

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

The Economy

- **British Columbia, along with Manitoba and Quebec enjoyed a marginal 0.1% decline in the Consumer Price Index from June to July 1997.** Year-over-year, inflation in BC tied for lowest place with Prince Edward Island at 0.9%, an annual rate that has remained unchanged in the province since February.

Higher prices in July over a year ago for fresh vegetables, bakery products, coffee and tea, piped gas and inter-city transportation were offset by declines in gas prices and the costs of owned accommodation.

Of the metropolitan areas, Vancouver and Montreal had the largest monthly decrease at -0.3%. Victoria prices dropped by 0.1%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **June retail sales in British Columbia were \$2.6 billion (seasonally-adjusted), down 5.4% from May, but up 1.3% over June 1996.** Across Canada, sales were down 0.2% in the month, but up 7.1% from June a year ago.

BC January-to-June sales (unadjusted), were up 4.3% compared to the first 6 months of 1996. Sales were flat or declining in men's and women's clothing stores, shoe stores and motor vehicle dealers. Gas stations, auto parts, and home furnishings stores were the winners province-wide with double-digit increases. Sales in metro Vancouver declined 1.1%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The value of BC exports fell 0.2% to \$2,172 million between May and June, but was up 6.1% from June 1996.** At the same time, imports clearing customs in BC rose 0.2% in June over May to \$1,848 million and 18.2% from the previous June.

On a year-to-date basis, BC exports were up 9.9%. All major export sectors, with the exception of energy, showed significantly higher increases than the country as a whole. Forest products, by far the most significant component of BC exports, were up 9.5%. Machinery and equipment and consumer products both increased more than twenty percent. Agricultural and food products, which declined 1.5% nationally, rose 6.9% in BC. Industrial goods and automotive products increased 14.4% and 10.6%, respectively. Energy exports declined 6.8%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Agriculture

- **Recently released information from the 1996 Census shows little change in the number of BC farms since 1921.** In that year, there were 21,973 farms compared with 21,835 in 1996. However, today's farms are much larger, totaling 6.3 million acres compared with 2.8 million acres in 1921. Changes in crops and land use are substantial. While acreage devoted to potatoes, tree fruits and horses has dropped since 1921, there have been major increases in land area used for raising barley, corn, vegetables, cattle, pigs and chickens. *Source: SC, Cat. 93-358*

Culture

- **British Columbians' use of public libraries continued to increase in 1996 despite declining library staff and hours of service.** On a per capita basis, 11.6 items were borrowed from libraries in 1996 compared with 11.3 in 1995 and 10.4 a decade earlier. The number of professional librarians working in the system declined almost 6% between 1995 and 1996. The share of expenditures on materials re-

Did you know...?

British Columbians paid public libraries \$3.6 million in overdue fines in 1996.

mained unchanged (14%), but the cost of facilities took up a larger share of budgets (11% in 1996 up from 9% in 1995). Hours of service per week declined 14%.

Over 10 million books were available to readers on public library shelves. Patrons also had the choice of 164,000 audio cassettes, 54,000 audio CD's, 161,000 videos and 26,000 audio-books. *Source: Library Services Div., Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing*

- **Dance is the most highly government subsidized performing arts discipline in Canada.** Government grants accounted for 39% of revenue in 1994-95. Public funding of dance companies has averaged increases of only 1% a year over the past five years despite an overall increase in expenditures of 14%. Music relies on public sources for 37% of its revenue. While government funding of music companies doubled over the last 5 years, earned revenue increased only 2%. Theatre had the highest share of earned revenue (53%), but still relied on public funding for a third of its money. Opera, with the highest share of revenue from private sponsorships (24%), was the only discipline to report a decrease in this funding source in the five years since 1990-91. Government funding for opera remained unchanged at 30%, over the period of the study. *Source: SC, Cat. 87-004, Vol. 9 No. 2*
- **Almost 50% of persons in the cultural labour force cited on the job training as having the greatest impact on their job skills, according to a 1994 survey.** Another 13% cited volunteer and amateur work as effective modes of training. This is despite the fact that 45% of people working in the arts have a university degree, compared with 17% of the total labour force. With the exception of people working in institutions, a large proportion of the cultural labour force was dissatisfied with their training. For those desiring training, the most common deterrents were lack of time and lack of money. Nearly two-thirds of respondents to the survey also noted that technology has had an impact on their work. Many reported that they had had no training to respond technology changes. The exceptions were people working in public libraries and museums. *Source: SC, Cat. 87-004, Vol. 9 No. 2*

- **The number of medical personnel in BC has not increased at the same pace as the population.** The number of active physicians per 10,000 population dropped from 22.35 in 1995 to 21.78 in 1996. Decreases also occurred for pharmacists, nurses and psychologists. Medical fields which showed increased ratios were dentists and dental hygienists, dietitians and nutritionists, and occupational therapists.

