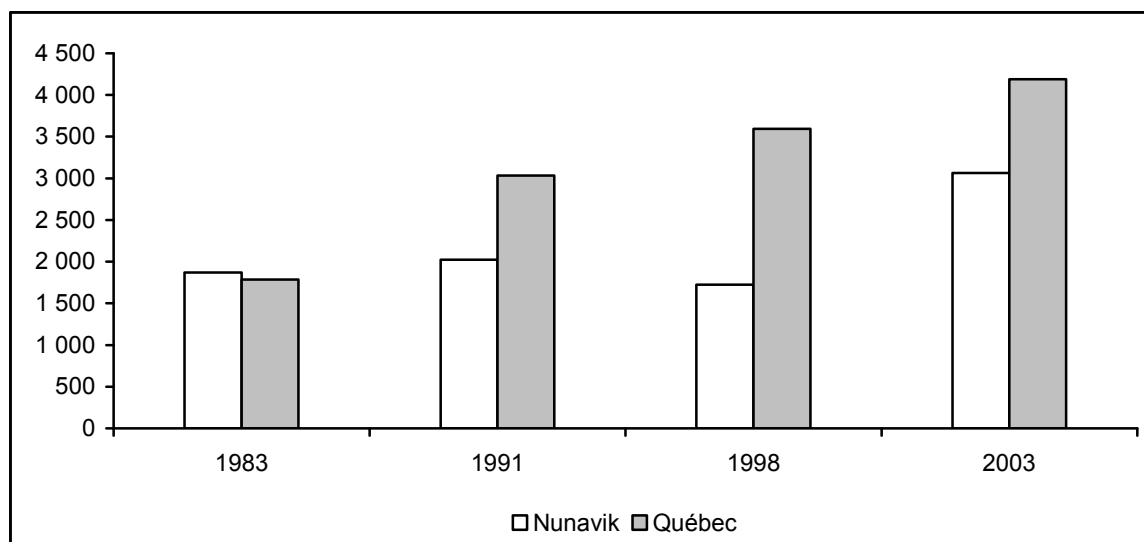
Nunavik: Robichaud, V. (ed. G. Duhaime), 2007. *L'économie du Nunavik 2003*. Québec, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Aboriginal Condition. Duhaime, G., Fréchette, P. and V. Robichaud, 1998. *Social Accounting Matrix for the Nunavik Regional Economy*, Québec, GÉTIC, Université Laval, collection "Recherche", 14 p. Robichaud, V. 1994. *La construction d'un modèle calculable d'équilibre général pour le Québec arctique*. Québec, Université Laval (Master's thesis in economics), 83 p. Duhaime, G. 1991, "Contraintes économiques à l'autonomie politique. Une matrice de comptabilité sociale du Nunavik (Canada)". Canadian Journal of Regional Sciences, 14 (1): 93-112.

Québec: calculations based on the Institut de la statistique du Québec, Source of personal income and personal disposable income, expressed in millions of dollars, Québec, 1961-2005. Population migration (total population, births, deaths, net migration), Québec, 1971-2006.

Graph 6.1.3

**Public transfer income per capita, Nunavik and Québec, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**

(\$ per capita)



#### **6.1.4 Sources of personal income**

In Nunavik, employment income is by far the main source of personal income. This component has represented more than 80% of personal income sources since at least 1991.

For its part, the proportion of transfer income has decreased since 1983: at that time, it represented 18% of total personal income but, since 1991, represents roughly 10%. Transfer income was at its lowest level in 1991 and in 1998. Even though, as described earlier in this section, transfer income has increased over the past five years: the proportion was 11.4% in 2003, which was still below the 1983 level, the first year taken into consideration in this document.

Finally, investment income, which was proportionally low in 1983, has been increasing ever since. Very little is known about the components of investment income: Are they generated by business income, personal savings, rebates, dividends or other sources, such as private retirement savings plans? Given the current state of knowledge, no solid conclusions can be drawn.

This relatively stable distribution of personal income sources is an indicator of the major importance (for at least 20 years) of employment income as the main means of livelihood, of the accessory role of social security transfer income (as elsewhere in Québec), and of the emergence of investment income.

What is true for the population as a whole is also true for the population of residents only: the relative importance of employment and investment income has grown, while that of government transfer payments has fallen.

Table 6.1.4a

**Sources of personal income per capita, Nunavik, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**

(%)

Years	Sources of personal income			Total
	Employment income	Investment income	Public transfer income	
	%			
2003	82,2	6,4	11,4	100
1998	86,7	4,2	9,1	100
1991	84,5	4,0	11,5	100
1983	79,1	2,8	18,1	100

**Sources**

Nunavik: Robichaud, V. (ed. G. Duhaime), 2007. *L'économie du Nunavik 2003*. Québec, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Aboriginal Condition. Duhaime, G., Fréchette, P. and V. Robichaud, 1998. *Social Accounting Matrix for the Nunavik Regional Economy*, Québec, GÉTIC, Université Laval, collection "Recherche", 14 p. Robichaud, V. 1994. *La construction d'un modèle calculable d'équilibre général pour le Québec arctique*. Québec, Université Laval (Master's thesis in economics), 83 p. Duhaime, G. 1991, "Contraintes économiques à l'autonomie politique. Une matrice de comptabilité sociale du Nunavik (Canada)". *Canadian Journal of Regional Sciences*, 14 (1): 93-112.

Graph 6.1.4a

**Sources of personal income per capita, Nunavik, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**

(%)

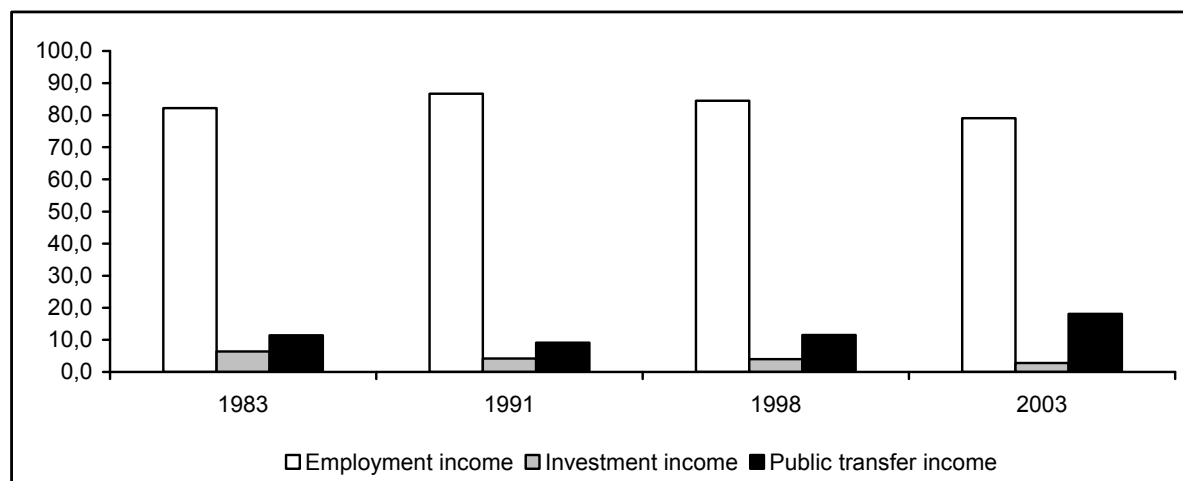






Table 6.1.4b

**Sources of personal income per capita, Residents only, Nunavik, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**  
(%)

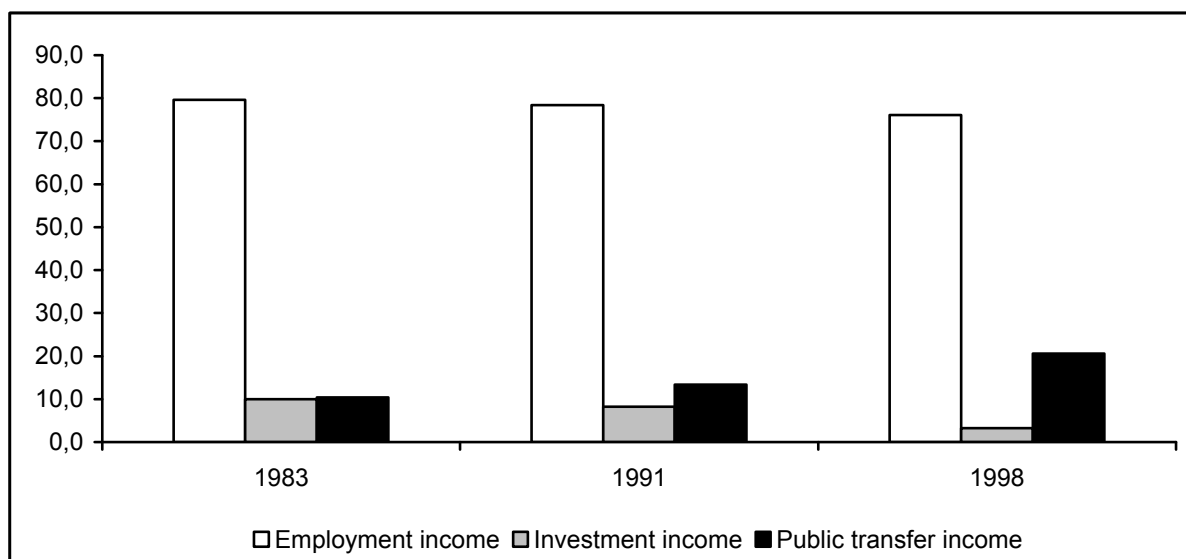
Years	Sources of personal income			Total
	Employment income	Investment income	Public transfer income	
	%			
	%			
2003	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1998	79,6	10,0	10,4	100
1991	78,4	8,2	13,4	100
1983	76,1	3,2	20,6	100

**Sources**

Robichaud, V. (ed. G. Duhaime), 2007. *L'économie du Nunavik 2003*. Québec, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Aboriginal Condition. Duhaime, G., Fréchette, P. and V. Robichaud, 1998. *Social Accounting Matrix for the Nunavik Regional Economy*, Québec, GÉTIC, Université Laval, collection «Recherche», 14p. Robichaud, V. 1994. *La construction d'un modèle calculable d'équilibre général pour le Québec arctique*. Québec, Université Laval (Master's thesis in economics), 83p. Duhaime, G. 1991, «Contraintes économiques à l'autonomie politique. Une matrice de comptabilité sociale du Nunavik (Canada)». *Canadian Journal of Regional Sciences*, 14(1): 93-112.

