

Business Indicators ♦ November 2005

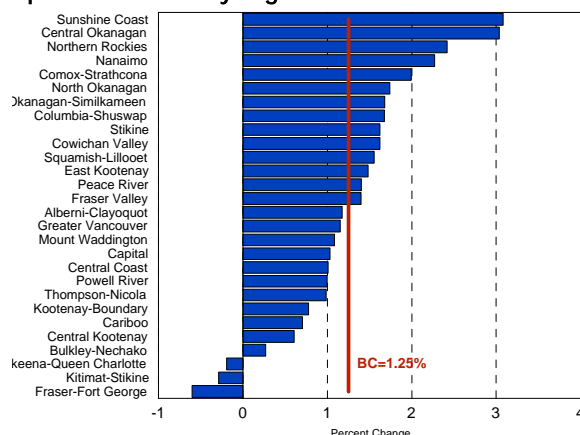
Municipal Population Estimates, 2005

The Province

Between July 1st 2004 and 2005 British Columbia's population grew by 1.25%. This represented an increase of 52,655 persons: from 4,201,867 in 2004 to 4,254,522 in 2005. The total population in Canada grew at a lower rate of 0.9% in the same period. Of the provinces, B.C.'s population growth in 2004-2005 was second after Alberta (1.62%). Ontario grew at 1.08%

The majority of the province's recent population growth was still due to strong inflows of immigrants from other countries. Over the period 2004-2005 (July 1 to July 1), B.C. gained a total of 34,735 persons through net international migration (45,282 total immigrants less 10,547 total emigrants). The second contributor to population growth for the same period was the net gain of 10,464 persons through natural increase (40,465 births less 30,001 deaths). BC also had a net gain in migration, of 7,456 from all provinces and territories, except Alberta where a loss of 202 was recorded.

Population Growth by Regional District



Regional Districts

Twenty-five of the total 28 Regional Districts exhibited a positive population growth between 2004 and 2005, while three Regional Districts experienced population declines. Of these three, declines were fairly small, with Fraser-Fort George showing the largest percentage drop at -0.6%. Collectively, only 780 fewer people were living in these three Regional Districts when compared to the previous year, with most of the decline in Fraser-Fort George.

Of the 25 districts that had population growth, fourteen showed a growth stronger than the provincial average of 1.25%.

Regional District	%Change	Growth	2005 Pop
Greater Vancouver	1.15	24,540	2,155,880
Capital	1.03	3,583	351,022
Fraser Valley	1.40	3,645	264,370
Central Okanagan	3.04	4,950	167,936
Nanaimo	2.27	3,134	141,080
Thompson-Nicola	0.99	1,258	128,790
Comox-Strathcona	1.99	2,059	105,327
Fraser-Fort George	-0.60	-613	101,601
Okanagan-Similkameen	1.68	1,372	83,037
North Okanagan	1.74	1,377	80,474
Cowichan Valley	1.62	1,257	78,802
Cariboo	0.71	494	70,329
Peace River	1.40	871	62,967
East Kootenay	1.48	904	61,862
Central Kootenay	0.61	363	60,237
Columbia-Shuswap	1.68	878	53,245
Bulkley-Nechako	0.27	118	43,933
Kitimat-Stikine	-0.29	-124	42,919
Squamish-Lillooet	1.56	570	37,193
Kootenay-Boundary	0.78	255	33,118
Alberni-Clayoquot	1.18	380	32,692
Greater Vancouver	3.09	855	28,557
Mount Waddington	1.09	147	13,684
Capital	-0.19	-43	22,464
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	-0.19	-43	22,464
Powell River	0.99	208	21,114
Thompson-Nicola	0.99	208	21,114
Kootenay-Boundary	0.78	255	33,118
Cariboo	0.71	494	70,329
Central Kootenay	0.61	363	60,237
Bulkley-Nechako	0.27	118	43,933
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	-0.19	-43	22,464
Kitimat-Stikine	-0.29	-124	42,919
Fraser-Fort George	-0.60	-613	101,601
British Columbia	1.25	52,655	4,254,522

Greater Vancouver, home of more than half of the province's population, displayed a growth of 1.15% or 24,540 persons. This represented 46% of the provincial population growth, as opposed to 37% in 2003/04 and 48% in 2002/03. Sunshine Coast gained only 855 persons in the period, but showed the highest growth in percentage terms (3.08%) due to the much smaller population base.

