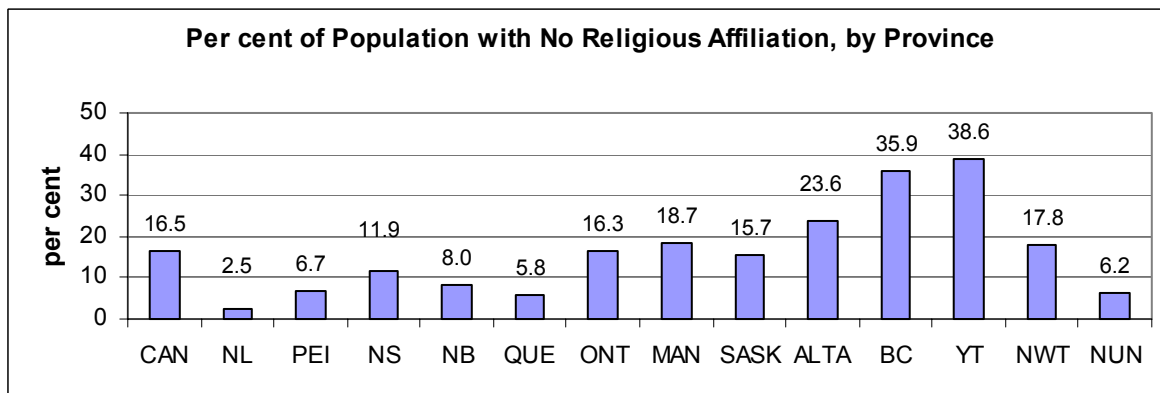


2001 Census Fast Facts: *Religion in BC*

The Census has been collecting data on religion since 1871. The question is asked every ten years and is a measure of cultural diversity. The religion question is open-ended and asks, "What is this person's religion?" Respondents were instructed to indicate a specific denomination or religion even if they were not currently a practising member of that group. "Religion" refers to specific religious denominations, groups or bodies, as well as to sects, cults, or other religiously-defined communities or systems of belief. The Census does not measure church membership, attendance or degree of affiliation.

British Columbians are less likely to be affiliated with a religion than most other Canadians. More than one-third (35.9%) indicated no religious affiliation in 2001, up from 30.5 per cent in 1991. Across the country, only residents of the Yukon Territory were less devout (38.6%). Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest percentage of non-religious persons (2.5%), followed by Quebec (5.8%).



While there was a 19.1 per cent increase in BC's population from 1991 to 2001, Protestant religions experienced a 10.8 per cent decline in affiliation. Among religions showing increased affiliation since 1991 were Buddhist (+134.8%), Muslim (+125.5%), Sikh (+81.5%) and Hindu (+73.6%). This is not surprising, since the majority of immigrants since 1991 were from Asian countries. British Columbia's immigrants are more likely to have a religious affiliation (70.9%) than non-immigrants (62.8%). An increase in Catholicism (+11.9%) is also partly due to immigration - the Roman Catholic religion was the choice for 20.1 per cent of immigrants compared to 16.2 per cent of non-immigrants.

BC's older generations are more religious than their younger counterparts. Of those 45 and over, 73.1 per cent have a religious affiliation, compared to 58.6 per cent of those under 45. Older British Columbians are more likely to be associated with a Protestant religion (43.0%) than the younger generations (24.1%).



Canada, Provinces and Territories, Population by Religious Affiliation, 2001

	Canada	Newfound-land and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario
Total Population	29,639,030	508,080	133,385	897,565	719,710	7,125,580	11,285,545
Catholic	12,936,910	187,445	63,265	328,695	386,045	5,939,715	3,911,760
<i>% of total</i>	43.6	36.9	47.4	36.6	53.6	83.4	34.7
Protestant	8,654,845	303,195	57,080	438,155	263,075	335,590	3,935,745
<i>% of total</i>	29.2	59.7	42.8	48.8	36.6	4.7	34.9
Christian Orthodox	479,615	365	250	3,580	635	100,370	264,060
<i>% of total</i>	1.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	1.4	2.3
Christian, n.i.e.	780,450	2,480	3,210	10,100	8,115	56,750	301,935
<i>% of total</i>	2.6	0.5	2.4	1.1	1.1	0.8	2.7
Muslim	579,645	625	195	3,550	1,275	108,620	352,530
<i>% of total</i>	2.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	1.5	3.1
Jewish	329,995	140	55	2,120	670	89,915	190,800
<i>% of total</i>	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	1.3	1.7
Buddhist	300,345	185	140	1,735	550	41,375	128,320
<i>% of total</i>	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	1.1
Hindu	297,200	405	35	1,235	470	24,530	217,555
<i>% of total</i>	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.9
Sikh	278,410	130	-	270	90	8,220	104,785
<i>% of total</i>	0.9	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9
Eastern religions	37,545	115	105	565	325	3,425	17,785
<i>% of total</i>	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Other religions	63,975	135	100	1,155	785	3,870	18,985
<i>% of total</i>	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
No religious affiliation	4,900,090	12,865	8,950	106,405	57,660	413,185	1,841,290
<i>% of total</i>	16.5	2.5	6.7	11.9	8.0	5.8	16.3

