



**Nechako**  
**Development Region**

<b>1</b>	<b>General Economy</b>
<p>Regional Districts in Development Region: Bulkley-Nechako, Stikine</p> <p>The main economic activities in this area include forestry, agriculture, mining, and tourism. This region stretches from the Nechako valley in the south to the Yukon border in the north. The majority of the residents live in the south and are engaged primarily in forestry, mining and agriculture. Road works and upgrades are being implemented throughout the region. The area has seen considerable mining exploration in recent years and several mines are in proposal stages. Forestry remains the primary income generating activity. Some lumber mills in the area have announced closures or output reductions. The region's many lumber and speciality mills also face future supply issues due to the mountain pine beetle problem in the area. Mining exploration and development continues for the area.</p>	

The notes above and later in this report on Demographics and Projections are the basis for BC Stats population projection P33 completed in the Summer of 2008. The projections are updated annually to reflect known demographic shifts and economic conditions. Full projections with "Components of Change", "Special Age Groups", "5 Year Age Cohorts by Sex", and accompanying notes are available for B.C., the 8 development regions, the 28 regional districts, the 79 local health areas (LHAs) and a number of "special areas" of local interest which are not part of a province-wide geocoding system. Individual areas, including age and sex detail, are modestly priced. Users requiring only total population projections are able to self serve for free from our population projection page: [www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp) The full B.C. level projection is available free on the above page.

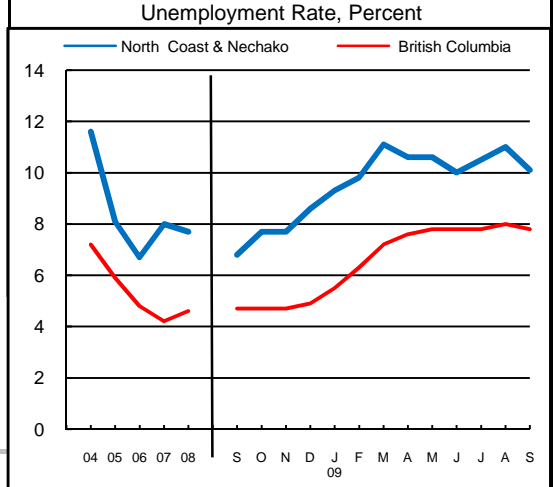
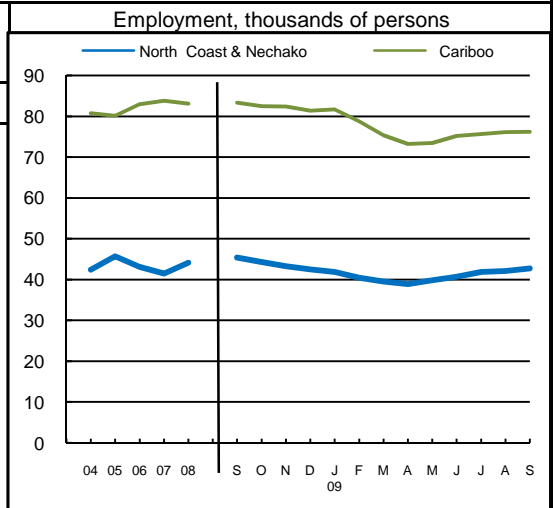
<b>2</b>		<b>Economic Structure - Number of Business Locations, by Sector, by Employment Size, December 2008</b>									
NAICS Code	Industry Sector based on NAICS Canada (North American Industrial Classification System)	Locations With No Employees	Nechako						British Columbia		
			Firms with Employees						With Employees		
			Less Than 20	20 to 49	50 to 199	200 Plus	All Sizes with Emp.	Percent of Total	Percent of Total	All Sizes	
	Total, All Industries	1,579	1,707	138	60	14	1,919	100.0%	100.0%	175,003	
11	Agric., Forestry, Fishing & Hunt	402	367	30	8	0	405	21.1%	4.0%	7,009	
21	Mining & Oil & Gas Extract.	15	12	3	5	1	21	1.1%	0.6%	1,071	
22	Utilities	2	3	1	0	0	4	0.2%	0.1%	203	
23	Construction	188	193	6	3	0	202	10.5%	12.1%	21,108	
31	Manufacturing (31-33)	46	56	6	10	7	79	4.1%	4.5%	7,879	
41	Wholesale Trade	39	45	3	1	0	49	2.6%	5.9%	10,359	
44	Retail Trade (44-45)	96	187	19	5	3	214	11.2%	11.9%	20,742	
48	Transp. & Warehousing (48-49)	153	137	4	2	0	143	7.5%	4.4%	7,734	
51	Information & Cultural Indust.	8	18	0	0	0	18	0.9%	1.4%	2,412	
52	Finance & Insurance	48	42	7	2	0	51	2.7%	3.8%	6,564	
53	Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	151	51	1	0	0	52	2.7%	4.5%	7,835	
54	Profes'nl, Scientif. & Tech. Srv	105	113	5	1	1	120	6.3%	11.0%	19,278	
55	Mgmt. of Companies & Enter.	67	23	0	0	0	23	1.2%	1.6%	2,818	
56	Admin. & Sup'rt, Waste Mgmt.	42	46	6	2	0	54	2.8%	4.9%	8,513	
61	Educational Services	5	11	4	1	2	18	0.9%	1.4%	2,363	
62	Health Care & Social Assistance	13	95	10	4	0	109	5.7%	8.4%	14,773	
71	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	35	30	4	1	0	35	1.8%	1.6%	2,873	
72	Accom. & Food Services	53	116	19	5	0	140	7.3%	6.7%	11,639	
81	Other Serv's (ex. Public Admin.)	110	152	2	1	0	155	8.1%	10.9%	19,095	
91	Public Administration	1	10	8	9	0	27	1.4%	0.4%	735	

Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register Division. Note: This table formerly identified **business establishments**.



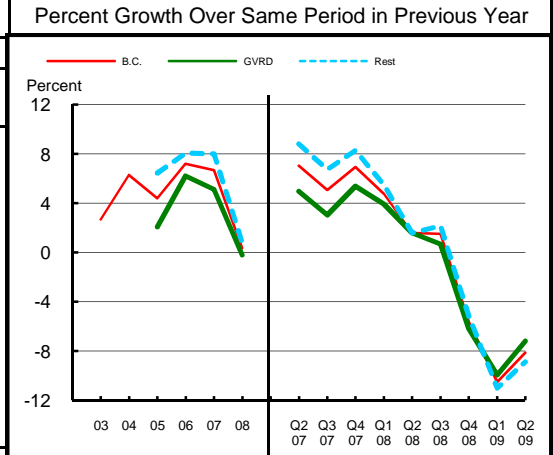
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<b>3 Employment and Unemployment Rate, monthly data are 3-month moving average, actual, ending in stated month</b>							
	North Coast & Nechako		Cariboo		British Columbia		
	Emp. ('000)	Unemp. %	Emp. ('000)	Unemp. %	Emp. ('000)	Unemp. %	
1999	46.7	8.8	81.4	11.6	1,894.4	8.3	
2000	47.3	10.2	79.1	9.9	1,931.3	7.1	
2001	46.6	11.2	79.4	9.7	1,921.6	7.7	
2002	44.9	12.6	78.0	12.7	1,965.0	8.5	
2003	44.8	11.3	78.2	11.1	2,014.7	8.0	
2004	42.4	11.6	80.7	9.1	2,062.7	7.2	
2005	45.7	8.1	80.1	7.4	2,130.5	5.9	
2006	43.1	6.7	82.9	6.1	2,195.5	4.8	
2007	41.5	8.0	83.8	5.1	2,266.3	4.2	
2008	44.1	7.7	83.1	6.5	2,314.3	4.6	
2008 Jan	41.5	8.2	88.0	5.2	2,286.5	4.1	
2008 Feb	42.1	7.3	86.5	5.8	2,278.9	4.2	
2008 Mar	43.3	7.1	84.0	6.8	2,284.9	4.4	
2008 Apr	44.3	7.9	82.9	7.7	2,295.0	4.4	
2008 May	44.4	8.6	82.7	7.9	2,313.3	4.5	
2008 Jun	45.4	8.5	83.5	7.0	2,329.8	4.4	
2008 Jul	45.8	7.5	83.4	6.9	2,345.0	4.5	
2008 Aug	46.5	7.6	83.2	7.2	2,350.7	4.6	
2008 Sep	45.4	6.8	83.3	6.8	2,337.7	4.7	
2008 Oct	44.3	7.7	82.5	6.4	2,325.3	4.7	
2008 Nov	43.3	7.7	82.4	5.5	2,312.5	4.7	
2008 Dec	42.5	8.6	81.4	5.6	2,304.8	4.9	
2009 Jan	41.9	9.3	81.7	6.1	2,278.4	5.5	
2009 Feb	40.5	9.8	78.8	7.8	2,251.1	6.3	
2009 Mar	39.5	11.1	75.3	10.0	2,227.5	7.2	
2009 Apr	38.9	10.6	73.2	12.0	2,229.0	7.6	
2009 May	39.8	10.6	73.4	12.9	2,243.1	7.8	
2009 Jun	40.7	10.0	75.2	13.5	2,264.6	7.8	
2009 Jul	41.9	10.5	75.6	14.2	2,275.9	7.8	
2009 Aug	42.1	11.0	76.1	13.3	2,280.5	8.0	
2009 Sep	42.7	10.1	76.2	12.4	2,275.8	7.8	
2009 Oct							
2009 Nov							
2009 Dec							
Average:							
ytd average	Jan-Sep08	44.7	7.4	83.6	6.9	2,317.5	4.5
based on	Jan-Sep09	40.9	10.4	75.5	12.0	2,256.0	7.6
actual data	% Change	-8.4		-9.7		-2.7	



