



**Peace River  
Regional District**

<b>1</b>	<b>General Economy</b>
<p>Municipalities in Regional District: Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Pouce Coupe, Taylor, Tumbler Ridge</p> <p>The main economic activities of this area are forestry, energy and oil and gas, mining, and agriculture. The area has several coal mines and more are in exploration or development phases. EnCana is currently developing a large year-round oil and gas project in the area. There are wind power projects proposed for this area. Power transmission upgrades and expansions are underway. The Timber Supply Areas located (wholly or in part) in this area are relatively healthy. The annual allowable cuts have remained steady for the past few years, after being increased in 2003. The area is also home to several large lumber and pulp and paper mills and remanufacturing facilities, some of which have announced closures or output reductions. The expansion of the oil and gas industry in the area is also fuelling construction activity. The area is home to over 1,600 farms and ranches. Cattle and horse ranching as well as grain farming are the important local agricultural activities. Backcountry, eco-tourism and cultural tourism are also growing in this area. The electric generation facilities in this region provide a substantial amount of power to the province.</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.

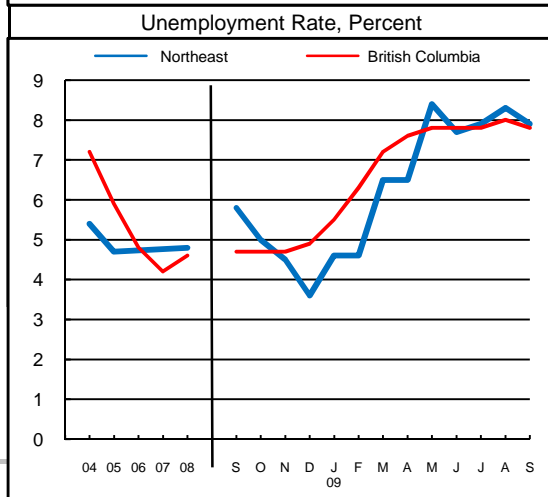
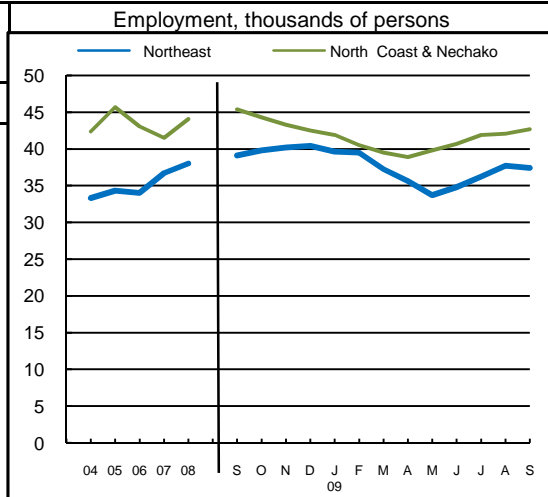
<b>2</b>		<b>Economic Structure - Number of Business Locations, by Sector, by Employment Size, December 2008</b>								
NAICS Code	Industry Sector based on NAICS Canada (North American Industrial Classification System)	Peace River-Liard							British Columbia	
		Locations With No Employees	Firms with 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	3,025	3,582	255	129	21	3,987	100.0%	100.0%	175,003
11	Agric., Forestry, Fishing & Hunt	609	259	14	1	0	274	6.9%	4.0%	7,009
21	Mining & Oil & Gas Extract.	180	333	28	19	0	380	9.5%	0.6%	1,071
22	Utilities	1	11	0	0	0	11	0.3%	0.1%	203
23	Construction	411	505	41	19	5	570	14.3%	12.1%	21,108
31	Manufacturing (31-33)	45	60	3	10	4	77	1.9%	4.5%	7,879
41	Wholesale Trade	61	141	15	6	0	162	4.1%	5.9%	10,359
44	Retail Trade (44-45)	119	321	26	19	2	368	9.2%	11.9%	20,742
48	Transp. & Warehousing (48-49)	329	412	19	6	1	438	11.0%	4.4%	7,734
51	Information & Cultural Indust.	5	32	3	1	0	36	0.9%	1.4%	2,412
52	Finance & Insurance	71	46	14	3	1	64	1.6%	3.8%	6,564
53	Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	325	124	10	1	0	135	3.4%	4.5%	7,835
54	Profes'nl, Scientif. & Tech. Srv	223	300	11	4	0	315	7.9%	11.0%	19,278
55	Mgmt. of Companies & Enter.	113	19	1	0	0	20	0.5%	1.6%	2,818
56	Admin. & Sup'rt, Waste Mgmt.	115	163	3	3	0	169	4.2%	4.9%	8,513
61	Educational Services	19	29	2	1	3	35	0.9%	1.4%	2,363
62	Health Care & Social Assistance	41	192	14	7	3	216	5.4%	8.4%	14,773
71	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	30	52	5	2	0	59	1.5%	1.6%	2,873
72	Accom. & Food Services	70	135	35	16	1	187	4.7%	6.7%	11,639
81	Other Serv's (ex. Public Admin.)	258	447	8	1	0	456	11.4%	10.9%	19,095
91	Public Administration	-	1	3	10	1	15	0.4%	0.4%	735