Source: Rollcall Update 96, UBC

Research & Development

- **Canada's spending on research and development as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product has increased from 1.48% in 1986 to 1.64% in 1996.** In a 1995 international comparison, this ratio was just over half that of Sweden and Japan, the leaders in R&D expenditure relative to GDP. The US, placing third at 2.58%, was also far ahead of Canada.

British Columbia spent 0.9% (\$924 million) of its GDP in 1995. Only New Brunswick and PEI spent less than BC. The leading provinces were Quebec (1.9%), Ontario (1.8%), Nova Scotia (1.2%) and Alberta (1.0%).

Where does the money come from? The federal government contributed \$3.0 billion of the total \$12.7 billion spent on R&D in Canada in 1995. Twenty-six percent of federal funding went into the National Capital Region. BC received 8%. Business funded 47% of R&D expenditures in BC, compared with 57% in Quebec, 52% in Ontario, and 45% in Alberta. The provincial government contributed 5% of the total in this province with the balance coming from educational institutions, non-profit agencies and foreign sources. The Quebec, Ontario and Alberta provincial governments contributed 7%, 4% and 10%, respectively.

Who does the R&D? Business performs fully 60% of the R&D activity in BC. In Ontario business is responsible for 74% and in Quebec, 65%. Higher educational institutions receive 27% of R&D money in BC compared with 20% in Ontario. The highest share done by the education sector is in Newfoundland (54%) where business has the lowest involvement (11%).

Source: SC, Cat. 88-001, Vol. 21, No. 9

Health



BC STATS

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

Contact: Margaret Johnson
 Toll-free: (888) 322-3284
 Tel: (250) 387-0375
 Release: August 1997

1997 British Columbia Manufacturers' Directory

Know what you need, but aren't sure who makes it or where to find it?

NOW THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED FAST!

The *Directory* lists almost 6,000 manufacturing companies in 257 industries in British Columbia. It puts over 600 pages of cross-referenced information at your finger-tips. Search by company name, product type, industry or location.

A stand-alone electronic version of the *Directory* is an even more flexible tool. Use many criteria to sort, filter, and search the database; edit the data and support tables; direct reports and mailing labels to a printer or files; export data for inclusion in other packages. Requires Windows 3.1 or better and 8 MB of storage. Always current at time of sale.

The *Directory* is available in print for **\$45** and on diskette for **\$250**. Canadian residents add GST. British Columbia residents also add PST.

All information has been verified by BC STATS — saving you time and money.

- Support local companies!
- Develop great new business leads!
- Locate potential suppliers by mail, fax or phone call (and by name and title) — before you make that first in-person approach!
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(250) 387-0375 or toll-free **(888) 322-3284**
 or fax us at **(250) 387-0380**

Product	Price	PST	GST	Total price	Qty	Total
1997 British Columbia Manufacturers' Directory (publication)	45.00	3.15	3.15	51.30		
British Columbia Manufacturers' Directory (electronic version)	250.00	17.50	17.50	285.00		

Prepayment Required - Visa and Mastercard Accepted

Cheques payable to **Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations**

Direct request to: **BC STATS**, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, British Columbia, V8W 9V1

Name					Position					
Organization										
Address										
City			Province			Country				
Postal Code			Telephone			Fax				
Government Use Only		Client Code		Resp.		Account #		Stob		Resp. Ctr. (credit) OCG-64500-L990
Master Card <input type="checkbox"/>		VISA <input type="checkbox"/>		ACCOUNT NO.			EXPIRY DATE		CREDIT SIGNATURE	

Infoline Announcement:

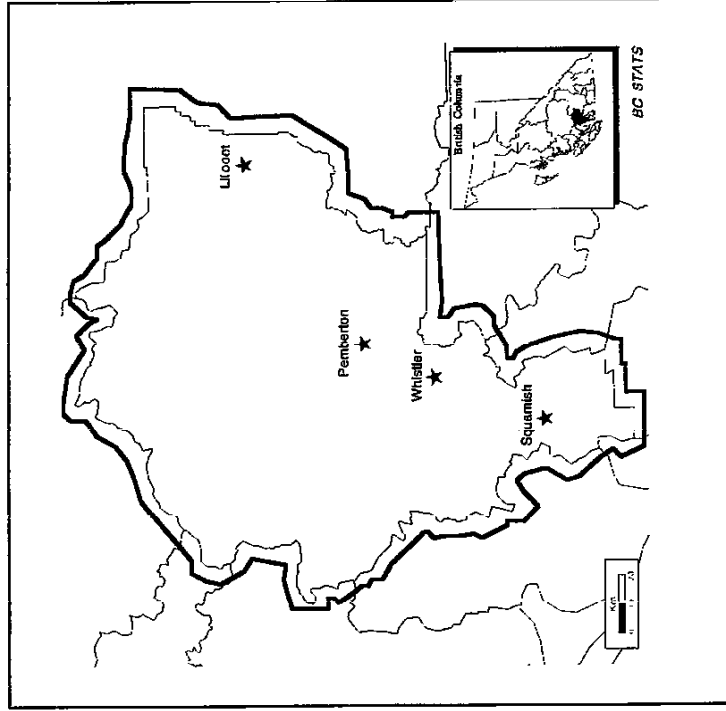
Released August, 1997
200 pages, \$150 plus GST

Socio-Economic Statistical Profiles of BC Regions

This annual publication of BC STATS is an invaluable source of comparable demographic and social indicators across BC's regions. Includes: BC Profile by Development Region (8 pages); DR Profiles (8 @ 4 pages each); Regional District Profiles (30 @ 4 pages each); background tables (29 tables).

A half-size sample of the profile for Squamish-Lillooet Regional District appears below.

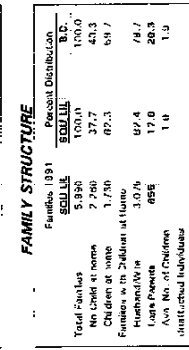
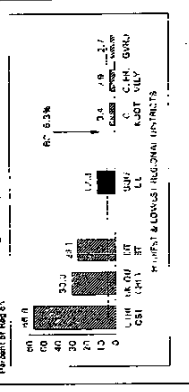
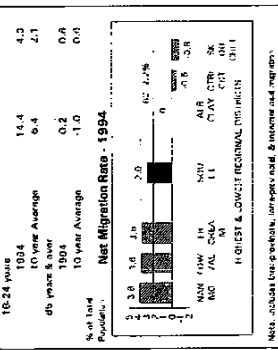
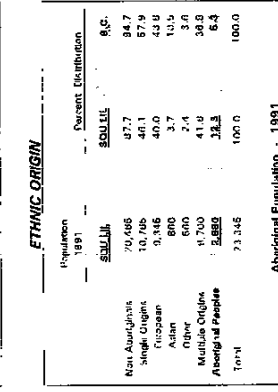
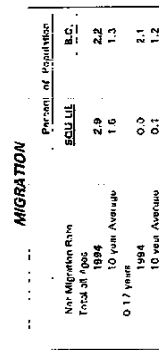
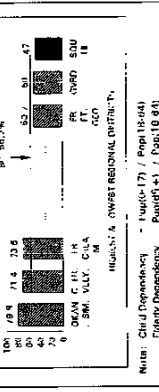
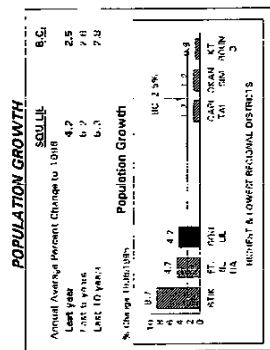
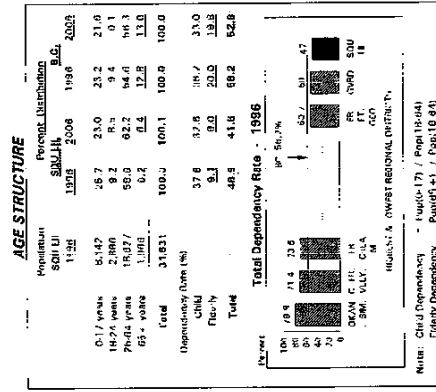
Regional District 31 Squamish - Lillooet Statistical Profile



Major Cities	1986 POPULATION	% of Region	1981 LILLOOET AREA	% of Region	POPULATION DENSITY
Squamish	14,284	46.2%	100.9	0.6%	141.0
Whistler	7,348	23.2%	120.2	0.7%	61.1
Lillooet	2,068	6.5%	4.0	0.0%	51.5
Pemberton	811	2.6%	19.0	0.0%	19.0
Rest of Region	2,130	22.5%	19,100.0	98.8%	0.8
Total Region	31,631	100.0%	18,533.0	100.0%	4.3
Region vs. % of BC	3,875; 12.0	1.8%			

Prepared By: BC STATS
June '90, 1997
STATPROP.XLS

Squamish - Lillooet Regional District DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