Municipalities

There are a total of 156 municipalities for which population was estimated. In the 2004-2005 period, 109 municipalities demonstrated population growth while the rest either lost population or showed no growth. On July 1, 2005 the smallest municipality was Zeballos with 228 people, and the largest was City of Vancouver with 583,267 people. There were 76 municipalities that had a population of 5,000 or more people. Of those, Qualicum Beach showed the strongest percentage growth with a rate of 19% (or 1,404 people) (part of the growth was due to a boundary extension), while Surrey showed the strongest growth in terms of population with an increase of 7,275 persons (or 1.89%).

Municipality	2004-05 Pop Change		2005 Population
	%	Persons	
Vancouver, C	0.61%	3,551	583,267
Surrey, C	1.89%	7,275	393,137
Burnaby, C	0.63%	1,271	204,324
Richmond, C	0.15%	253	173,430
Abbotsford, C	0.54%	681	127,434
Coquitlam, C	1.61%	1,930	121,973
Saanich, DM	0.42%	457	110,387
Kelowna, C	3.39%	3,589	109,490
Delta, DM	0.53%	542	102,655
Langley, Township of, DM	2.48%	2,350	97,125

The top ten growth municipalities made up almost half (47.5%) of the province's population. The two largest municipalities, the Cities of Surrey and Vancouver, making up approximately 23% of the total BC population, demonstrated growth in 2004/05 that represented about one-fifth of the increase

in B.C.'s population. Many of municipalities in the Greater Vancouver area, such as Maple Ridge, Langley and Coquitlam, showed strong growth in 2004/05. These so called "bedroom cities" of the region have been growing faster than the GVRD as a whole.

Prince George and North Vancouver were the two municipalities that lost the most population over the period. There were 45 municipalities that lost population in the 2004-05 period, and of these, 33 had population estimated at under 5,000. Most of the areas that lost population decreased by less than two percent (35 of the 45), with 28 of these losing one percent or less.

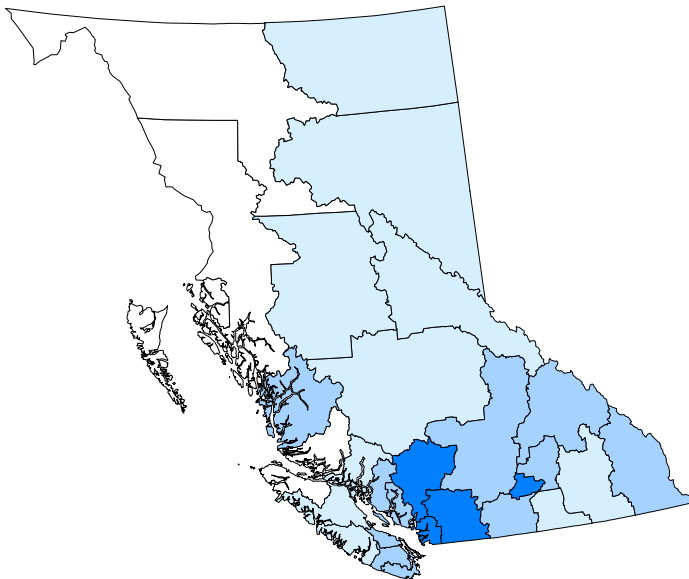
Municipality	2004-05 Pop Change		2005 Population
	%	Persons	
Prince George, C	-0.87%	-678	77,148
North Vancouver, C	-1.23%	-583	46,759
Victoria, C	-0.48%	-375	77,369
New Westminster, C	-0.61%	-354	57,480
Smithers, T	-2.53%	-143	5,509
Kitimat, DM	-1.29%	-138	10,587
Houston, DM	-3.01%	-116	3,733
Oak Bay, DM	-0.50%	-92	18,313
Prince Rupert, C	-0.56%	-85	14,974
Gold River, VL	-5.50%	-79	1,357

Municipal estimates are calculated by the Population Section of BC Stats through a regional estimation model that has been developed and refined over the past 25 years. This model, which uses indicators of population change such as residential electrical connections and telephone line location information, has enabled BC Stats to produce relatively accurate population estimates without the high cost of conducting a census.

Knowledge of population growth and where it occurs is vital to the planning process. For this reason the Municipal and Regional District Estimates are an important tool for provincial and local governments in assessing current and future community needs.