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



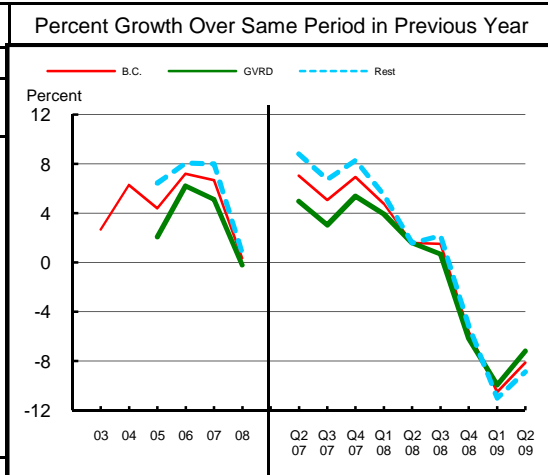
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3		Employment and Unemployment Rate, monthly data are 3-month moving average, actual, ending in stated month					
	Northeast		North Coast & Nechako		British Columbia		
	Emp. ('000)	Unemp. %	Emp. ('000)	Unemp. %	Emp. ('000)	Unemp. %	
1999	30.7	8.9	46.7	8.8	1,894.4	8.3	
2000	31.8	5.9	47.3	10.2	1,931.3	7.1	
2001	32.5	6.1	46.6	11.2	1,921.6	7.7	
2002	33.2	9.0	44.9	12.6	1,965.0	8.5	
2003	34.9	6.4	44.8	11.3	2,014.7	8.0	
2004	33.3	5.4	42.4	11.6	2,062.7	7.2	
2005	34.3	4.7	45.7	8.1	2,130.5	5.9	
2006	34.0	NA	43.1	6.7	2,195.5	4.8	
2007	36.7	NA	41.5	8.0	2,266.3	4.2	
2008	38.0	4.8	44.1	7.7	2,314.3	4.6	
2008 Jan	36.5	NA	41.5	8.2	2,286.5	4.1	
2008 Feb	35.8	NA	42.1	7.3	2,278.9	4.2	
2008 Mar	35.6	NA	43.3	7.1	2,284.9	4.4	
2008 Apr	35.8	4.3	44.3	7.9	2,295.0	4.4	
2008 May	35.8	5.0	44.4	8.6	2,313.3	4.5	
2008 Jun	37.0	5.9	45.4	8.5	2,329.8	4.4	
2008 Jul	37.9	6.2	45.8	7.5	2,345.0	4.5	
2008 Aug	38.6	6.3	46.5	7.6	2,350.7	4.6	
2008 Sep	39.1	5.8	45.4	6.8	2,337.7	4.7	
2008 Oct	39.8	5.0	44.3	7.7	2,325.3	4.7	
2008 Nov	40.2	4.5	43.3	7.7	2,312.5	4.7	
2008 Dec	40.4	3.6	42.5	8.6	2,304.8	4.9	
2009 Jan	39.6	4.6	41.9	9.3	2,278.4	5.5	
2009 Feb	39.5	4.6	40.5	9.8	2,251.1	6.3	
2009 Mar	37.2	6.5	39.5	11.1	2,227.5	7.2	
2009 Apr	35.6	6.5	38.9	10.6	2,229.0	7.6	
2009 May	33.7	8.4	39.8	10.6	2,243.1	7.8	
2009 Jun	34.8	7.7	40.7	10.0	2,264.6	7.8	
2009 Jul	36.2	7.9	41.9	10.5	2,275.9	7.8	
2009 Aug	37.7	8.3	42.1	11.0	2,280.5	8.0	
2009 Sep	37.4	7.9	42.7	10.1	2,275.8	7.8	
2009 Oct							
2009 Nov							
2009 Dec							
Average:							
ytd average	Jan-Sep08	37.2	NA	44.7	7.4	2,317.5	4.5
based on	Jan-Sep09	36.7	7.4	40.9	10.4	2,256.0	7.6
actual data	% Change	-1.5		-8.4		-2.7	