Graph 6.1.4b

**Sources of personal income per capita, Residents only, Nunavik, 1983, 1991, 1998 and 2003**  
(%)



## 6.2 COMPARATIVE PRICE INDEX

Although the *Portrait socioéconomique des régions du Québec* does not contain any data on consumer prices, this indicator is included in this document because it is available through other work carried out by the Université Laval. The comparative price index was updated in 2006. The method employed made it possible to compare consumer prices in Nunavik, with those of other regions. Those discussed herein are uniquely for Northern Québec and the Quebec City area<sup>6</sup>.

The results reveal that consumer prices are higher in Nunavik than in the control regions, regardless of the type of product under consideration. In most cases, the differences are significant. For example, a standard food basket costs 60% more in Nunavik than in the Quebec City area.

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<sup>6</sup> Bernard, Nick (ed. G. Duhaime), *Nunavik Comparative Price Index 2006: Complementary study Magdalen Islands, Northern Québec, Lower North Shore*. Québec, Canada Research Chair on Comparative Aboriginal Condition, Université Laval, 66p.

Table 6.2

**Comparative price index by type of product, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006***(Québec = Index 100)*

Region	Types of products				
	Food	Snowmobile	Gasoline <sup>2</sup>	Household products	Personal care products
Nunavik	160	116	179	179	141
Nord-du-Québec	106	100	101	107	108
Québec <sup>1</sup>	100	100	100	100	100

**Source**

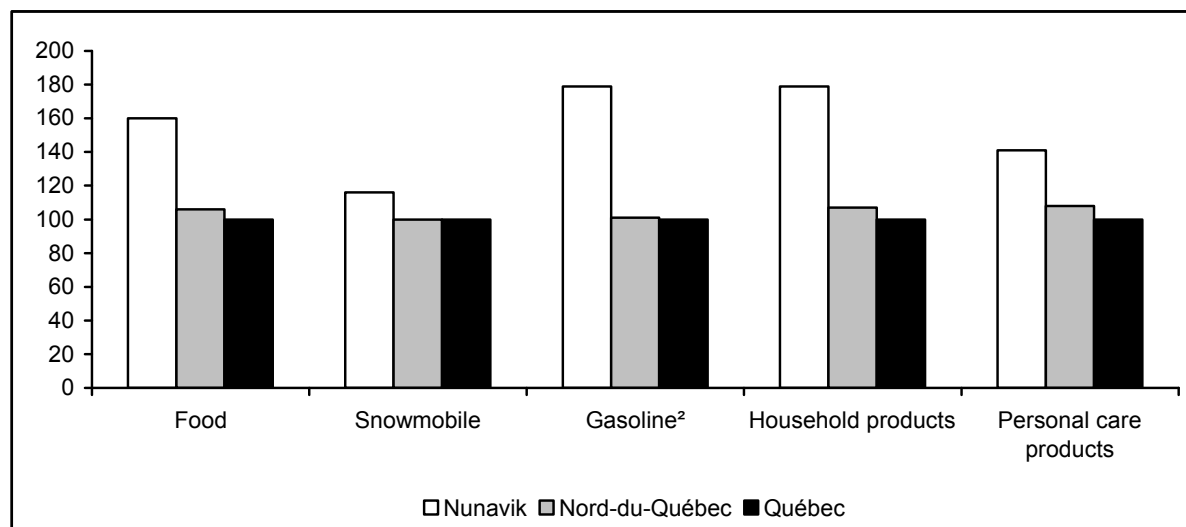
Bernard, Nick (ed. G. Duhaime). *Comparative Price index for Nunavik 2006 — Complementary study, Magdalen Islands, Northern Québec, Lower North Shore*. Québec, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Aboriginal Condition. p. ii.

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Québec: Québec city area

<sup>2</sup> Regular unleaded gasoline; average monthly price in September 2006.

Graph 6.2

**Comparative price index by type of product, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006***(Québec = Index 100)*

## **6.3 DWELLINGS**

### **6.3.1 *Housing Tenure***

In Nunavik, the vast majority of housing is on a rental basis. This situation is the result of policies adapted in the early 1960s aiming to provide permanent housing to the Inuit, policies that have been renewed since then. It also reflects the economic barriers of private property; indeed, in Nunavik, the price of materials is increased significantly and operating expenses, such as heating for example, are also very high.

Nevertheless, the recent efforts to promote access to home ownership have borne fruit, as evidenced by the growth in the number of non-rental dwellings.

Table 6.3.1

**Private dwellings by tenure, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006**  
(N and %)

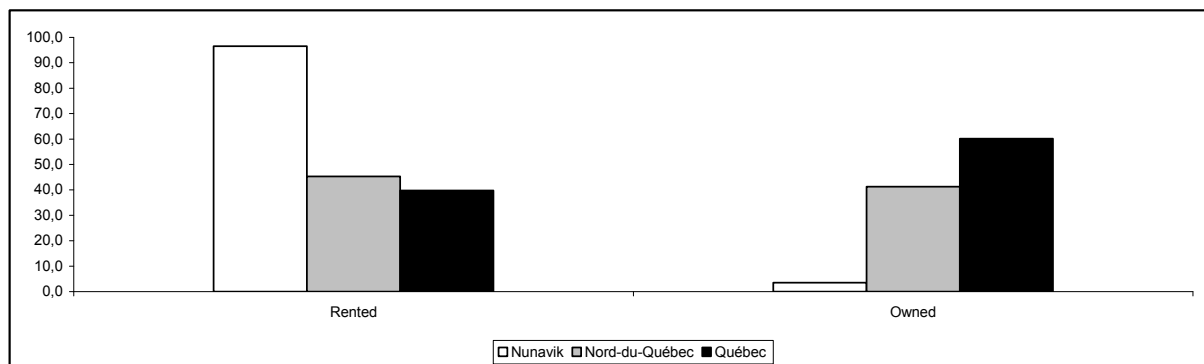
Regions	Rented				Owned			
	2001		2006		2001		2006	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Nunavik	2 205	97,1	2 510	96,5	60	2,6	90	3,5
Nord-du-Québec	4 935	43,2	5 405	45,3	4 845	42,4	4 925	41,3
Québec	1 249 455	42,0	1 267 945	39,8	1 724 465	57,9	1 917 735	60,1

**Sources**

2001: Statistics Canada. 2002. 2001 Community Profiles, 2001 Census. Released June 27, 2002. Modified : 2005-11-30. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 93F0053XIF. 2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Community Profiles, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 92-591-XWF. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.

Graph 6.3.1

**Private dwellings by tenure, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2006**  
(%)



### **6.3.2 Housing Conditions**

In ten years, there has been a significant decline in housing conditions in Nunavik. Whereas the proportion of dwellings requiring major repairs has declined slightly for Québec as a whole, this proportion has shot up in Nunavik. More than one-third of the dwellings of Nunavik are in need of major repairs.

Close to half of the Inuit population lives in such dwellings. This proportion is higher in Nunavik than everywhere else in the Canadian Arctic.

Table 6.3.2a

**Dwellings requiring major repairs, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**  
(%)

Regions	Dwellings requiring major repairs		
	1996	2001	2006
	%		
Nunavik	9,7	23,1	35,2
Nord-du-Québec	15,1	17,1	21,5
Québec	8,2	7,8	7,7

**Sources**

2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Community Profiles, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 92-591-XWF. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007. 2001: Statistics Canada. 2002. Topic-based tabulations, 2001 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 95F0325XCB2001006. 1996: Statistics Canada. 1997. Electronic Profiles. 1996 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 94F0048XWF.