	Manitoba	Saskat-chewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon Territory	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
Total Population	1,103,700	963,150	2,941,150	3,868,875	28,520	37,100	26,665
Catholic	323,690	305,390	786,365	675,320	6,015	16,990	6,210
<i>% of total</i>	29.3	31.7	26.7	17.5	21.1	45.8	23.3
Protestant	475,185	449,200	1,145,455	1,213,290	9,480	11,610	17,780
<i>% of total</i>	43.1	46.6	38.9	31.4	33.2	31.3	66.7
Christian Orthodox	15,645	14,280	44,475	35,655	150	130	20
<i>% of total</i>	1.4	1.5	1.5	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.1
Christian, n.i.e.	44,540	27,070	123,145	200,340	1,010	920	840
<i>% of total</i>	4.0	2.8	4.2	5.2	3.5	2.5	3.2
Muslim	5,095	2,230	49,045	56,220	60	175	25
<i>% of total</i>	0.5	0.2	1.7	1.5	0.2	0.5	0.1
Jewish	13,040	865	11,090	21,230	35	30	-
<i>% of total</i>	1.2	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	-
Buddhist	5,740	3,050	33,415	85,540	130	155	10
<i>% of total</i>	0.5	0.3	1.1	2.2	0.5	0.4	0.0
Hindu	3,840	1,590	15,970	31,500	10	70	-
<i>% of total</i>	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.2	-
Sikh	5,485	500	23,470	135,305	105	45	10
<i>% of total</i>	0.5	0.1	0.8	3.5	0.4	0.1	0.0
Eastern religions	795	775	3,335	9,975	190	95	65
<i>% of total</i>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.2
Other religions	4,780	6,745	10,565	16,200	330	280	40
<i>% of total</i>	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.2	0.8	0.2
No religious affiliation	205,865	151,450	694,840	1,388,300	11,010	6,605	1,655
<i>% of total</i>	18.7	15.7	23.6	35.9	38.6	17.8	6.2