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

4		Retail Sales - based on Statistics Canada monthly survey					Percent Growth Over Same Period in Previous Year		
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			
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 - Includes Northern Rockies R.D. (\$ Thousands)</b>					<b>Tourism Room Revenue Index 2003=100</b>	
	Year	Total/YTD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	
Northern Rockies Regional District	2005	63,400.4	22,473.6	10,778.7	14,330.4	15,817.7		
	2006	74,099.4	20,003.6	16,433.1	20,917.6	16,745.1		
	2007	68,632.8	19,536.8	14,632.6	18,762.5	15,700.8		
	2008	77,237.0	19,065.9	17,003.4	21,236.4	19,931.3		
	2009	33,407.8	19,406.0	14,001.8				
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				
<b>2008 Room Revenue by Accommodation Type (\$Thousands   %Share)</b>								
TOTAL	77,237.0	100.0%						
Hotels	52,454.0	67.9%						
1-75 Rooms	13,572.0	17.6%						
Motels	14,374.0	18.6%						
*City of Dawson Creek	15,180.0	19.7%						
*City of Fort St. John	21,589.0	28.0%						
asterisk before location denotes sub-area detail								

Source: Hotel tax database maintained by Consumer Taxation Branch, Ministry of Small Business and Revenue  
Published in detail monthly by BC Stats.