Graph 6.3.2a

**Dwellings requiring major repairs, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**  
(%)

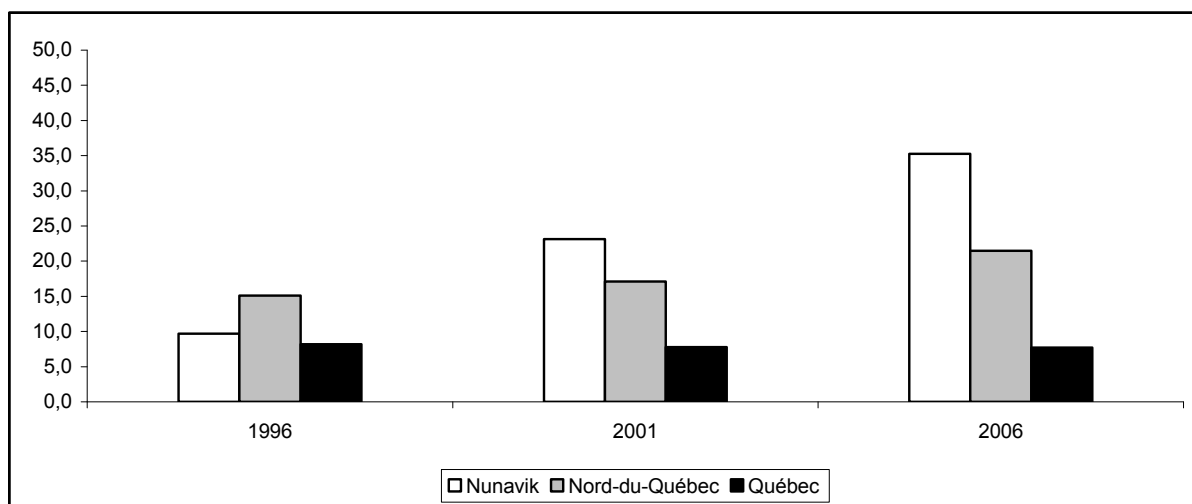






Table 6.3.2b

**Inuit and non-Aboriginal populations living in dwellings requiring major repairs,  
Nunavik, other Inuit regions and Québec, 1996 and 2006**  
(%)

Regions	People living in dwellings requiring major repairs			
	Inuit population		Non-Aboriginal population	
	1996	2006	1996	2006
	%		%	
Nunavik	8	46	12	16
Nunatsiavut	41	34	23	16
Nunavut	21	26	17	13
Inuvialuit	23	28	15	16
Québec	n.a.	42	n.a.	8

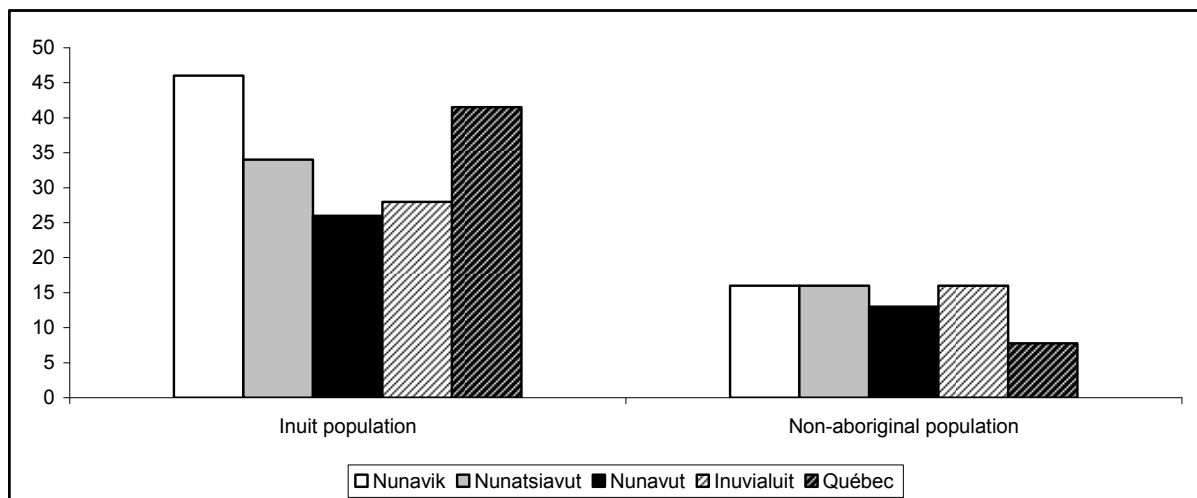
#### Sources

Inuit regions: Statistics Canada, 2008, *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Métis, and First Nations*, 2006 Census, catalogue no. 97-558-XIF, p. 27.

Québec: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-558-XCB2006023.

Graph 6.3.2b

**Inuit and non-Aboriginal populations living in dwellings requiring major repairs,  
Nunavik, other Inuit regions and Québec, 2006**  
(%)



### **6.3.3 Overcrowding**

Furthermore, the proportion of overcrowded dwellings is high, when compared with that for Québec as a whole. In Québec, approximately 1% of the dwellings have more than one person per room. Meanwhile, in Nunavik, more than one-quarter of the dwellings are overcrowded.

Half of the Inuit population of Nunavik lives in overcrowded dwellings. This proportion is higher in Nunavik than everywhere else in the Canadian Arctic.

Table 6.3.3a

**Crowded dwellings<sup>1</sup>, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**

(%)

Regions	Crowded dwellings		
	1996	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2006
		%	
Nunavik	24,1	30,4	26,6
Nord-du-Québec	n.a.	23,7	10,2
Québec	0,9	5,7	1,0

**Sources**

1996 : Statistics Canada, Household and Family Statistics, 1996 Community Profiles. 2001 : Statistics Canada. 2002. 2001 Aboriginal population profiles, 2001 Census. Released June 17, 2003. Modified : 2005-11-30. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 94F0043XIF. 2006 : Statistics Canada. 2007. Nord-du-Québec, Québec (table). 2006 Community Profiles, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 92-591-XWF. Ottawa. Released on March 13, 2007.

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> 'Crowding' is defined as more than one person per room. Not counted are bathrooms, halls, vestibules and rooms solely used for business purposes (Statistics Canada).

<sup>2</sup> The data for 2001 only concerns the dwellings occupied by the aboriginal population of Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec, and Québec.

Graph 6.3.3a

**Crowded dwellings, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996 and 2006**

(%)

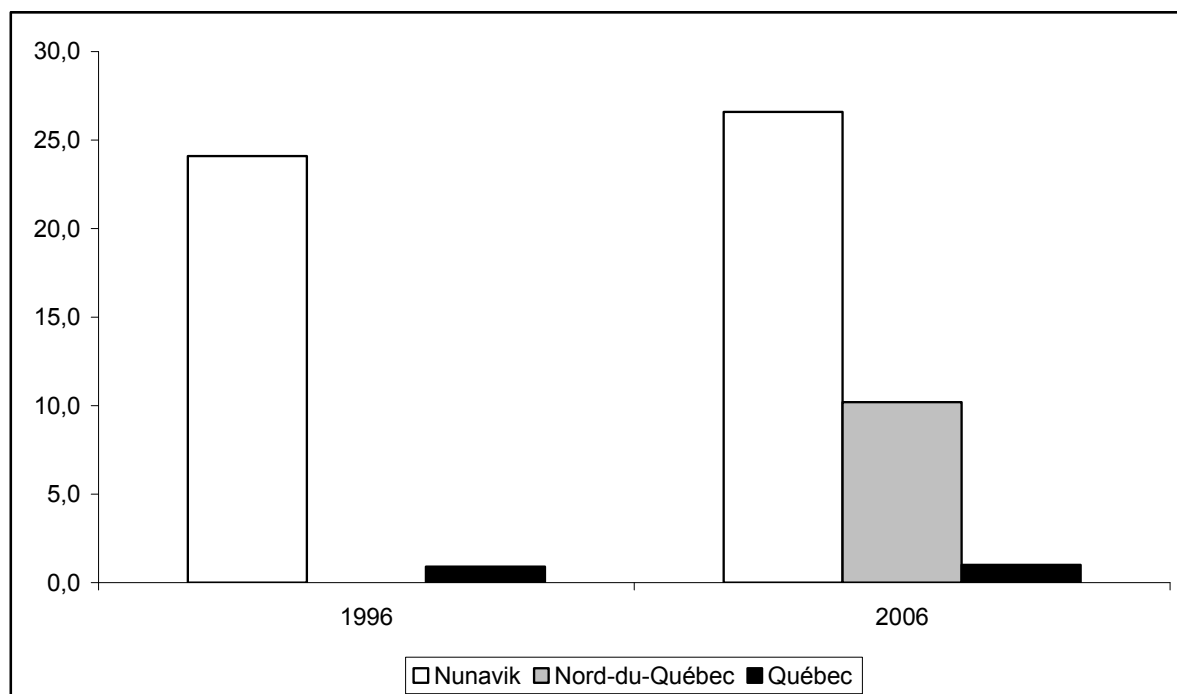




Table 6.3.3b

**Inuit and non-Aboriginal populations living in crowded dwellings, Nunavik, other Inuit regions and Québec, 1996 and 2006 (%)**

Regions	People living in crowded dwellings			
	Inuit population		Non-Aboriginal population	
	1996	2006	1996	2006
	%		%	
Nunavik	47	49	6	7
Nunatsiavut	37	13	12	0
Nunavut	43	39	5	5
Inuvialuit	31	19	6	4
Québec	n.a.	43	n.a.	2

#### Sources

Inuit regions: Statistics Canada, 2008, *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Métis, and First Nations*, 2006 Census, catalogue no. 97-558-XIF, p. 27.