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada. Sub-provincial regions are development regions or census metropolitan areas.

<b>4 Retail Sales - based on Statistics Canada monthly survey</b>							<b>Percent Growth Over Same Period in Previous Year</b>						
Year or Year/Quarter	\$ millions of retail sales			Percent change on year ago			B.C.	Greater Vancouver	Rest of Province	B.C.	Greater Vancouver	Rest of Province	
	B.C.	Greater Vancouver	Rest of Province	B.C.	Greater Vancouver	Rest of Province							
2004	47,216.6	22,243.6	24,973.0	6.3	n/a	n/a							
2005	49,286.3	22,702.6	26,583.7	4.4	2.1	6.4							
Annual data 2006	52,837.1	24,110.2	28,726.9	7.2	6.2	8.1							
2007	56,365.4	25,342.8	31,022.6	6.7	5.1	8.0							
2008	56,562.4	25,290.5	31,271.8	0.3	-0.2	0.8							
Quarterly data 08 2	14,749.1	6,626.3	8,122.8	1.6	1.6	1.6							
08 3	14,923.3	6,466.4	8,456.9	1.5	0.7	2.2							
08 4	14,053.2	6,340.4	7,712.7	-5.6	-6.2	-5.2							
09 1	11,485.1	5,274.5	6,210.5	-10.5	-10.0	-11.0							
09 2	13,550.1	6,150.0	7,400.1	-8.1	-7.2	-8.9							



Source: B.C. & GVRD data - Statistics Canada, monthly survey (CANSIM 080-0015).



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**Was 5** **Manufacturing Principal Statistics - Search at [www.made-in-bc.ca](http://www.made-in-bc.ca) for local firms, products and more**

This table is discontinued. Sub-provincial manufacturing principal statistics are no longer being produced.