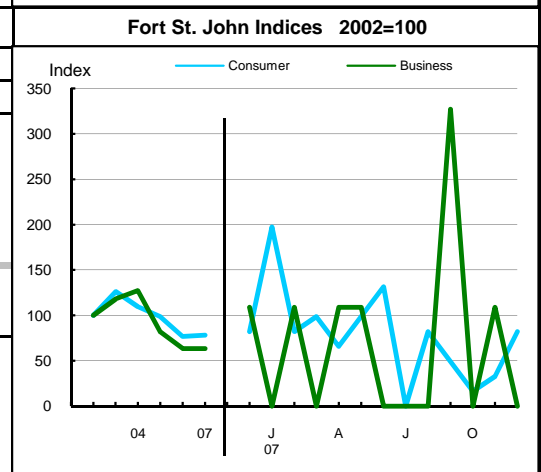
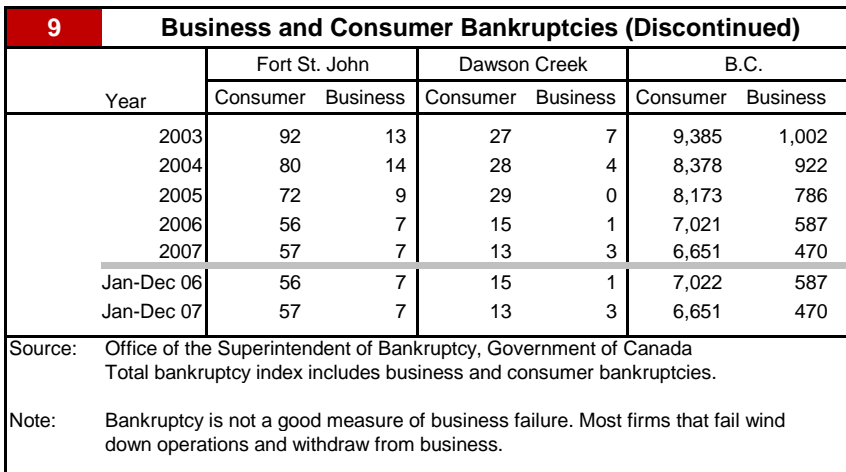
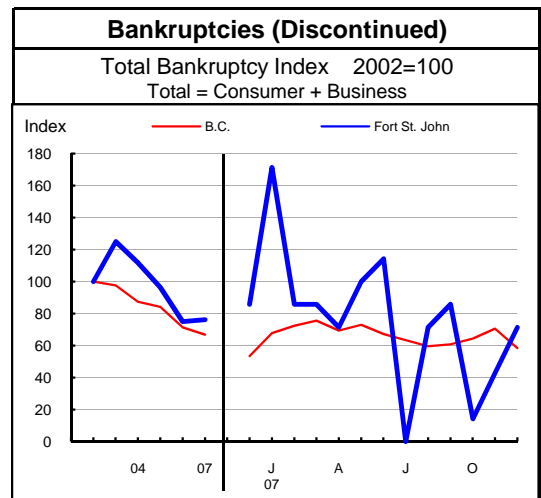
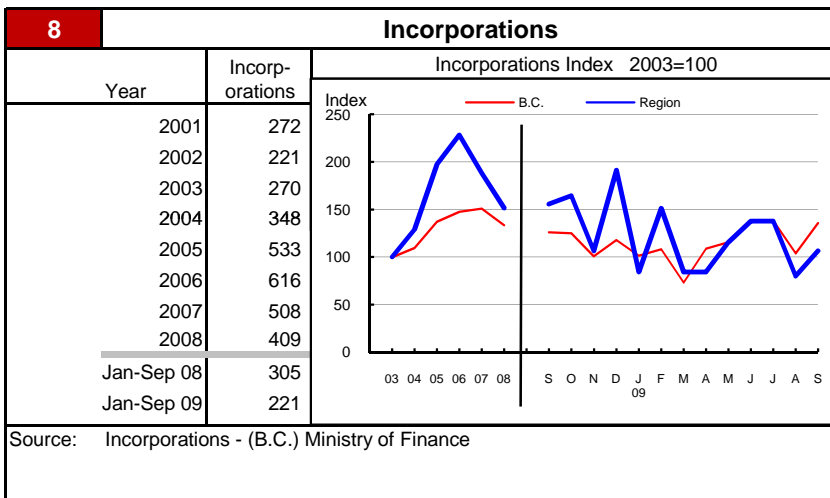
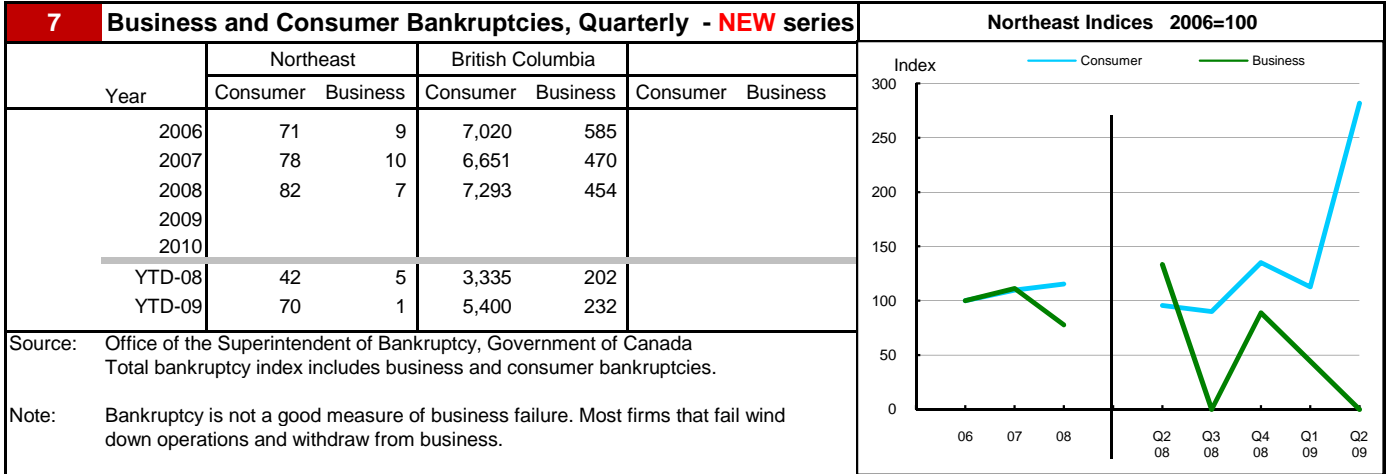
All room revenue data has been revised. For an explanation, see our periodical called *Tourism Sector Monitor*, April and May issues of 2009.  
Link to explanation of changes: [http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr\\_tour.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_tour.asp)