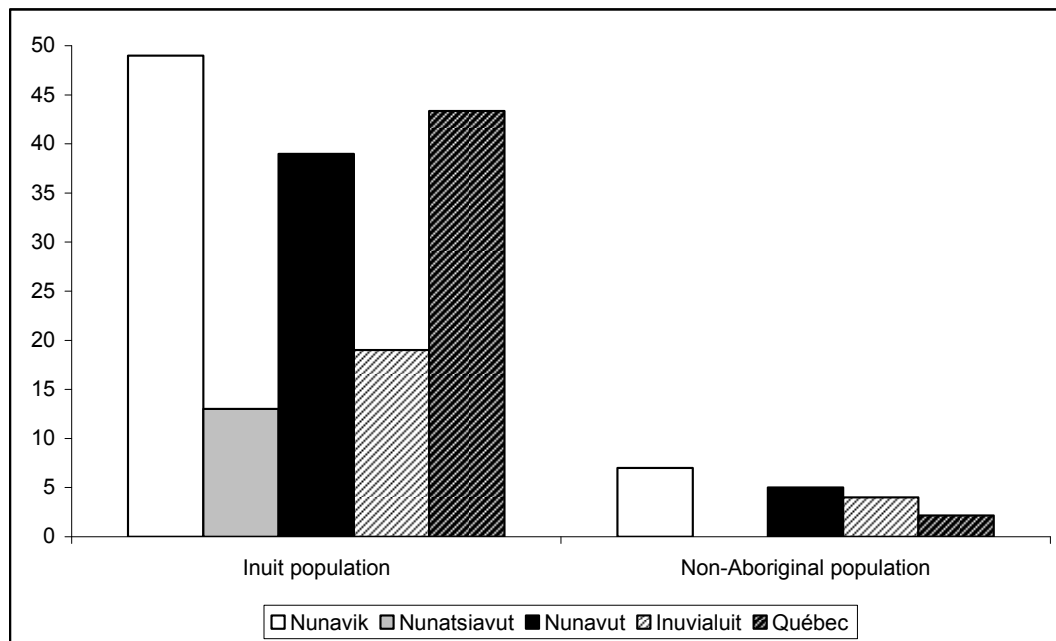
Québec: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-558-XCB2006023

#### Note

'Crowding' is defined as more than one person per room. Not counted are bathrooms, halls, vestibules and rooms solely used for business purposes (Statistics Canada)

Graph 6.3.3b

**Inuit and non-Aboriginal populations living in crowded dwellings, Nunavik, other Inuit regions and Québec, 2006 (%)**



#### **6.3.4 Water Supply**

In Québec, 75% of the population obtains its water supply from surface water. Some 73% of the population consumes water having undergone full or partial treatment to ensure its safety.

The situation is different in Nunavik, where 100% of the supply comes from surface water and where 94% of the water only undergoes chlorination prior to distribution. In the vast majority of dwellings, drinking water and household wastewater are stored in large tanks served by tanker trucks.

Table 6.3.4a

**Breakdown of the population according to the drinking water supply source, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2003**  
(%)

Regions	Drinking water supply source		
	Surface water	Ground water	Mixed water
	%		
Nunavik	100,0	0,0	0,0
Nord-du-Québec	83,8	12,7	3,5
Québec	74,9	22,7	2,4

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec et l'Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

Table 6.3.4b

**Breakdown of the population according to the drinking water treatment method, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2003**  
(%)

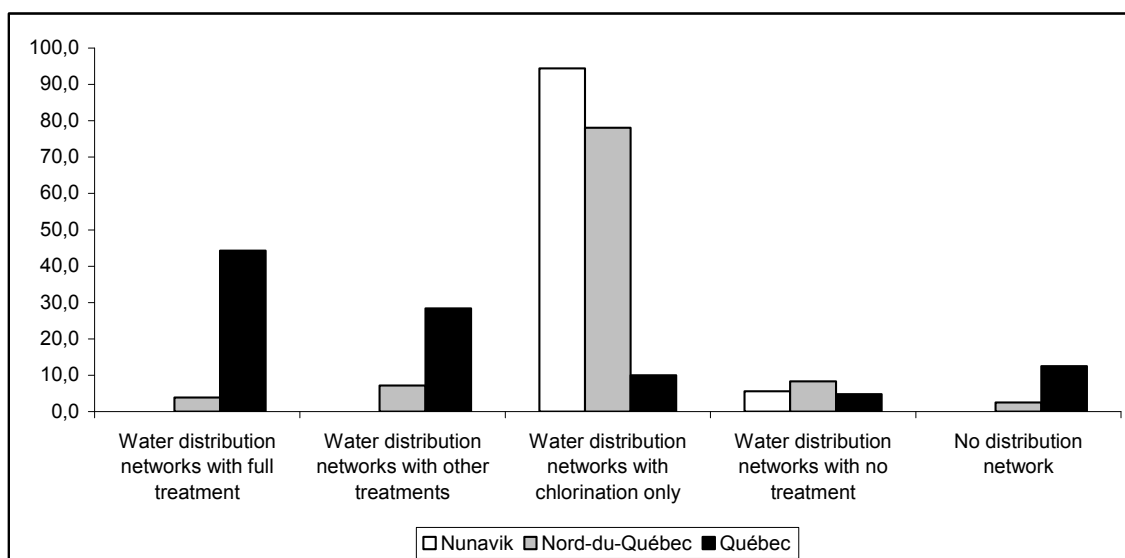
Regions	Drinking water treatment method				
	Water distribution networks with full treatment	Water distribution networks with other treatments	Water distribution networks with chlorination only	Water distribution networks with no treatment	No distribution network
	%				
Nunavik	0,0	0,0	94,4	5,6	0,0
Nord-du-Québec	3,9	7,2	78,1	8,4	2,5
Québec	44,3	28,4	10,0	4,8	12,5

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec et l'Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

Graph 6.3.4

**Breakdown of the population according to the drinking water treatment method, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2003**  
(%)





## **6.4 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **6.4.1 *Childcare service***

In Nunavik, the creation of childcare places for children under five lagged behind that of Québec until the end of the 1990s. Since then, the number of available places is proportionally higher in Nunavik than in Québec.

Table 6.4.1

**Available childcare places for children under five years of age, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002-2005**  
(Rate for 100 children aged 0-4)

Regions	Available places						
	1990	1994	1998	2002	2003	2004	2005
	rate						
Nunavik	3,4	3,0	11,5	53,6	58,6	60,5	67,7
Nord-du-Québec	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	40,8	51,0	52,8	58,1
Québec	10,9	13,5	19,3	39,3	44,8	48,7	51,9

**Source**

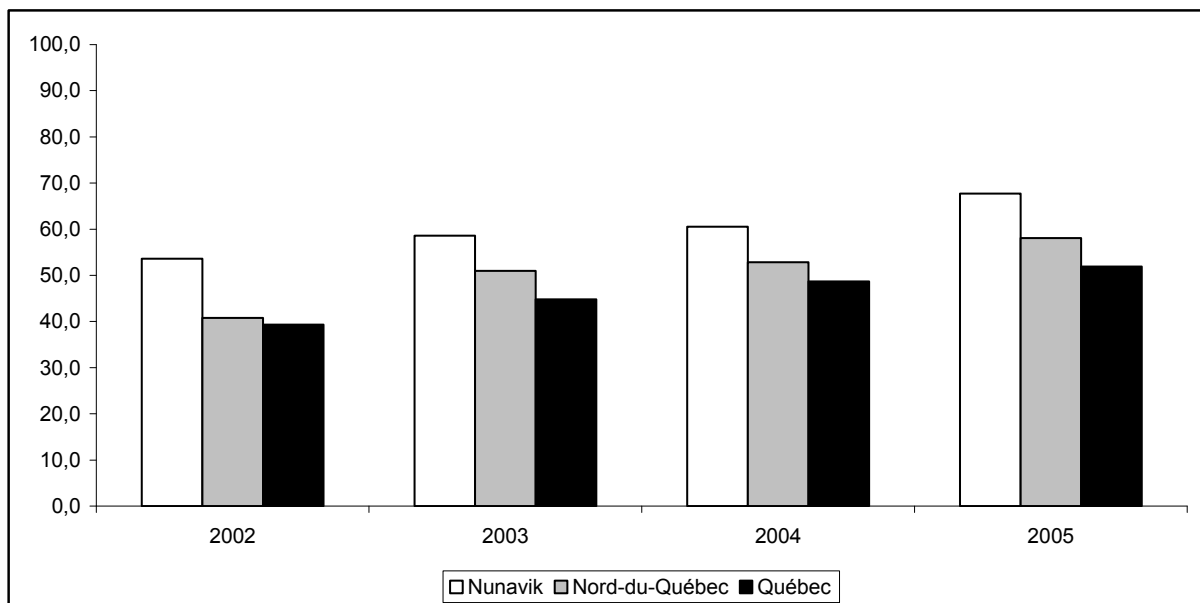
Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 6.4.1

**Available childcare places for children under five years of age, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2002-2005**  
(Rate for 100 children aged 0-4)



#### **6.4.2 Physicians, Nurses and Attendants**

In Nunavik, the number of physicians per segment of 10,000 inhabitants is twice as high as the equivalent number for Québec. The same is true for the number of nurses and attendants. However, the number of nursing assistants is much smaller in Nunavik.

Finally, the number of people providing care to seniors free of charge is greater in Nunavik than in Québec as a whole.