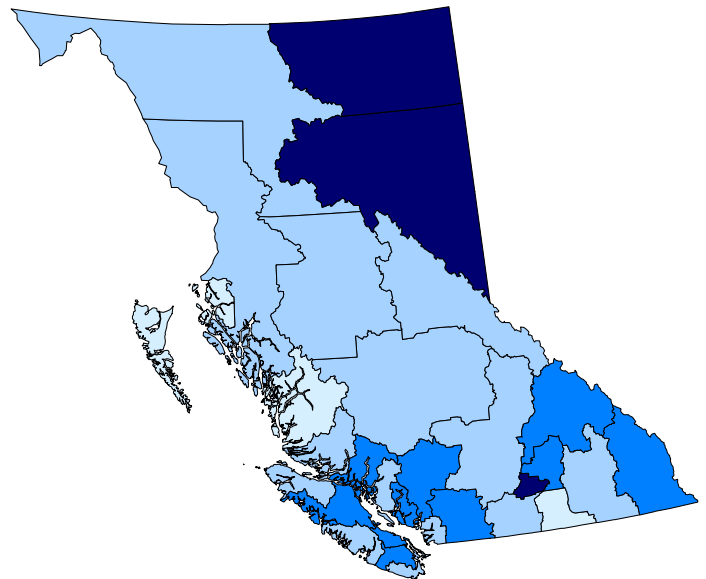
The population estimates for 1996 to 2005 (as well as the estimates for 1976-1995) are available on the BC Stats web site: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>

Total Population Average Annual Percent Change



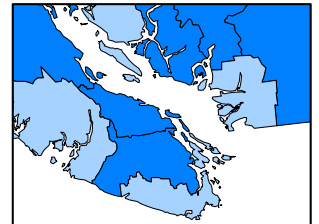
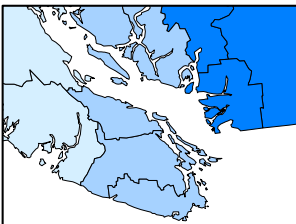
1996-2001