<b>6</b>		<b>Building Permits</b>						<b>Total Permits Index 2003=100</b>	
Year	Total Building Permits	Non Residential				Residential		Index	
		Total Non Res.	Industrial	Commercial	Institutional & Gov't	Units			
		<-- \$ Millions -->							
2001	59.5	34.3	1.7	16.0	16.6	25.2	189		
2002	46.7	26.0	5.0	19.5	1.5	20.7	133		
2003	55.6	28.1	6.8	19.9	1.3	27.5	253		
2004	105.9	69.6	49.0	18.7	1.9	36.3	187		
2005	149.1	104.4	30.8	66.7	6.9	44.6	230		
2006	202.4	121.1	5.1	102.2	13.7	81.3	418		
2007	163.7	72.8	26.8	31.5	14.5	90.9	571		
2008	148.9	83.5	16.4	60.8	6.3	65.3	267		
Jan-Aug 08	92.4	50.8	10.3	39.6	0.9	41.6	181		
Jan-Aug 09	63.1	23.6	6.2	11.5	5.8	39.5	149		

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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Dependence on the Safety Net

10 Basic Income Assistance (Basic Income Assistance Recipients in Subject Group as a percent of Reference Group)							11 Employment Insurance (was UI) (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						
Peace River Regional District	Sep '07	1.2	1.8	1.0	1.0	0.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.7	Mar '07					
	Dec '07	1.3	1.8	0.9	1.2	1.2	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.3	Jun '07					
	Mar '08	1.3	1.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	Sep '07					
	Jun '08	1.3	1.8	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.8	Dec '07					
	Sep '08	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	Mar '08					
	Dec '08	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.3	0.7	4.7	4.2	4.9	4.3	Jun '08					
	Mar '09	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.7	0.9	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.5	Sep '08					
	Jun '09	1.9	2.6	2.1	1.7	1.0	2.2	2.0	2.3	1.7	Dec '08					
	Sep '09	1.9	2.5	2.1	1.7	1.0	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.0	Mar '09					
Duration of Dependence on Income Assistance (As of September 2009)		All* Income Assistance Recipients as % of Total Pop 0-64: Region Compared to B.C.					EI Beneficiaries Aged 19-64 as % of Working Age Population									
Region		Percent					Percent									
B.C.		Region					B.C.					Region				
Total Number of Recipients	1,013	72,592														
Percent Distribution by Duration																
<1 Year	71.7	65.3														
1-2 Years	14.8	18.2														
>2 Years	13.5	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.									
12 Dependence on Basic Income Assistance and/or Employment Insurance (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										
Peace River Regional District	Mar '07	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.2											
	Jun '07	3.4	3.5	3.5	2.8											
	Sep '07	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.2											
	Dec '07	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.4											
	Mar '08	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.2											
	Jun '08	5.7	5.4	6.0	4.8											
	Sep '08	2.7	2.8	2.9	1.9											
	Dec '08	3.3	3.5	3.5	2.2											
	Mar '09	5.3	5.9	5.6	3.6											

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



**Peace River  
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**13 Demographics**

This area has generally experienced net out-flows, except for a period in the mid 1990s and since 2004. Overall, Peace River has experienced modest growth over the last two decades. The population has aged slightly more slowly than the provincial population, adding 6.7 years to its median age since the mid 1980s. Despite this ageing, Peace River is a very young population, with a 2007 median age over six years younger than the provincial median. Fertility rates have declined slightly, but they continue to be extremely high relative to provincial rates. High fertility contributes to child dependency ratios that continue to be much higher than provincial ratios, despite dropping over the last two decades. On the other hand, elderly dependency is on the rise, although it remains a small part of overall dependency. The sex ratio for this sparsely populated region is heavily weighted in favour of males, in contrast to the province as a whole, which has more women than men. This is likely due to the predominance of male-dominated occupations in the area. High fertility and a younger age structure means that births outnumber deaths by a significant, but diminishing, margin. Natural increase (i.e., the excess of births over deaths) has offset some of the migration outflows, but from 1997 to 2003 the population shrank. Most recently, some large net inflows have combined with natural increase, resulting in some significant growth since 2003..

