

Appendix - Notes to Data Tables

Geography

This report is organized by geographic region. British Columbia comprises eight **development regions**, which in turn are composed of varying numbers of **regional districts**. The same set of data tables are presented for: the province of British Columbia; each development region, sorted in numeric order according to the code number, and; each regional district, sorted in alphabetic order.

Regional districts are generally equivalent to Statistics Canada's (SC's) census divisions. Readers are cautioned that regional district boundaries are sometimes subject to change. Langley City and Langley District Municipality were transferred to Greater Vancouver Regional District from Central Fraser Valley Regional District in 1989. Peace River-Liard Regional District has been split into Peace River Regional District and Fort Nelson-Liard Regional District. This report now publishes data for the two new northern RDs. The data for the old Peace River-Liard RD will be the same as for Northeast Development Region. In the Spring of 1999 the name of Fort Nelson-Liard RD changed to Northern Rockies RD.

In 1995, a number of changes occurred in the lower mainland: the municipalities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows were moved from Dewdney-Alouette RD into the Greater Vancouver RD. In January 1996, the remnants of Dewdney-Alouette RD amalgamated with the remnants of the Central Fraser Valley RD (Abbotsford and Matsqui) and the Fraser-Cheam RD to form Fraser Valley RD. While this report is organized according to the new boundaries in the Fraser valley, Tables 5 and 8 within RDs 9, and 15 are presented on the basis of add-ups of the most substantial pieces of the former jurisdictions and Table 6 incorporates a noted break in the series.

The list below shows the relationship of regional districts to development regions.

The associated census division number is provided for each regional district.

DR 1: Vancouver Island/Coast

- 23 Alberni-Clayoquot
- 17 Capital
- 45 Central Coast
- 25 Comox-Strathcona
- 19 Cowichan Valley
- 43 Mount Waddington
- 21 Nanaimo
- 27 Powell River

DR 2: Mainland/Southwest

- 09 Fraser Valley
- 15 Greater Vancouver
- 31 Squamish-Lillooet
- 29 Sunshine Coast

DR 3: Thompson/Okanagan

- 35 Central Okanagan
- 39 Columbia-Shuswap
- 37 North Okanagan
- 07 Okanagan-Similkameen
- 33 Thompson-Nicola

DR 4: Kootenay

- 03 Central Kootenay
- 01 East Kootenay
- 05 Kootenay Boundary

DR 5: Cariboo

- 41 Cariboo
- 53 Fraser-Fort George

DR 6: North Coast

- 49 Kitimat-Stikine
- 47 Skeena-Queen Charlotte

DR 7: Nechako

- 51 Bulkley-Nechako
- 57 Stikine

DR 8: Northeast

- 55 Peace River
- 59 Northern Rockies

Our reworked geography page provides a much improved experience for users wishing to access maps and approach the data from a spatial perspective.

[http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/\[continued\] georef/geopage.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/[continued] georef/geopage.asp)

Table 2: Economic Structure

This table is based on SC's **Business Register**, the central database which is used to frame all their business surveys. This database identifies business **establishments**, which are normally company locations or plants that are able to separately report basic financial statistics. For further information on the definition of an establishment, interested readers are referred to SC's *North American Industry Classification System (Canada 1997)* manual, catalogue 12-501. (NAICS)

Changes to the Business Register in recent years have broadened the coverage of the file. A new 'indeterminate' category of employment size includes sole proprietorships and those firms without paid employment.

Table 3: Employment and unemployment rate (LFS)

The data for this table comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) by Statistics Canada. The series presented here are three-month moving average, actual. This presentation minimizes the volatility inherent in small samples and sample rotation. Data are only available for BC, development regions and the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) of Vancouver, Victoria, and Abbotsford. Vancouver CMA is identical to the 1996 Census boundaries of Greater Vancouver Regional District. Victoria CMA is equivalent to Capital Regional District less Subdivision A (the Gulf Islands) and Subdivision D (Port Renfrew) and the Indian Reserves associated with these areas.

Table 4: Retail Sales

We publish SC figures for British Columbia and Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area and calculate the difference as "Rest of Province". Since the new boundaries for Greater Vancouver Regional District coincide with the Vancouver CMA boundaries, the GVRD data in QRS is for the new RD boundaries.