<b>5</b>		<b>Tourism Room Revenue (\$ Thousands)</b>					<b>Tourism Room Revenue Index 2003=100</b>			
	Year	Total/YTD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index			
Nechako Dev. Region	2005	9,649.4	1,956.5	2,341.1	3,331.6	2,020.2				
	2006	9,790.6	1,739.9	2,337.0	3,532.7	2,181.0				
	2007	11,246.4	1,862.4	2,696.4	4,111.8	2,575.8				
	2008	10,891.4	1,823.5	2,712.8	3,905.9	2,449.3				
	2009	3,947.7	1,577.9	2,369.8						
British Columbia	2005	1,681,563.6	351,779.6	404,639.8	610,273.7	314,870.6				
	2006	1,807,608.7	366,165.1	450,747.7	652,476.4	338,219.5				
	2007	1,963,958.7	412,949.3	488,493.9	697,545.2	364,970.3				
	2008	1,977,424.9	435,223.9	503,276.7	687,708.3	351,215.9				
	2009	802,329.6	378,880.1	423,449.6						
2008 Room Revenue by Accommodation Type (\$Thousands   %Share)										
TOTAL	10,805.0	100.0%								
Fishing lodges	845.0	7.8%								
Motels	4,783.0	44.3%								
*Town of Smithers	5,997.0	55.5%								
asterisk before location denotes sub-area detail										

All room revenue data has been revised. For an explanation, see our periodical called *Tourism Sector Monitor*, April and May issues of 2009.  
Link to explanation of changes: [http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr\\_tour.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_tour.asp)

<b>6</b>		<b>Building Permits</b>					<b>Total Permits Index 2003=100</b>		
Year	Total Building Permits	Non Residential			Residential	Units	Index		
		Total Non Res.	Industrial	Commercial			Institutional & Gov't	B.C.	Region
		<-- \$ Millions -->							
2001	17.8	10.8	1.1	5.3	4.4	7.0			61
2002	24.3	19.5	5.5	4.0	10.0	4.9			35
2003	16.6	9.8	3.5	3.8	2.4	6.8			51
2004	21.6	13.4	1.3	4.3	7.8	8.2			50
2005	38.9	25.5	9.8	3.5	12.2	13.4			95
2006	27.7	13.1	3.7	5.9	3.5	14.6			80
2007	34.7	14.3	3.3	7.4	3.6	20.4			108
2008	26.2	7.7	1.0	3.8	3.0	18.4			100
Jan-Aug 08	21.7	5.5	0.6	3.1	1.8	16.2			83
Jan-Aug 09	13.9	3.5	0.5	2.2	0.8	10.4	44		

Not all projects require a building permit, and not all municipalities & regions report. Latest month preliminary, previous month is revised.  
Source: Statistics Canada (data collected from municipal and Regional District offices).

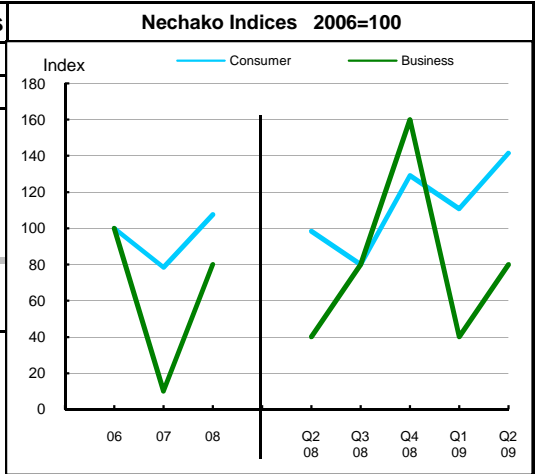


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Year	Nechako		British Columbia		Consumer	Business
	Consumer	Business	Consumer	Business		
2006	65	10	7,020	585		
2007	51	1	6,651	470		
2008	70	8	7,293	454		
2009						
2010						
YTD-08	36	2	3,335	202		
YTD-09	41	3	5,400	232		