**14 Projection**

The increased activity in the oil and gas industry should result in population growth for this region. The long term net in-flows combined with a positive natural increase (births minus deaths) will likely result in positive, though diminishing, population growth rates for the area until the end of the projection period. The population in this region is expected to increase by about 17,000 by 2036. Overall dependency will increase as the population ages and, by 2036, this region will likely have over 6.5 dependents for every 10 people of working age.

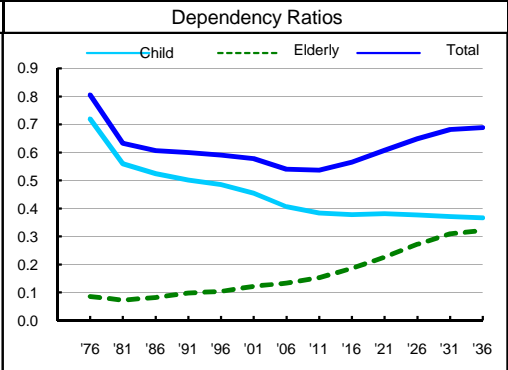
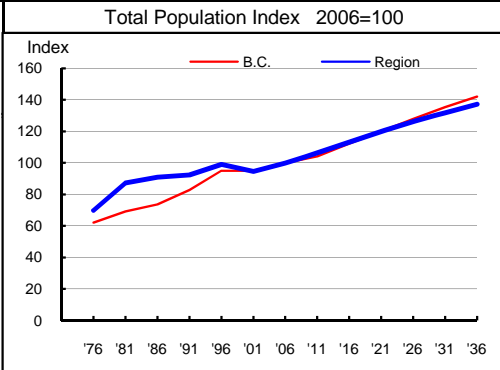
**15 Selected Demographic Characteristics**

Year	Population by age group, Thousands of persons							House-holds (,000)	Dependency Ratios			Year
	0-4	5-17	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All Ages		Child	Elderly	Total	
1976	4.0	12.5	5.5	11.4	6.1	2.0	41.5	11.7	0.719	0.085	0.805	1976
1981	5.1	12.7	8.6	15.9	7.1	2.3	51.8	16.2	0.560	0.073	0.633	1981
1986	5.3	12.3	6.9	18.5	8.3	2.8	54.0	18.4	0.524	0.082	0.606	1986
1991	5.0	12.2	5.9	19.3	9.1	3.4	54.9	19.2	0.501	0.098	0.599	1991
1996	5.0	13.0	6.0	20.4	10.6	3.8	58.8	20.6	0.486	0.104	0.589	1996
2001	4.1	12.1	5.7	18.1	11.8	4.3	56.2	20.8	0.455	0.122	0.577	2001
2006	4.2	11.5	6.5	17.6	14.4	5.1	59.3	22.1	0.407	0.133	0.540	2006
2011	4.6	11.1	6.4	18.1	16.5	6.3	63.0	23.4	0.383	0.153	0.536	2011
2016	4.6	11.7	6.1	19.4	17.5	8.0	67.2	25.0	0.379	0.186	0.564	2016
2021	4.6	12.3	5.8	20.5	17.9	10.0	71.2	26.6	0.382	0.226	0.607	2021
2026	4.6	12.5	6.4	20.7	18.3	12.3	74.8	28.3	0.377	0.272	0.648	2026
2031	4.7	12.5	6.8	20.5	19.2	14.4	78.2	30.0	0.372	0.309	0.681	2031
2036	5.0	12.7	6.8	20.9	20.5	15.5	81.4	31.4	0.367	0.321	0.688	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.