SC publishes estimates of monthly and quarterly retail sales. The province and Greater Vancouver retail trade totals used in this report are these published numbers, based on the **monthly survey**. The annual survey results differ from the monthly estimates and are not used in this report.

Since issue 04-3 published in November 2004, the retail statistics use the NAICS definition.

Table 5: Tourism Room Revenue

This table is intended to measure **tourism activity** but includes business travel and other uses of accommodation. The data is based on remittances of hotel room tax to the Ministry of Finance. Not all accommodation activity is measured as the statutory requirement is that the tax must be remitted when the establishment has four or more rooms, and no tax is required for a duration of stay of at least one month. This has the effect of excluding many **bed and breakfasts** and **residential hotels**.

Table 6: Building Permits

SC collects building permit data from municipal and regional district offices. Data for many rural areas is incomplete or non-existent. Further, not all building projects require a building permit, and not all projects with a permit proceed or are completed.

As in other series, when at least six months data are available for the current year, a projection of the annual total is provided. However, as non-residential permits are

subject to wide variation, projections of industrial, commercial, and institutional & government permits are limited to 130% of the current year-to-date value whenever the current year-to-date figure is more than double the figure for the same period in the previous year. The 130% ceiling has been arbitrarily chosen as suitable when data for six months remain to be released in the current year. As the end of the year is approached a lower ceiling is appropriate. The ceiling is reduced 5% per month as the number of months remaining until the end of the year decreases.

Table 7: Business and Consumer Bankruptcies (NEW)

With data back only to the first quarter of 2007 and a much diminished geographic dimension, this table displays the new face of business and consumer bankruptcy statistics. Sub-provincial counts are available for the Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford metropolitan areas and the eight development regions.

Table 8: Incorporations

Tables 8 and 9 are intended to provide an indication of business formation and failure.

Data on incorporations comes from the Ministry of Finance and Corporations. The weakness on the formation side is the failure to include partnerships, extra-provincially incorporated companies, and new sole proprietorship business ventures.

Table 9: Business and Consumer Bankruptcies (Series terminated December 2007)

We receive bankruptcy data from the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, Government of Canada, Ottawa. The data are geographically coded to urban centres where appropriate and the balance to a 'non-urban' category. Data for Vancouver

and Victoria are for the Census Metropolitan Areas.

Bankruptcy is an extreme form of business failure. Most unsuccessful businesses simply wind down and cease operations. While the level of these series may be of questionable value, the charted region vs. province comparison does provide some useful information.

Table 10: Income Assistance

The **basic Income Assistance** caseload is used to generate recipient data by age and family structure. These figures include only a subset of total Income Assistance. EXCLUDED are Disabled Persons, Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers, Children in the Home of a Relative, and OAS/Seniors. A recipient is defined in these reports 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. A dash '-' identifies data too small to release.

Table 11: Unemployment

Measures of regional unemployment are only available historically for nine **economic regions** defined by SC. Starting with January, 1995, the **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** is compiled for the eight development regions defined by the provincial government. The LFS samples appropriately in these regions to derive local measures of unemployment. As a proxy for small area unemployment rates, BC Stats, using data from Human Resources Development Canada (HRD), estimates the ratio of Employment Insurance beneficiaries as a percent of the working age population in a region. (See also, Table 2)

Table 12: Basic Income Assistance and/or Employment Insurance

The data described for tables 10 and 11 are combined to provide a more complete

picture of regional reliance on the “safety net.”

Beginning in June 1997, the combined BC Income Assistance+EI rate in this report has been adjusted to count only once those persons receiving both Employment Insurance and BC Income Assistance. Therefore use caution when comparing data to pre June 1997 data. This adjustment resulted in an overall decrease of 0.3 percentage points to the BC rate in June 1997.

Table 15: Demographic Characteristics

Population growth can be a measure of the economic well being of an area. BC Stats projects population for **local health areas** (approx. 80 in the province) and for **regional districts**. This data is available in considerable detail in print and electronic formats. See the description of regional data products elsewhere in this report.

A new module on our web site allows users to generate population pyramids. These can be 'animated' by selecting several or all years and using the controls to 'play' through time at a user-controlled speed.