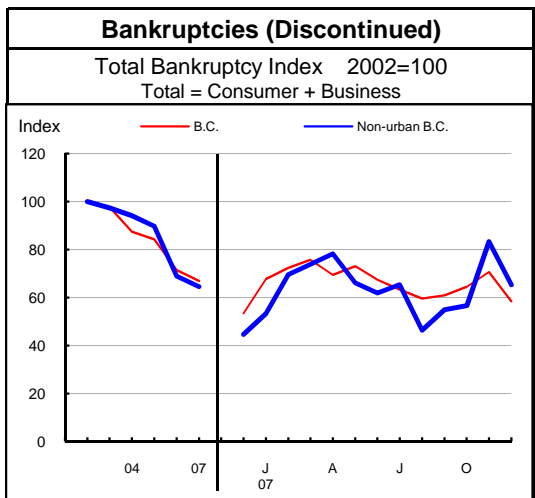
Source: Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, Government of Canada  
Total bankruptcy index includes business and consumer bankruptcies.

Note: Bankruptcy is not a good measure of business failure. Most firms that fail wind down operations and withdraw from business.



Year	Incorporations	Incorporations Index 2003=100	
		B.C.	Region
2001	87		
2002	83		
2003	99		
2004	110		
2005	108		
2006	137		
2007	131		
2008	118		
Jan-Sep 08	93		
Jan-Sep 09	60		

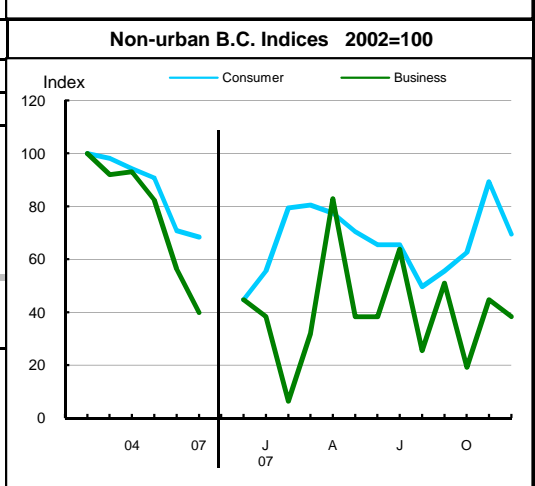
Source: Incorporations - (B.C.) Ministry of Finance



Year	Non-urban B.C.		B.C.	
	Consumer	Business	Consumer	Business
2003	1,186	173	9,385	1,002
2004	1,139	175	8,378	922
2005	1,097	155	8,173	786
2006	856	106	7,021	587
2007	827	75	6,651	470
Jan-Dec 06	856	106	7,022	587
Jan-Dec 07	827	75	6,651	470

Source: Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, Government of Canada  
Total bankruptcy index includes business and consumer bankruptcies.

Note: Bankruptcy is not a good measure of business failure. Most firms that fail wind down operations and withdraw from business.





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**Dependence on the Safety Net**