Table 6.4.2a

**Physicians, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2001 and 2003***(N and rate for 10 000 inhabitants)*

Regions	Physicians			
	N		rate	
	2001	2003	2001	2003
Nunavik	32	42	32,4	41,5
Nord-du-Québec	104	116	26,4	29,1
Québec	14 780	15 267	20,0	20,4

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The numbers and rates of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 6.4.2a

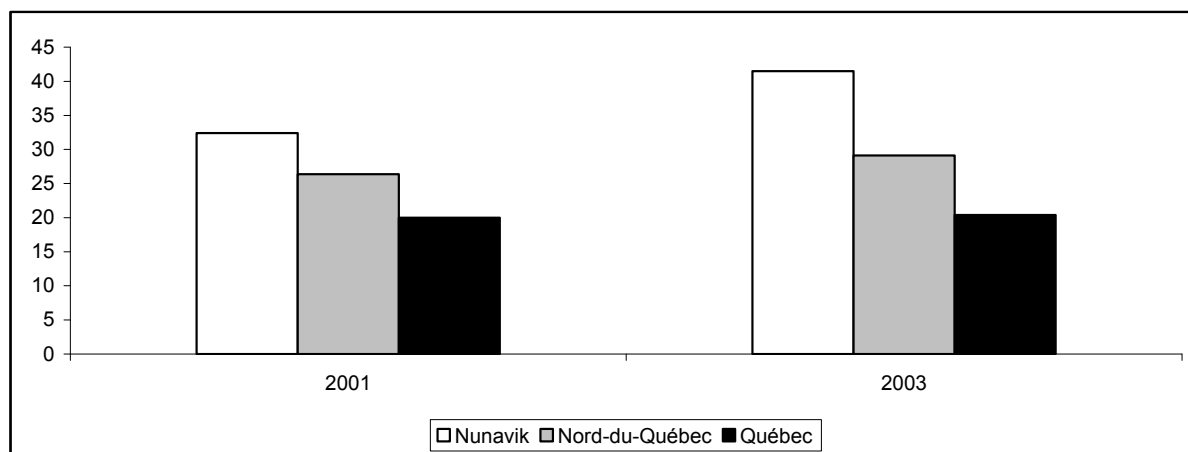
**Physicians, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2001 and 2003***(Rate for 10 000 inhabitants)*



Table 6.4.2b

**Nurses in full-time equivalents per 10 000 inhabitants, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1994-1995, 1998-1999 and 2003-2004**

(Rate for 10 000)

Regions	Nurses in full-time equivalents		
	1994-1995	1998-1999	2003-2004
	Rate		
Nunavik	85,8	81,3	112,6
Nord-du-Québec	62,0	62,9	88,5
Québec	51,0	50,1	57,3

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 6.4.2b

**Nurses in full-time equivalents per 10 000 inhabitants, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1994-1995, 1998-1999 and 2003-2004**

(Rate for 10 000)

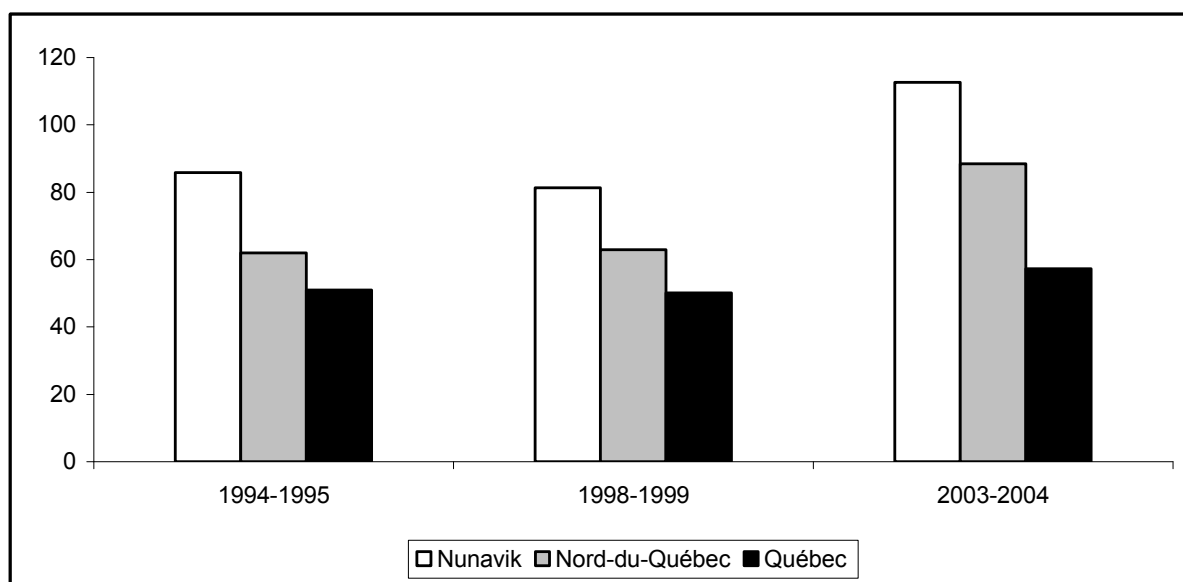




Table 6.4.2c

**Nursing assistants in full-time equivalents per 10 000 inhabitants, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1994-1995, 1998-1999 and 2003-2004**

(Rate for 10 000)

Regions	Nursing assistants in full-time equivalents		
	1994-1995	1998-1999	2003-2004
	Rate		
Nunavik	0,7	1,0	0,9
Nord-du-Québec	6,0	5,4	5,5
Québec	16,2	12,7	14,0

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 6.4.2c

**Nursing assistants in full-time equivalents per 10 000 inhabitants, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1994-1995, 1998-1999 and 2003-2004**

(Rate for 10 000)

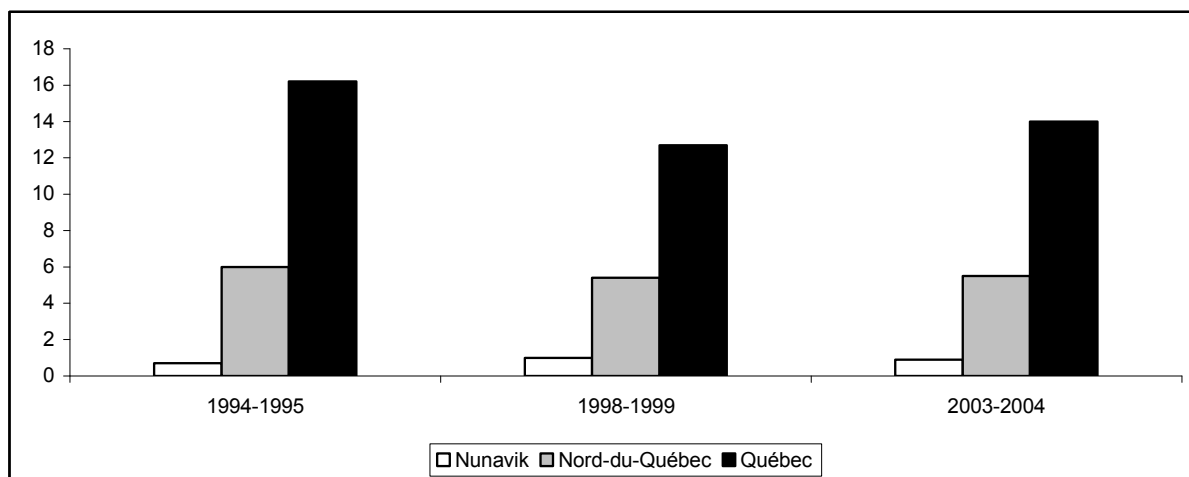






Table 6.4.2d

**Attendants in full-time equivalents per 10 000 inhabitants, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec,  
1994-1995, 1998-1999 and 2003-2004**

(Rate for 10 000)

Regions	Attendants in full-time equivalents		
	1994-1995	1998-1999	2003-2004
	Rate		
Nunavik	53,7	49,3	78,7
Nord-du-Québec	27,3	27,5	38,4
Québec	28,3	27,5	35,4

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 6.4.2d

**Attendants in full-time equivalents per 10 000 inhabitants, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec,  
1994-1995, 1998-1999 and 2003-2004**

(Rate for 10 000)

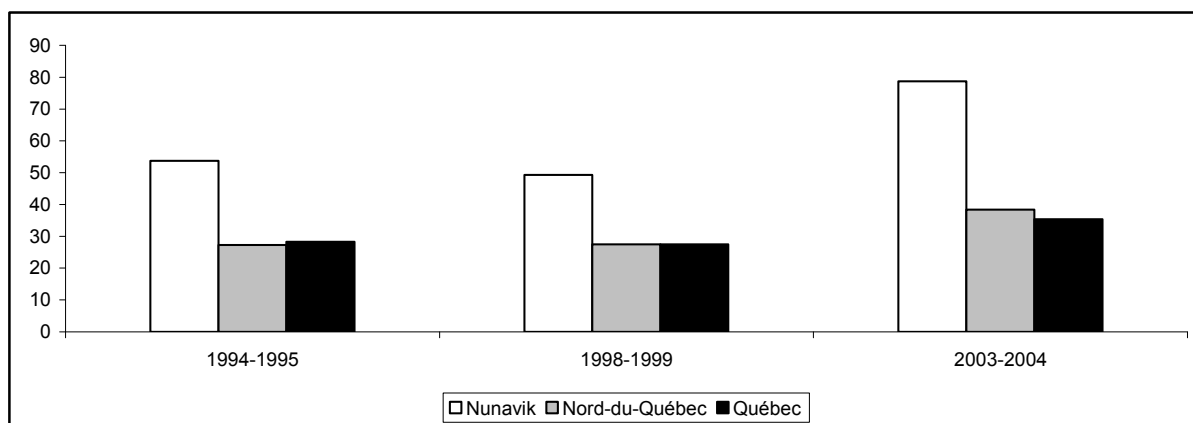




Table 6.4.2e

**Population 15 years and over reporting unpaid care or assistance to seniors, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**  
(%)

Regions	Population 15 years and over reporting unpaid care or assistance to seniors			
	1996	2001	2006	Variation 1996-2006
		%		%
Nunavik	26,4	29,2	26,3	0,0
Nord-du-Québec	27,2	25,0	21,1	-0,2
Québec	16,2	17,7	18,6	0,1