British Columbia Population by Detailed Religious Affiliation, 2001

	% of Total,		% of Total,		% Change 1991 to 2001
	2001	2001	1991	1991	
Total Population	3,868,875	100.0	3,247,505	100.0	19.1
Catholic	674,820	17.4	603,075	18.6	11.9
Protestant	1,213,295	31.4	1,359,805	41.9	-10.8
Adventist	11,070	0.3	10,245	0.3	8.1
Anglican	298,375	7.7	328,580	10.1	-9.2
Baptist	107,465	2.8	84,090	2.6	27.8
Brethren in Christ	1,690	0.0	2,430	0.1	-30.5
Charismatic Renewal	865	0.0	690	0.0	25.4
Christadelphian	770	0.0	675	0.0	14.1
Christian & Missionary Alliance	15,155	0.4	14,900	0.5	1.7
Christian Congregational	725	0.0	1,510	0.0	-52.0
Christian or Plymouth Brethren	990	0.0	2,075	0.1	-52.3
Churches of Christ, Disciples	1,885	0.0	2,050	0.1	-8.0
Church of God, n.o.s.	810	0.0	1,250	0.0	-35.2
Church of the Nazarene	1,745	0.0	1,860	0.1	-6.2
Doukhobors	2,940	0.1	3,725	0.1	-21.1
Evangelical Free Church	3,255	0.1	3,925	0.1	-17.1
Jehovah's Witnesses	31,960	0.8	33,665	1.0	-5.1
Latter-day Saints (Mormons)	17,910	0.5	17,945	0.6	-0.2
Lutheran	101,145	2.6	108,190	3.3	-6.5
Mennonite	35,490	0.9	39,055	1.2	-9.1
Methodist	14,100	0.4	10,210	0.3	38.1
New Apostolic	705	0.0	415	0.0	69.9
Pentecostal	47,425	1.2	70,620	2.2	-32.8
Presbyterian	37,120	1.0	63,985	2.0	-42.0
Quakers	920	0.0	725	0.0	26.9
Reformed	19,235	0.5	18,875	0.6	1.9
Salvation Army	5,945	0.2	10,120	0.3	-41.3
Spiritualist	1,040	0.0	1,270	0.0	-18.1
Unitarian	5,090	0.1	5,115	0.2	-0.5
United Church	361,845	9.4	420,755	13.0	-14.0
Vineyard Christian Fellowship	565	0.0	605	0.0	-6.6
Worldwide Church of God	310	0.0	1,505	0.0	-79.4
Non-denominational	7,055	0.2	6,855	0.2	2.9
Interdenominational	870	0.0	790	0.0	10.1
Christian Orthodox	36,155	0.9	23,545	0.7	53.6
Christian, n.i.e.	200,345	5.2	86,670	2.7	131.2
Muslim	56,220	1.5	24,930	0.8	125.5
Jewish	21,230	0.5	16,640	0.5	27.6
Buddhist	85,540	2.2	36,435	1.1	134.8
Hindu	31,495	0.8	18,140	0.6	73.6
Sikh	135,310	3.5	74,550	2.3	81.5
Eastern religions	9,975	0.3	5,910	0.2	68.8
Baha'i	5,235	0.1	3,460	0.1	51.3
Aboriginal spirituality	5,470	0.1	2,315	0.1	136.3
Pagan	6,100	0.2	1,860	0.1	228.0
Unity - New Thought - Pantheist	1,895	0.0	1,675	0.1	13.1
New Age	690	0.0	480	0.0	43.8
Scientology	330	0.0	400	0.0	-17.5
Gnostic	400	0.0	180	0.0	122.2
Other religions, n.i.e.	1,315	0.0	580	0.0	959.1
No religious affiliation	1,388,300	35.9	990,330	30.5	40.2

British Columbia Population by Selected Religions and Immigration Status, 2001

	Total population	Per cent of Total	Non- immigrants	Per cent of Non- immigrants	Immigrants	Per cent of Immigrants
Total - Selected religions	3,868,870	100.0	2,821,865	100.0	1,009,820	100.0
Roman Catholic	666,905	17.2	457,370	16.2	202,860	20.1
No religion	1,356,600	35.1	1,049,240	37.2	293,390	29.1
United Church	361,845	9.4	330,545	11.7	30,680	3.0
Anglican	298,375	7.7	236,645	8.4	60,750	6.0
Christian not included elsewhere	200,340	5.2	146,345	5.2	50,700	5.0
Baptist	107,465	2.8	83,015	2.9	23,545	2.3
Lutheran	101,145	2.6	69,160	2.5	31,440	3.1
Muslim	56,215	1.5	11,980	0.4	42,405	4.2
Protestant not included elsewhere	76,100	2.0	60,655	2.1	15,060	1.5
Presbyterian	37,120	1.0	25,510	0.9	11,080	1.1
Pentecostal	47,420	1.2	39,950	1.4	7,295	0.7
Jewish	21,230	0.5	14,130	0.5	6,800	0.7
Buddhist	85,540	2.2	18,425	0.7	64,340	6.4
Hindu	31,500	0.8	10,050	0.4	20,750	2.1
Sikh	135,310	3.5	53,115	1.9	81,080	8.0
Greek Orthodox	15,495	0.4	9,125	0.3	6,285	0.6
Mennonite	35,495	0.9	29,525	1.0	5,790	0.6
Orthodox not included elsewhere	11,595	0.3	2,880	0.1	8,475	0.8
Jehovah's Witnesses	31,960	0.8	26,790	0.9	5,035	0.5
Ukrainian Catholic	7,780	0.2	6,905	0.2	865	0.1
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)	17,590	0.5	14,530	0.5	2,740	0.3
Salvation Army	5,940	0.2	5,535	0.2	410	0.0
Christian Reformed Church	11,805	0.3	8,710	0.3	3,070	0.3
Evangelical Missionary Church	9,245	0.2	7,265	0.3	1,935	0.2
Christian and Missionary Alliance	15,160	0.4	12,430	0.4	2,650	0.3
Adventist	11,070	0.3	7,940	0.3	2,970	0.3
Non-denominational	7,055	0.2	5,975	0.2	1,040	0.1
Ukrainian Orthodox	3,020	0.1	2,520	0.1	470	0.0
Aboriginal spirituality	5,470	0.1	5,230	0.2	230	0.0
Hutterite	220	0.0	220	0.0	-	-
Methodist	4,200	0.1	960	0.0	3,055	0.3
Pagan	6,105	0.2	5,435	0.2	645	0.1
Brethren in Christ	1,695	0.0	1,370	0.0	315	0.0
Serbian Orthodox	2,495	0.1	420	0.0	2,010	0.2