BC Level = 1.03%



2001-2005

BC Level = 1.06%



BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services
December 2005



BC STATS

Service BC
Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

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Release: December 2005

British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.	Name	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.
Alberni-Clayoquot	32,312	32,692	1.2	Courtenay (C)*	21,120	21,797	3.2
Port Alberni (C)	18,610	18,688	0.4	Cumberland (VL)*	2,768	2,817	1.8
Tofino (DM)	1,716	1,846	7.6	Gold River (VL)	1,436	1,357	-5.5
Ucluelet (DM)	1,852	1,900	2.6	Sayward (VL)	404	407	0.7
Bulkley-Nechako	43,815	43,933	0.3	Tahsis (VL)	594	577	-2.9
Burns Lake (VL)	2,028	2,005	-1.1	Zeballos (VL)	232	228	-1.7
Fort St. James (DM)	2,004	2,003	0.0	Cowichan Valley	77,545	78,802	1.6
Fraser Lake (VL)	1,369	1,367	-0.1	Duncan (C)	4,884	4,898	0.3
Granisle (VL)	367	353	-3.8	Ladysmith (T*)	7,130	7,292	2.3
Houston (DM)	3,849	3,733	-3.0	Lake Cowichan (T)	2,986	3,029	1.4
Smithers (T)*	5,652	5,509	-2.5	North Cowichan (DM)	28,140	28,519	1.3
Telkwa (VL)	1,421	1,439	1.3	East Kootenay	60,958	61,862	1.5
Vanderhoof (DM)	4,662	4,727	1.4	Canal Flats (VL)	673	680	1.0
Capital	347,439	351,022	1.0	Cranbrook (C)*	19,660	19,774	0.6
Central Saanich (DM)	16,494	16,821	2.0	Elkford (DM)	2,683	2,670	-0.5
Colwood (C)	14,864	15,253	2.6	Fernie (C)	5,054	5,126	1.4
Esquimalt (DM)	17,083	17,156	0.4	Invermere (DM)	3,147	3,254	3.4
Highlands (DM)	1,967	2,114	7.5	Kimberley (C)	6,946	7,049	1.5
Langford (DM)	20,956	21,845	4.2	Radium Hot Springs (VL)	749	813	8.5
Metchosin (DM)	5,286	5,353	1.3	Sparwood (DM)	3,998	3,973	-0.6
North Saanich (DM)	11,132	11,274	1.3	Fraser Valley	260,725	264,370	1.4
Oak Bay (DM)	18,405	18,313	-0.5	Abbotsford (C)	126,753	127,434	0.5
Saanich (DM)	109,930	110,387	0.4	Chilliwack (C)	69,193	70,522	1.9
Sidney (T)	11,525	11,862	2.9	Harrison Hot Springs (VL)	1,542	1,585	2.8
Sooke (DM)	9,756	10,117	3.7	Hope (DM)	6,575	6,591	0.2
Victoria (C)	77,744	77,369	-0.5	Kent (DM)	5,525	5,680	2.8
View Royal (T)	8,067	8,382	3.9	Mission (DM)	34,060	34,742	2.0
Cariboo	69,835	70,329	0.7	Fraser-Fort George	102,214	101,601	-0.6
100 Mile House (DM)	1,828	1,826	-0.1	Mackenzie (DM)	5,458	5,454	-0.1
Quesnel (C)	10,444	10,487	0.4	McBride (VL)	743	752	1.2
Wells (DM)	262	248	-5.3	Prince George (C)	77,826	77,148	-0.9
Williams Lake (C)	11,865	11,872	0.1	Valemount (VL)	1,247	1,250	0.2
Central Coast	3,866	3,905	1.0	Greater Vancouver	2,131,340	2,155,880	1.2
Central Kootenay	59,874	60,237	0.6	Anmore (VL)	1,553	1,673	7.7
Castlegar (C)*	7,237	7,284	0.6	Belcarra (VL)	715	723	1.1
Creston (T)	5,053	5,097	0.9	Bowen Island (IM)	3,353	3,424	2.1
Kaslo (VL)	1,071	1,075	0.4	Burnaby (C)	203,053	204,324	0.6
Nakusp (VL)	1,789	1,779	-0.6	Coquitlam (C)	120,043	121,973	1.6
Nelson (C)	9,793	9,780	-0.1	Delta (DM)	102,113	102,655	0.5
New Denver (VL)	550	549	-0.2	Langley (C)	24,982	25,716	2.9
Salmo (VL)	1,140	1,133	-0.6	Langley, Township of (DM)	94,775	97,125	2.5
Silverton (VL)	231	230	-0.4	Lions Bay (VL)	1,421	1,421	0.0
Slocan (VL)	359	357	-0.6	Maple Ridge (DM)	70,792	73,280	3.5
Central Okanagan	162,986	167,936	3.0	New Westminster (C)	57,834	57,480	-0.6
Kelowna (C)	105,901	109,490	3.4	North Vancouver (DM)	86,868	87,083	0.2
Lake Country (DM)	10,091	10,367	2.7	North Vancouver (C)	47,342	46,759	-1.2
Peachland (DM)	5,090	5,230	2.8	Pitt Meadows (DM)	16,087	16,673	3.6
Columbia-Shuswap	52,367	53,245	1.7	Port Coquitlam (C)	56,413	57,563	2.0
Golden (T)	4,385	4,399	0.3	Port Moody (C)	26,757	28,458	6.4
Revelstoke (C)	7,932	7,964	0.4	Richmond (C)	173,177	173,430	0.1
Salmon Arm (C)	16,510	16,800	1.8	Surrey (C)	385,862	393,137	1.9
Sicamous (DM)	3,022	3,043	0.7	Vancouver (C)	579,716	583,267	0.6
Comox-Strathcona	103,268	105,327	2.0	West Vancouver (DM)	43,356	44,149	1.8
Campbell River (C)	30,250	30,810	1.9	White Rock (C)	19,299	19,577	1.4
Comox (C)	12,279	12,688	3.3				

This and other releases are also available through the Internet at <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>

Call (250) 387-0359 for details.