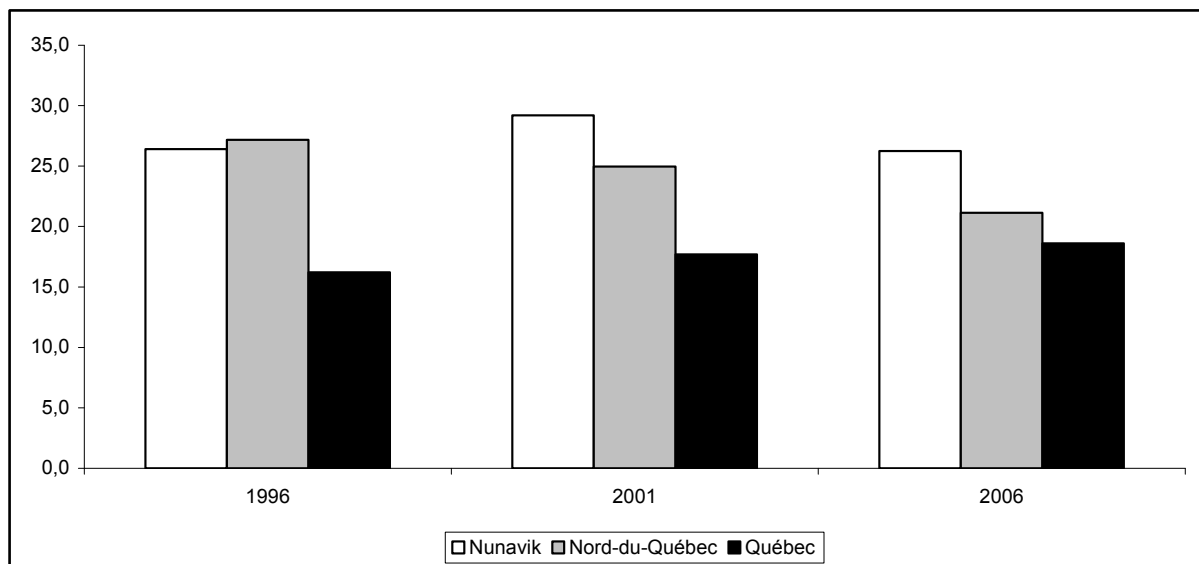
**Sources**

1996 and 2001: Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

2006: Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Community profiles, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 92-591-XWF. Ottawa. Released March 13, 2007.

Graph 6.4.2e

**Population 15 years and over reporting unpaid care or assistance to seniors, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1996, 2001 and 2006**  
(%)



### **6.4.3 Beds set up for use**

In Nunavik, the number of beds set up for use per segment of 10,000 inhabitants is greater than that of Québec. However, the number of beds set up for use in long-term care is far lower in Nunavik.

Table 6.4.3a

**Beds set up for use, Short-term physical care, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1995, 2000 and 2004**  
(*N and rate for 10 000 inhabitants*)

Regions	Beds set up for use					
	<i>N</i>			<i>rate</i>		
	1995	2000	2004	1995	2000	2004
Nunavik	32	32	40	36,3	32,3	37,7
Nord-du-Québec	143	97	78	36,6	24,7	19,4
Québec	21 122	15 386	14 885	29,3	20,9	19,7

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 6.4.3a

**Beds set up for use, Short-term physical care, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1995, 2000 and 2004**  
(*Rate for 10 000 inhabitants*)

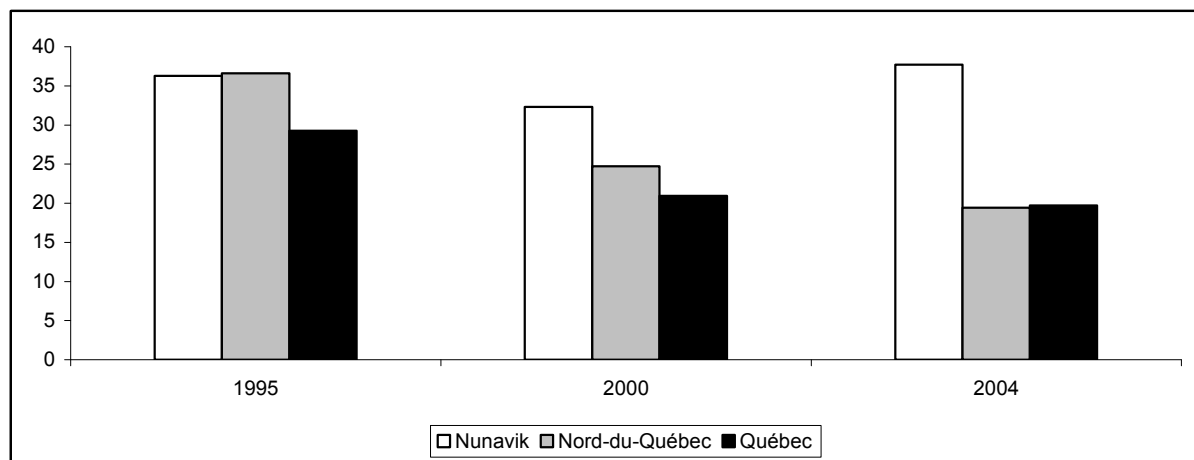




Table 6.4.3b

**Beds set up for use, Long-term care and residential services, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1995, 2000 and 2004**  
(*N and rate for 10 000 inhabitants*)

Regions	Beds set up for use					
	<i>N</i>			<i>rate</i>		
	1995	2000	2004	1995	2000	2004
Nunavik	18	18	10	20,4	18,2	9,4
Nord-du-Québec	36	50	42	9,2	12,7	10,5
Québec	45 542	42 555	41 687	63,1	57,8	55,2

**Source**

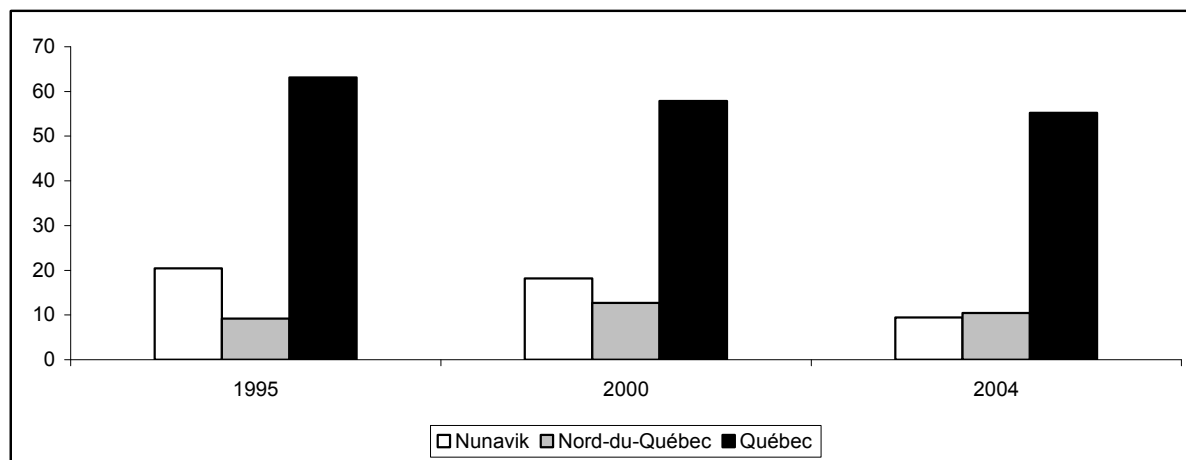
Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Criées-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 6.4.3b

**Beds set up for use, Long-term care and residential services, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1995, 2000 and 2004**  
(*Rate for 10 000 inhabitants*)





## **6.5 HEALTH STATUS**

If, relatively speaking, some health resources prove to be more numerous than in Québec as a whole, it is perhaps due to the constraints associated with the poorer state of health of the population of Nunavik, in comparison with Québec averages.

### **6.5.1 Hospitalization diagnosis**

In Nunavik, the population is hospitalized three times more frequently than in Québec as a whole for short-term stays. All diagnosis groups are more frequent in Nunavik. Among the biggest differences, one finds diseases of the respiratory system (diagnosis 7 times more frequent), traumatic injuries and poisonings (close to four times more frequent).

Adjusted short-term physical care hospitalization rates<sup>1</sup> according to the principal diagnosis, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2000-2004  
(Average annual rate for 10 000 inhabitants)

**Source**  
Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Notes**  
<sup>1</sup> Adjusted rate according to the age, both sexes combined, of the corrected population of Québec as a whole in 2001.  
<sup>2</sup> The rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Adjusted short-term physical care hospitalization rates according to the principal diagnosis, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 2000-2004  
(Average annual rate for 10 000 inhabitants)



### **6.5.2 Consumption**

In Nunavik, the death rate associated with smoking is three times higher than in Québec as a whole. The difference has grown in recent years: whereas the proportion has tended to decline in Québec, it continues to rise in Nunavik.

In Nunavik, daily tobacco consumption is three times higher than in Québec, and proportionally speaking, the number of non-smokers is three times lower in Nunavik. The differences are almost identical in the case of alcohol consumption.

These risk factors, among others, could have an impact on the state of health of the population, and on its use of health-care services.

Table 6.5.2a

**Adjusted mortality rate<sup>1</sup> for conditions associated with smoking, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1985-1989 to 2000-2003**

(Average annual number and average annual rate for 10 000 inhabitants)

Regions	ICD-9 <sup>2</sup>						ICD-10 <sup>3</sup>	
	1985-1989		1990-1994		1995-1999		2000-2003	
	N	rate	N	rate	N	rate	N	rate
Nunavik	10	58,1	14	52,9	15	68,7	18	73,7
Nord-du-Québec	41	48,7	47	36,8	53	47,6	50	41,1
Québec	20904	41,3	21668	36,7	22378	33,8	20738	27,7

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted rate according to the age, both sexes combined, of the corrected population of Québec as a whole in 2001.