<b>10 Basic Income Assistance</b> (Basic Income Assistance Recipients in Subject Group as a percent of Reference Group)							<b>11 Employment Insurance (was UI)</b> (EI beneficiaries as a percent of Reference Group)									
Subject Group (receiving benefits)		All (0-64)	Children <19 yrs in Families	Young Adults (19-24)	'Mid' Group (25-54)	Single Parent Women	Working Age (19-64)	Young Adults (19-24)	'Mid' Group (25-54)	'Older' Workers (55-64)	Note Older Data					
Reference Group		Total Pop. 0-64	Total Pop. <19	Total Pop. 19-24	Total Pop. 25-54	Tot. Female 19-64	Total Pop. 19-64	Total Pop. 19-24	Total Pop. 25-54	Total Pop. 55-64						
Nechako Dev. Region	Sep '07	1.8	2.6	2.4	1.5	1.1	3.3	4.2	3.4	2.3	Mar '07					
	Dec '07	1.9	2.6	2.4	1.6	1.1	3.9	3.3	4.3	3.0	Jun '07					
	Mar '08	2.1	3.0	2.5	1.8	1.2	2.1	1.8	2.4	1.5	Sep '07					
	Jun '08	2.0	2.7	2.8	1.7	1.1	4.2	4.0	4.6	2.9	Dec '07					
	Sep '08	2.2	3.2	2.7	1.9	1.1	6.1	5.9	6.8	3.9	Mar '08					
	Dec '08	2.2	3.2	2.7	1.8	1.0	13.0	9.5	14.8	9.5	Jun '08					
	Mar '09	2.7	3.7	3.5	2.4	1.3	3.5	3.2	3.9	2.3	Sep '08					
	Jun '09	2.9	3.9	3.6	2.6	1.3	4.1	5.1	4.4	2.5	Dec '08					
	Sep '09	3.0	4.2	4.3	2.5	1.3	6.3	8.3	6.6	3.8	Mar '09					
<b>Duration of Dependence on Income Assistance (As of September 2009)</b>		<b>All* Income Assistance Recipients as % of Total Pop 0-64: Region Compared to B.C.</b>					<b>EI Beneficiaries Aged 19-64 as % of Working Age Population</b>									
Region		Percent					Percent									
B.C.		Region					B.C.					Region				
Total Number of Recipients	959	72,592														
Percent Distribution by Duration																
<1 Year	64.4	65.3														
1-2 Years	19.1	18.2														
>2 Years	16.5	16.4														
Source: Ministry of Children and Family Development administrative files and BC Stats population estimates. These figures include only a subset of those receiving income assistance. Excluded are those on Continuous Assistance (disabled or with persistent multiple barriers to employment, children in the home of a relative, and OAS/seniors. A recipient is defined as 'each person living in a family or living alone that is receiving basic income assistance'. Data does not include Aboriginal people living on Reserve. Note: '-' Data too small to release.							Source: Ministry of Housing and Social Development and BC Stats population estimates.									
<b>12 Dependence on Basic Income Assistance and/or Employment Insurance</b> (Basic Income Assistance Recipients + Employment Insurance Recipients in Subject Group as a percent of Reference Group)																
Subject Group (receiving assistance)		All (19-64)	Young Adults (19-24)	'Mid' Group (25-54)	'Older' Group (55-64)	All 'Safety Net' Recipients as % of Total Pop 19-64: Region Compared to B.C.										
Reference Group		Total Pop. 19-64	Total Pop. 19-24	Total Pop. 25-54	Total Pop. 55-64	Percent										
Nechako Dev. Region	Mar '07	4.7	6.9	4.8	2.9											
	Jun '07	5.4	6.0	5.8	3.7											
	Sep '07	3.6	4.1	3.9	2.3											
	Dec '07	5.6	6.3	6.1	3.5											
	Mar '08	7.7	8.4	8.6	4.5											
	Jun '08	14.6	12.3	16.4	10.2											
	Sep '08	5.1	5.6	5.7	3.0											
	Dec '08	5.8	7.8	6.1	3.2											
	Mar '09	8.4	11.8	8.9	4.7											

Note: The EI figures reported above no longer include persons claiming parental/adoption leave. Previous issues of this table did include them.



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**13 Demographics**

Nechako has experienced periods of slow growth as well as periods of shrinking population. It has also seen shifts in the character and structure of its population. Although it has aged, adding 10.5 years to its median age since 1986, this is a relatively young population, with a median age almost three years younger than the provincial median. The sex ratio is heavily biased in favour of males, likely due to the dependency on male-dominated resource industries. For much of the period, fertility rates have been around or above replacement level (2100 per 1000 women). Fertility remains very high relative to the province as a whole. Overall dependency ratios are higher than for the province as a whole, likely due to higher fertility and the older age structure of the population. Although child dependency is by far the largest portion of overall dependency, elderly dependency ratios have increased dramatically over the last twenty years. High fertility and a youthful population means that births outnumber deaths by a substantial margin and natural increase makes a significant, but declining, contribution to population growth. However, net migration has been predominantly negative. Since the magnitude of natural increase has been insufficient to offset these outflows, Nechako has experienced a period of net loss of population from the late 1990s to the present.