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, Table 95F0450XCB01040

British Columbia Population by Detailed Religious Affiliation and Age Group, 2001

	All Ages	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-84 years	85 years +
Total Population	3,868,875	708,305	512,150	1,169,070	974,980	459,565	44,805
Catholic	674,820	114,190	81,460	213,830	175,150	83,915	6,265
Protestant	1,213,295	172,360	121,250	283,145	370,900	238,360	27,280
Adventist	11,070	1,870	1,450	2,840	2,895	1,705	315
Anglican	298,375	34,655	25,390	65,855	98,135	66,305	8,035
Baptist	107,465	20,025	13,060	29,885	28,305	14,655	1,545
Brethren in Christ	1,690	220	240	385	500	315	30
Charismatic Renewal	865	230	125	255	200	45	10
Christadelphian	770	160	90	240	190	90	10
Christian & Missionary Alliance	15,155	3,565	2,030	4,185	3,595	1,685	100
Christian Congregational	725	100	70	40	285	200	35
Christian or Plymouth Brethren	990	145	100	170	255	260	55
Churches of Christ, Disciples	1,885	420	230	575	420	215	20
Church of God, n.o.s.	810	155	110	135	235	170	-
Church of the Nazarene	1,745	255	160	360	460	445	60
Doukhobors	2,940	350	255	615	935	710	70
Evangelical Free Church	3,255	635	505	735	955	395	25
Jehovah's Witnesses	31,960	4,855	4,890	8,765	8,630	4,350	465
Latter-day Saints (Mormons)	17,910	4,245	3,000	4,470	4,330	1,675	185
Lutheran	101,145	13,415	8,040	23,825	29,745	23,975	2,135
Mennonite	35,490	7,940	5,010	10,005	8,150	4,000	380
Methodist Bodies	14,100	2,770	1,825	3,820	3,600	1,820	260
New Apostolic	705	170	70	170	220	65	10
Pentecostal	47,425	10,365	6,610	13,570	11,620	4,805	455
Presbyterian	37,120	3,805	2,875	7,510	11,590	10,145	1,200
Quakers	920	50	60	195	355	230	35
Reformed	19,235	5,480	3,020	5,180	3,540	1,870	145
Salvation Army	5,945	1,010	675	1,480	1,735	930	105
Spiritualist	1,040	85	55	280	505	115	10
Unitarian	5,090	645	450	1,065	1,700	1,180	50
United Church	361,845	43,250	32,215	73,025	122,155	81,455	9,740
Vineyard Christian Fellowship	565	170	85	205	90	15	-
Worldwide Church of God	310	20	25	25	160	80	10
Non-denominational	7,055	1,555	975	2,425	1,580	470	55
Interdenominational	870	195	90	255	230	90	-
Christian Orthodox	36,155	5,485	3,615	12,340	8,555	5,645	515
Christian, n.i.e.	200,345	48,735	33,630	66,915	39,685	10,305	1,070
Muslim	56,220	12,615	9,370	18,580	12,050	3,415	190
Jewish	21,230	3,345	2,410	5,600	6,790	2,685	395
Buddhist	85,540	10,960	12,875	26,930	24,635	9,175	955
Hindu	31,495	7,230	5,225	10,135	7,115	1,700	90
Sikh	135,310	34,510	21,715	43,585	24,915	9,830	755
Eastern religions	9,975	1,540	1,620	3,065	2,825	865	65
Baha'i	5,235	1,060	925	1,420	1,435	370	15
Aboriginal spirituality	5,470	1,595	900	1,830	1,005	145	10
Pagan	6,100	625	1,150	2,950	1,300	65	-
Unity - New Thought - Pantheist	1,895	210	90	400	945	230	30
New Age	690	85	65	285	215	30	10
Scientology	330	55	65	70	110	25	-
Gnostic	400	55	50	185	95	10	-
Other religions, n.i.e.	1,315	105	245	455	415	75	15
No religious affiliation	1,388,300	294,610	216,415	478,775	298,260	93,080	7,160