<sup>2</sup> ICD-9 and ICD-10 are revisions of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) developed by the World Health Organization (WHO). "The adoption of ICD-10 beginning in 2000 may lead to a break in the temporal analysis of several causes of death. The ninth and tenth revisions of the ICD are very different. In the tenth revision, new categories have been added, others have been modified or grouped together, and some rules for identifying the initial cause of death have changed. Consequently, the differences between the two revisions are fairly major, making the direct comparisons of causes of death difficult." (INSPQ, 2006).

<sup>3</sup> The rate of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region was calculated on the basis of the rates of the rates of the Nord-du-Québec, Nunavik and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James health regions. Once combined, these health regions make up the Nord-du-Québec administrative region.

Graph 6.5.2a

**Adjusted mortality rate for conditions associated with smoking, Nunavik, Nord-du-Québec and Québec, 1985-1989 to 2000-2003**

(Average annual rate for 10 000 inhabitants)

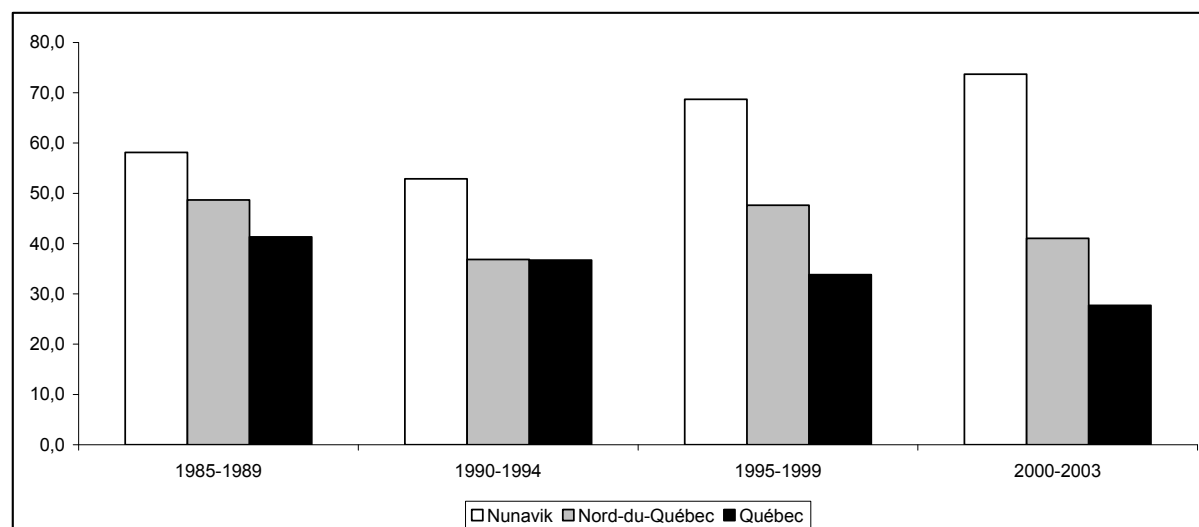




Table 6.5.2b

**Tobacco use, population aged 15 and over, Nunavik and Québec, 2003 and 2004**  
(%)

Regions	Tobacco Use		
	Daily smoker	Occasional smoker	Non-smoker
	%		
Nunavik (2004)	70,1	6,4	23,5
Québec (2003)	21,6	5,3	73,1

**Source**

*Nunavik Inuit health survey 2004, Qanuippitaa? How are we?* Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) & Nunavik regional board of health and social services.

Graph 6.5.2b

**Tobacco use, Population aged 15 and over, Nunavik and Québec, 2003 and 2004**  
(%)

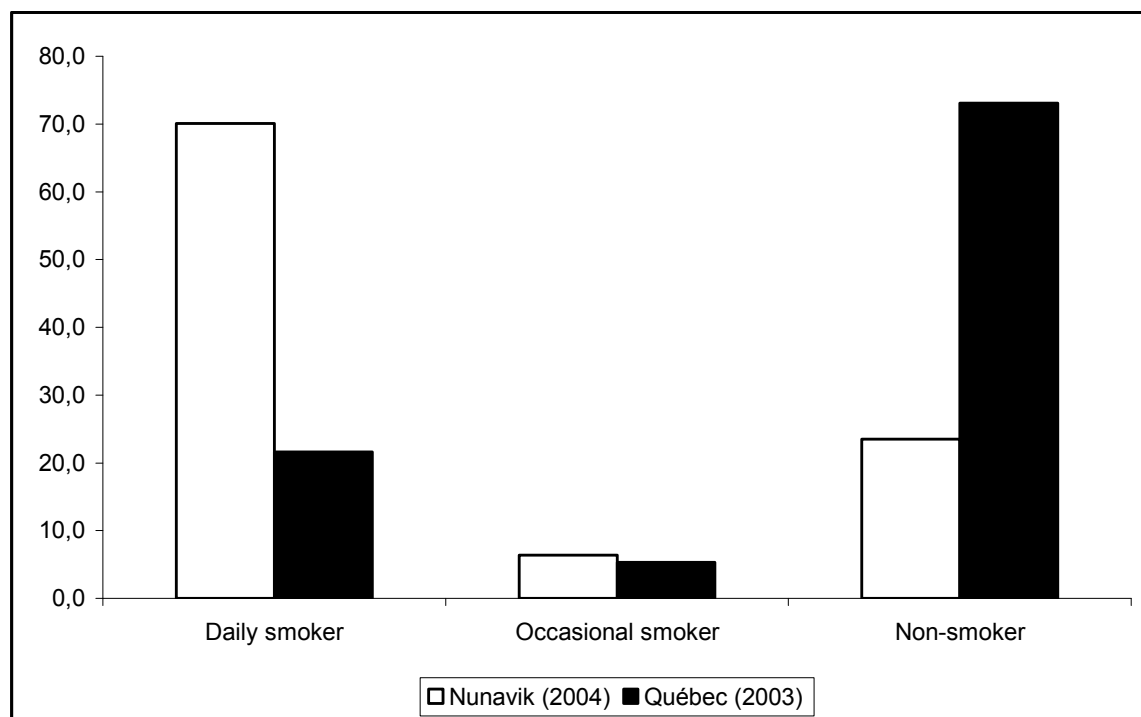




Table 6.5.2c

**Frequency of heavy drinking episodes<sup>1</sup> in the preceding year, population aged 15 and over, Nunavik and Québec, 2003 and 2004 (%)**

Regions	Heavy drinking episodes			
	Never	Less than once a month	One to three times a month	Once a week or more
	%			
Nunavik (2004)	11,3	21,3	43,3	24,2
Québec (2003)	53,9	25,6	13,0	7,5

**Source**

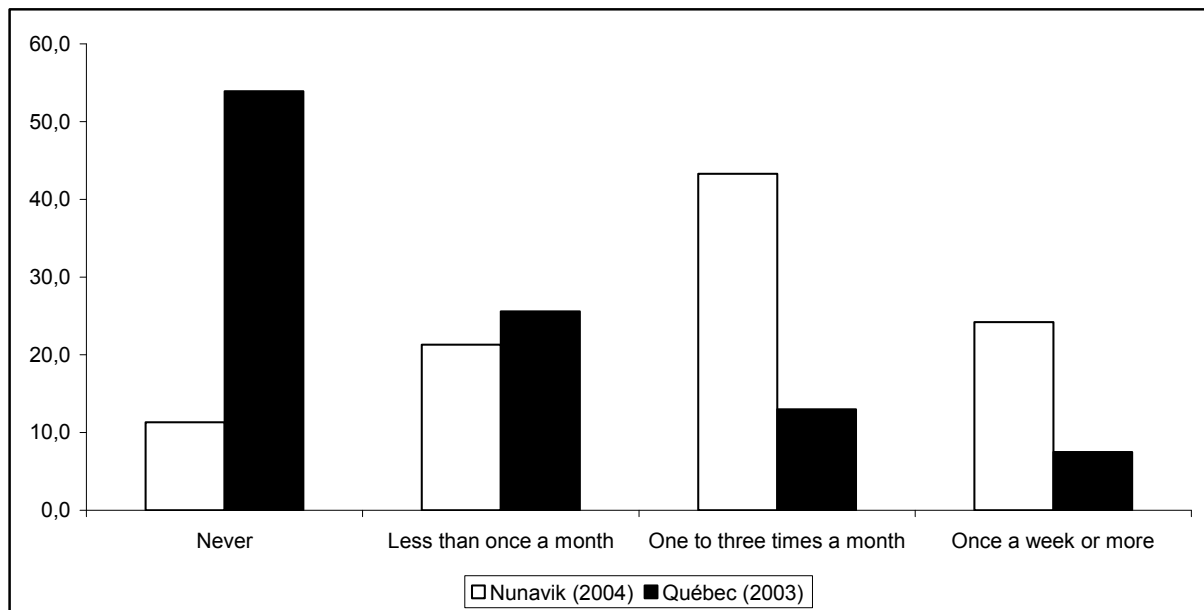
*Nunavik Inuit health survey 2004, Qanuippitaa? How are we?* Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) & Nunavik regional board of health and social services.

**Note**

<sup>1</sup> Five or more drinks on a single occasion.

Graph 6.5.2c

**Frequency of heavy drinking episodes<sup>1</sup> in the preceding year, population aged 15 and over, Nunavik and Québec, 2003 and 2004 (%)**





## **6.6 CRIME**

Finally, crime seems to be higher in Nunavik. Crimes against the person in Nunavik are proportionally higher, between 2.5 and 5 times higher, depending on the years. Moreover, there are between 6 and 10 times more women who are victims of conjugal violence.