**14 Projection**

A large portion of this region is very sparsely populated. Net migration to the area has been negative for the past decade, and this trend will continue, though more modestly, until near the end of the projection period. Nonetheless, positive natural increase should continue for most of the projection and is expected to more than offset the migration outflows. As a result, the population should grow modestly over the projection period, adding about 1,700 people over the projection period. Population ageing is expected to continue and, by 2036, there will likely be 8 dependents for every ten people of working age.

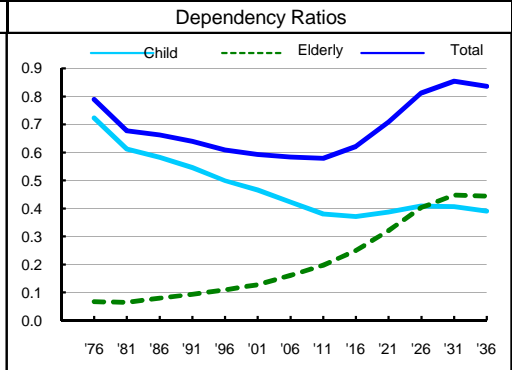
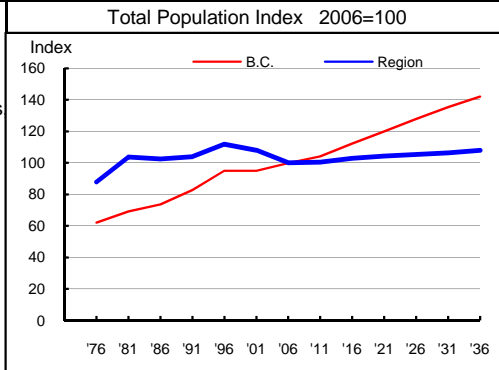
**15 Selected Demographic Characteristics**

Year	Population by age group, Thousands of persons							Households (,000)	Dependency Ratios			Year
	0-4	5-17	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All Ages		Child	Elderly	Total	
1976	3.7	10.4	4.8	9.9	4.9	1.3	35.1	9.7	0.723	0.067	0.790	1976
1981	4.5	10.7	6.2	13.0	5.6	1.6	41.5	12.5	0.613	0.065	0.678	1981
1986	4.2	10.1	4.7	13.8	6.1	2.0	41.0	13.1	0.583	0.080	0.663	1986
1991	3.8	10.1	4.2	14.3	6.9	2.4	41.6	13.8	0.546	0.094	0.640	1991
1996	3.7	10.2	4.5	14.8	8.4	3.0	44.7	15.4	0.500	0.109	0.609	1996
2001	3.1	9.5	4.1	13.2	9.8	3.5	43.2	15.4	0.466	0.128	0.593	2001
2006	2.6	8.1	3.5	10.5	11.2	4.1	40.0	14.8	0.423	0.161	0.584	2006
2011	2.7	7.0	4.1	9.5	11.8	5.0	40.2	15.1	0.381	0.198	0.579	2011
2016	2.7	6.7	3.8	9.8	11.8	6.3	41.1	15.7	0.372	0.250	0.622	2016
2021	2.7	6.8	3.3	10.0	11.1	7.8	41.7	16.2	0.387	0.321	0.708	2021
2026	2.6	7.0	3.1	10.2	10.0	9.4	42.2	16.5	0.409	0.403	0.812	2026
2031	2.5	6.9	3.5	10.2	9.2	10.3	42.6	16.8	0.407	0.447	0.854	2031
2036	2.5	6.7	3.6	10.3	9.7	10.5	43.2	17.3	0.391	0.445	0.836	2036

Age groups reflect pre-school, school, advanced education, family formation, mature workers and retired.

Child Dependency:  
 (ages 0-17) / (ages 18-64)

Elderly Dependency:  
 (ages 65+) / (ages 18-64)



Source: Population data are Projection P-34, run in Summer 2009. Figures are adjusted for Census undercount and are for July 1st of stated year.  
 Note: Demographics and Projection notes in Tables 13 and 14 are from Projection P-33, run the Summer 2008.