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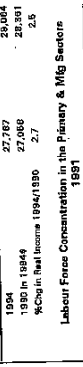
Squamish - Lillooet Regional District ECONOMIC PROFILE

LABOUR MARKET

Labour Force 1991	27,867	28,004
1994	27,086	28,011
1995 In 1994	27,086	28,011
% Change in 1994/1990	2.7	2.5

Labour Force Concentration in the Primary & Mfg Sectors 1991

Primary	17.5%
Mfg	17.5%
Other	17.5%



Average Employment Income 1994

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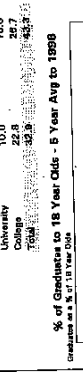
Squamish - Lillooet Regional District SOCIAL PROFILE

EDUCATION

Highest Educational Attainment of Population 15 Years & Over

Without High School Graduation	34.7	34.0
With High School Graduation	14.9	13.8
With Post-Secondary	17.9	19.3
With Complete Post-Secondary	32.4	32.8
Total	89.9	89.9

5 Yr Avg to 1995



High School Graduation Rate to Population Age 18

1995	61.8	60.3
1994	61.8	60.3
1993	61.8	60.3
1992	61.8	60.3
1991	61.8	60.3
1990	61.8	60.3

% Who Went Directly on to a Post-Secondary Inst. - 1994

University	10.0
College	22.8
Total	32.8

% of Graduates to 18 Year Olds - 5 Year Avg to 1995

BC	66.2
MT	25.9
CO	18.3
K	11.9
N	11.9
SU	11.9
L	11.9
E	11.9
ST	11.9
K	11.9
UL	11.9
AL	11.9

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CRIME

Crime Rate - 1995

Offences per Police Officer	117	105
Population per Police Officer	553	757

Crime Rate - 1995

Police	17	14
Property	104	85
Public	176	136
Total	297	235



Change in Crime Rate

1995	117	105
1994	117	105
1993	117	105
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1990	117	105

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries Dec 1995

Total	102,561
Male	48,474
Female	54,087

Percent of Total Population 15-64 Years of Age

1995	4.4
1994	4.4
1993	4.4
1992	4.4
1991	4.4
1990	4.4



Percent of Total Population 15-64 Years of Age

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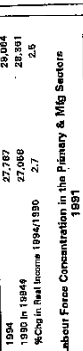
BASIC BC BENEFITS

Basic BC Benefits - Dec 1995

Total	889	889
Male	417	417
Female	472	472

Percent of Total Population 15-64 Years of Age

1995	32.2
1994	32.2
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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change
	Apr 1/97	on year ago
BC	3,915.9	2.2
Canada	30,202.9	1.1
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT		% change
<i>(BC - at market prices - \$ millions)</i>	1996	on year ago
Current Dollars	103,631	1.7
Constant (1986) Dollars	74,001	1.0
TRADE (\$ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Jun	2,811	4.5
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jun	2,172	6.1
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jun	2,643	1.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change
<i>(all items - 1986=100)</i>	Jul '97	on year ago
BC	139.7	0.9
Canada	138.0	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>	Jul '97	on year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,027	2.2
Employed - BC	1,853	1.8
Unemployed - BC	174	6.7
	Jul '96	
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	8.6	8.2
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	9.0	9.9
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 20/97	Aug 21/96
Prime Business Rate	4.75	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.65	6.13
- 5 year	7.00	7.95
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 20/97	Aug 21/96
<i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i>	1.3938	1.3740
<i>US \$ (reciprocal of above rate)</i>	0.7175	0.7278
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		% change
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	May '97	on year ago
BC	617.63	3.0
Canada	602.63	3.2
SOURCES:		
Gross Domestic Product: Statistics Canada, revised by BC STATS		
Population, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Earnings: Statistics Canada		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		

1997 Manufacturers' Directory

BC STATS has just released the *1997 BC Manufacturers' Directory*. This publication is available only through BC STATS in Victoria. We are able to accept VISA and MasterCard orders over the phone or by fax and ship your book or disks by Canada Post the same day. If you require faster turn-around you may arrange for courier pick-up. To help with your order, a form is provided after **highlights**.

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Socio-Economic Statistical Profiles of BC Regions

This latest version provides the most current possible take on a variety of indicators. Each region is covered in a 4-page section. A sample, electronically reduced to half size in the interest of economy, is provided on the preceding pages. To order, please call or fax Kris Ovens at:

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- Consumer Price Index, July 1997
- Earnings and Employment Trends, May 1997
- Exports, May 1997

Next week

- Small Business Quarterly, 2nd Quarter 1997
- Business Indicators, August 1997
- Current Statistics, August 1997