Table 6.6.1

**Rate of crime against the person, Nunavik and Québec, 2000-2003***(Rate for 10 000 inhabitants)*

Regions	Crime against the person			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
	rate			
Nunavik	381,0	445,1	486,2	231,4
Québec	98,5	99,0	98,2	98,4

**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The data for 2003 is provisional.

Graph 6.6.1

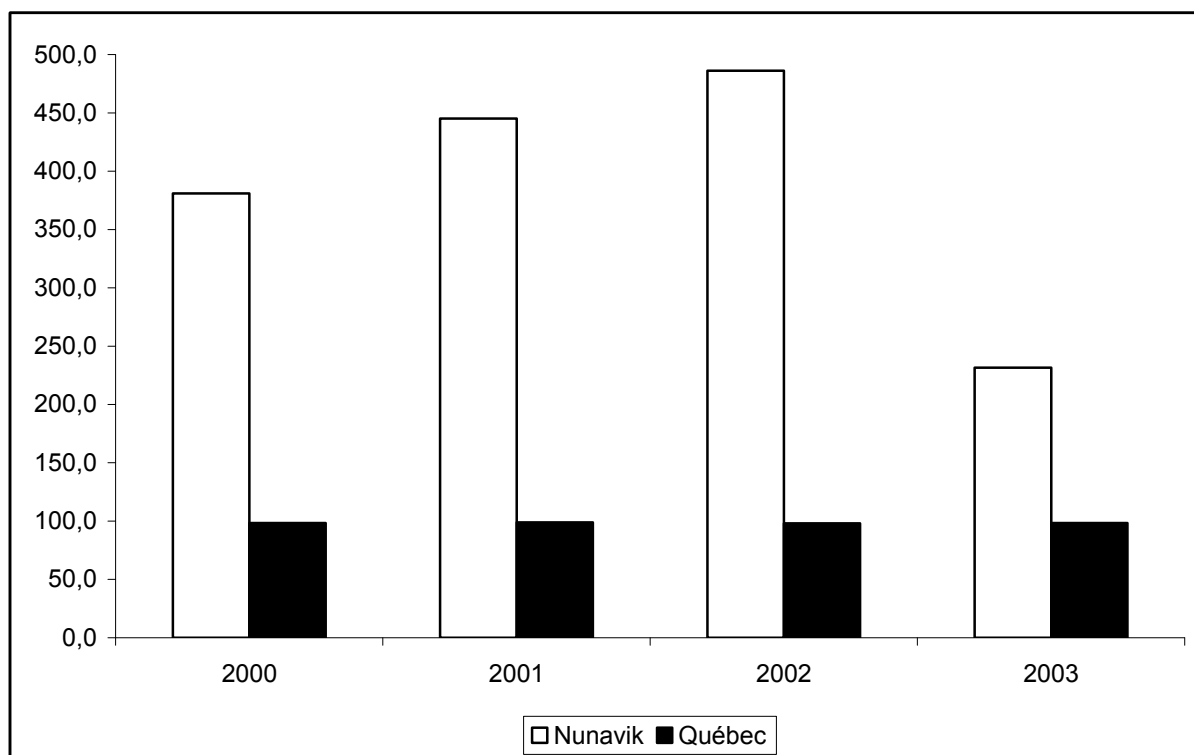
**Rate of crime against the person, Nunavik and Québec, 2000-2003***(Rate for 10 000 inhabitants)*



Table 6.6.2

**Victimization rate for conjugal violence, Women, Nunavik and Québec, 2000-2003***(Rate for 10 000 women aged 12 or more)*

Regions	Victimization for conjugal violence			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
	rate			
Nunavik	347,7	388,4	445,8	240,8
Québec	42,1	42,4	43,1	41,9

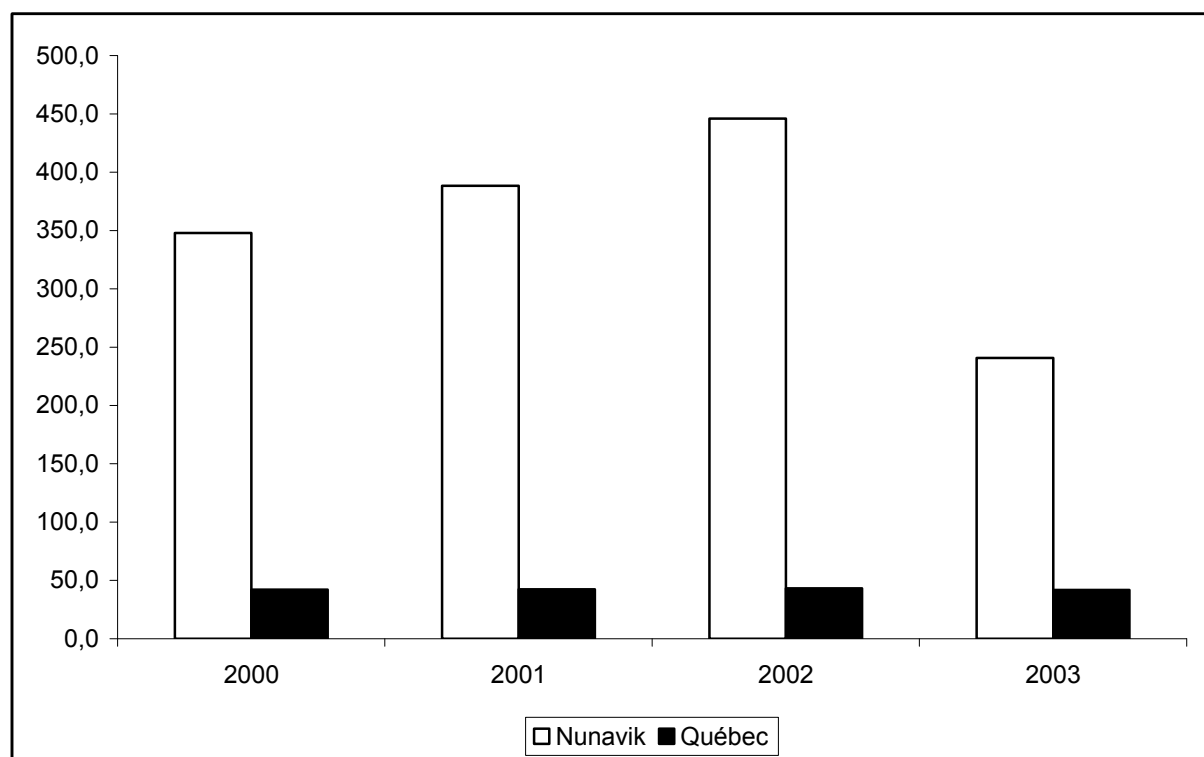
**Source**

Institut national de santé publique du Québec in collaboration with the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec and the Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Portrait de santé du Québec et de ses régions 2006 : les statistiques – Deuxième rapport national sur l'état de santé de la population du Québec*, Gouvernement du Québec, 659 p.

**Note**

The data for 2003 is provisional.

Graph 6.6.2

**Victimization rate for conjugal violence, Women, Nunavik and Québec, 2000-2003***(Rate for 10 000 women aged 12 or more)*



## CONCLUSION

This second edition of the *Socio-economic Profile of Nunavik* has produced results that describe the characteristics of the regional situation as well as the characteristics of the statistical information available about regional realities.

### KEY ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF NUNAVIK, 2008 EDITION

The population of Nunavik is young and continues to grow rapidly. Each individual of labour force age in Nunavik supports a greater number of dependents, youth and elders. To meet household consumer needs, earned wages are by far the most important source of income. Nonetheless, while employment opportunities have grown significantly, the increased number of jobs is not meeting the demand created by the ever-growing number of individuals entering the labour force.

Moreover, the average income of Nunavik residents is lower than the average income of other Quebecers, as well as of all workers in Nunavik. Specifically, the region's population comprises a segment of non-residents, which is to say workers who are temporarily in the region and who receive high wages based on their qualifications generally obtained through many years of schooling. The relatively low incomes of residents is likely the result of a number of factors: the limited number of full-time jobs, the growth of precarious employment opportunities, the characteristics of available jobs including lower pay, labour force characteristics including insufficient training to access higher-paid positions as shown through education statistics, and so on and so forth.

When this description of the situation is juxtaposed to the other results produced in this document, an additional important

regional characteristic is revealed. Nunavimmiut have lower incomes than other Quebecers as a whole. And with these lower incomes, they must meet the needs of a greater number of dependents in the context of a higher cost-of-living, specifically for food which represents a considerable portion of household budgets. Although this document does not present data in this respect, in all probability sharing networks, in particular food obtained through hunting and fishing, help Nunavimmiut to overcome the limits imposed by their personal incomes. These networks represent an "informal social safety net" that helps families to meet their basic needs.

In Nunavik, the state of the health of the population appears to be inferior to that of Québec, based on the lower life expectancy at birth and the higher hospitalization rate. In addition, major improvements to housing conditions are needed.

Rapid population growth, limited job opportunities, the state of education, the state of the health of the population and social housing represent major challenges for public governments. Indeed, all indicators suggest that the demand for public services will continue to grow rapidly to meet essential needs in the fields of health, education, housing, municipal infrastructure and social assistance programs such as employment insurance. Even though, available results for regional investment do not seem to be exhaustive, it is very likely that increased public participation will be necessary in the coming years to meet demands in this respect. In Nunavik, where public government is the major industry, the private sector will not alone be capable of playing a dominant investment role, despite its expanding importance.