British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.
Kitimat-Stikine	43,043	42,919	-0.3
Hazelton (VL)	355	342	-3.7
Kitimat (DM)	10,725	10,587	-1.3
New Hazelton (DM)	765	758	-0.9
Stewart (DM)	717	695	-3.1
Terrace (C)	12,599	12,556	-0.3
Kootenay-Boundary	32,863	33,118	0.8
Fruitvale (VL)	2,062	2,083	1.0
Grand Forks (C)	4,184	4,200	0.4
Greenwood (C)	666	668	0.3
Midway (VL)	641	630	-1.7
Montrose (VL)	1,090	1,086	-0.4
Rossland (C)	3,689	3,725	1.0
Trail (C)	7,862	7,889	0.3
Warfield (VL)	1,756	1,751	-0.3
Mount Waddington	13,537	13,684	1.1
Alert Bay (VL)	615	607	-1.3
Port Alice (VL)	1,107	1,128	1.9
Port Hardy (DM)	4,593	4,597	0.1
Port McNeill (T)	2,908	2,928	0.7
Nanaimo	137,946	141,080	2.3
Lantzville (DM)	3,763	3,819	1.5
Nanaimo (C)	78,479	79,626	1.5
Parksville (C)	11,275	11,709	3.8
Qualicum Beach (T)*	7,403	8,807	19.0
North Okanagan	79,097	80,474	1.7
Armstrong (C)	4,518	4,526	0.2
Coldstream (DM)	9,922	10,102	1.8
Enderby (C)	3,023	3,073	1.7
Lumby (VL)	1,703	1,738	2.1
Spallumcheen (DM)	5,648	5,707	1.0
Vernon (C)	35,642	36,232	1.7
Northern Rockies	6,451	6,607	2.4
Fort Nelson (T)	4,706	4,823	2.5
Okanagan-Similkameen	81,665	83,037	1.7
Keremeos (VL)	1,278	1,306	2.2
Oliver (T)	4,378	4,379	0.0
Osoyoos (T)	4,611	4,801	4.1
Penticton (C)	32,955	33,061	0.3
Princeton (T)	2,691	2,688	-0.1
Summerland (DM)	11,285	11,405	1.1
Peace River	62,096	62,967	1.4
Chetwynd (DM)	2,729	2,770	1.5
Dawson Creek (C)	11,320	11,394	0.7
Fort St. John (C)	17,326	17,781	2.6
Hudson's Hope (DM)	1,159	1,157	-0.2
Pouce Coupe (VL)	864	887	2.7
Taylor (DM)	1,291	1,346	4.3
Tumbler Ridge (DM)	2,464	2,526	2.5
Powell River	20,906	21,114	1.0
Powell River (DM)	13,716	13,831	0.8
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist (IGD)**	38	38	0.0
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	22,507	22,464	-0.2
Masset (VL)	967	967	0.0
Port Clements (VL)	534	533	-0.2
Port Edward (DM)	659	653	-0.9
Prince Rupert (C)	15,059	14,974	-0.6

Name	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.
Squamish-Lillooet	36,623	37,193	1.6
Lillooet (DM)	2,821	2,755	-2.3
Pemberton (VL)	2,203	2,510	13.9
Squamish (DM)	15,431	15,726	1.9
Whistler (DM)	9,809	9,775	-0.3
Stikine	1,355	1,377	1.6
Sunshine Coast	27,702	28,557	3.1
Gibsons (T)	4,216	4,349	3.2
Sechelt (DM)	8,511	8,901	4.6
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist (IGD)**	792	812	2.5
Thompson-Nicola	127,532	128,790	1.0
Ashcroft (VL)	1,868	1,836	-1.7
Cache Creek (VL)	1,145	1,134	-1.0
Chase (VL)	2,552	2,568	0.6
Clinton (VL)	672	654	-2.7
Kamloops (C)	81,916	82,714	1.0
Logan Lake (DM)	2,320	2,314	-0.3
Lytton (VL)	333	334	0.3
Merritt (C)	7,516	7,561	0.6
British Columbia	4,201,867	4,254,522	1.3

Source:

Population Section, BC Stats, Service BC,
Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services,
Government of British Columbia.
December 2005

Notes:

All figures correspond to municipal boundaries
as of July 1st of the year stated.

All figures are as of July 1st of the year stated.

C = City, T = Town, VL = Village, DM = District Municipality,
IM = Island Municipality, IGD = Indian Government District,
DR = Development Region.

* Denotes a boundary change between 2001 and 2005.

**Sechelt Indian Government District is split between Sunshine Coast
and Powell River Regional Districts.

Base population figures for new incorporations are
supplied by the Ministry of Community Services.

British Columbia Development Region	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.
Vancouver Island/Coast	736,819	747,626	1.5
Mainland/Southwest	2,456,390	2,486,000	1.2
Thompson-Okanagan	503,647	513,482	2.0
Kootenay	153,695	155,217	1.0
Cariboo	172,049	171,930	-0.1
North Coast	65,550	65,383	-0.3
Nechako	45,170	45,310	0.3
Northeast	68,547	69,574	1.5
British Columbia Total	4,201,867	4,254,522	1.3