



Work, Education and Wealth

By John Millen

Continuing last month's review of the detailed results for Denman Island from the 2021 census:

Work

The census found that 585 Denman Islanders had been employed in 2020. Thus 48% of the population had been employed. For comparison, the equivalent percentage for British Columbia (BC) was 63%.

The number of Denman people participating in the various occupations is listed in the table:

Occupations of Labour Force of 585	male	female
Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators	95	25
Natural Resources & Agriculture	60	40
Education, Law, Social & Govt. Services	35	50
Art, Culture, Recreation & Sport	25	50
Sales & Service	25	45
Health	10	40
Other	35	45

Place of Work

	Male	Female
At home	110	120
No Fixed Place	90	55
At Usual Place	75	95

260 Denman Islanders declared they were 'self employed', that is 44% of all workers. In BC as a whole only 18% reported themselves 'self employed'.

Travel to Work

Destination for those with a 'usual place of work' was:
 for 115 people: on Denman Island
 for 20 people: elsewhere within the Comox Regional District,
 and for 40 people: beyond the Regional District but within BC.

The commute to work was by car, truck or van for 270 workers and 15 walked. None went by bicycle or public transit. But 25 checked 'other'. Other?? Say skateboard, zip-line, kayak or perhaps horseback? Maybe by motor scooter? Running?

More than half of Denman workers spent less than 15 minutes getting to work but there were 45 long-haul workers taking more than an hour.

Education

Denman Islanders have more education than the BC population as a whole. Out of 1215 persons surveyed a total of 820 people had a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree. That is 68% for Denman compared with 57% for all BC.

University degrees held were:

Bachelors	280
Masters	115
Earned Doctorates	55 which is 4.5% of the surveyed population on Denman Isl. compared with only 1% of the BC population that has earned a doctorate.

Income v. Wealth

Denman Island after tax income in 2020, average of all recipients, was \$37,200 compared with the equivalent amount for all BC of \$45,600.

Income for Stats. Can. is divided between 'Market income' (e.g. wages, sales revenue, pensions that were bought etc.) and 'Government transfers' (e.g. child benefits, old age security).

	Denman Isl	B.C.
Market income	72%	83%
Govt. transfers	28%	17%

Households are, of course, better off than individuals! Average after tax income of Denman households was \$67,600 and 135 households had over \$100,000 of after tax income.

However income is not the whole story of wealth. Ownership of housing is higher on Denman than in BC as a whole: 87% of Denman households owned their residence, compared with 67% for BC. Denman Island should not think of itself as a 'poor sister'.

To explore the numbers further you can go to:
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/>