

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Migration

- **BC gained a total of 8,238 people as a result of net migration from all sources, during the first quarter of 2001.** This compares to an increase of 5,548 in the first quarter of 2000. Stronger migration from other countries and a reduction in the net outflow to other provinces accounted for the improvement in the quarter.

There was a net outflow (2,406 people) from BC to the rest of Canada in the first quarter of the year. This was smaller than the net outflow of 3,215 people in the first quarter of 2000 and also smaller than in the other quarters of last year. In the first quarter there were both fewer people moving into BC and fewer people leaving the province, relative to the first quarter of last year.

The net outflows of people to Alberta (-2,363) and Ontario (-415) in the first quarter of 2001 were lower than in the same quarter of 2000, while there was a net inflow of 372 people from the rest of the country.

Net international migration to the province increased by 21% from the first quarter of last year, with a net inflow of 10,644 people. The difference between the two periods resulted from both higher immigration and unusually strong increases in the non-permanent resident population. Permanent immigration (9,294 people) to BC was 8% higher than in the same quarter of 2000. However, immigration to the rest of the country, especially Ontario, showed much stronger growth, lowering BC's share of total Canadian immigration to 16% in the first quarter.

Source: BC STATS

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products rose between March and April, increasing 10.4% (seasonally adjusted).** The strength in BC's exports continued to come from the US market, as energy exports remained high. Total shipments rose by 14.0% as increases in forestry (+11.1%), mineral (including natural gas) (+20.5%) and other (including electricity) (+13.8%) export products were only partly offset by a slight decline in exports of agriculture and fish products (-0.6%).

Exports to other countries, excluding the US, were also up in April (+1.2%). The increase resulted mainly from a slight rise in international shipments of forestry and related products (+0.2%), combined with a 29% jump in mineral exports. Declines were seen in exports of agriculture and fishing (-2.5%) and other (-12.1%) products.

Source: BC STATS

- **Average weekly earnings in British Columbia fell 0.4% between March and April (seasonally adjusted).** The typical BC worker earned \$661.76 a week in April, down \$2.97 from March. Across the country, earnings fell in all but four of the provinces and territories, Yukon (+0.5%), Ontario (+0.2%), Manitoba (+0.2%) and Alberta, where earnings were unchanged. Nationally, earnings fell 0.1% to \$661.05.

Source: Statistics Canada

Visitor Entries

- **Visitor entries to BC from the US and overseas were down 0.7% between March and April (seasonally adjusted).** The decline was mostly due to a fall in the number of overnight visitors from the US (-1.2%), which more than offset a small increase (+0.5%) in the number of American day-trippers to the province. Entries from overseas were also down (-1.4%) in April, despite an increase in visitors from Europe (+4.2%). This was

Did you know...

Marriages in BC are getting shorter. The mean length of a marriage, ending in divorce in 1981, was 11.7 years. By 1998, couples splitting up had been married for only 10.8 years.

due to fewer people arriving from Asia (-3.0%) and Oceania (-1.6%).

Despite April's decline, compared to April 2000, visitor entries were up 4.6%, with a total of 738,300 international visitors to BC.

Source: BC STATS

Adult Correctional Services

- **The number of adult admissions to custody in provincial facilities in BC rose 41% between 1998-99 and 1999-00.** A total of 29,260 admissions occurred in the province in 1999-00, up from 20,704 in the previous period. Although the number of sentenced (+1.1%), and remand (+4.7%) admissions increased, the rise was largely due to the introduction of pre-court lock ups in a correctional facility in 1999-00, which accounted for a further 7,919 non-sentenced admissions in 1999-00.

The median length of sentences in BC, excluding those of 2 years or more in duration, fell by half from 60 to 30 days, between 1997-98 and 1999-00. Over the same period, the percentage of aboriginal inmates rose (from 16% to 19%), as did the proportion of females (7% to 8%). Expenses per inmate per day in 1990-00 were \$147.36 (current dollars).

Source: SC Catalogue 85-211

Alcohol Consumption

- **British Columbians are drinking less heavily.** The proportion of people aged 12 and over in the province, who never imbibe 5 or more drinks on one occasion has increased from 52.7% in 1994-95 to 55.1% in 1998-99. Both men and women are drinking less. In 1994-95, 41% of men and 65% of women had never had more than 4 drinks at a time. By 1998-99, these proportions had increased to 44% and 67%.

Source: SC Catalogue 82-221

Divorce

- **The number of divorces in BC rose 1.4% between 1997 and 1998.** There were 9,827 couples who split up in 1998, compared to 9,692 in the previous year. Despite this increase, there has been a decrease since 1994, when 11,437 couples ended their marriages. The number of marriages also decreased from 23,739 in 1994 to 21,845 in 1997. Across the country, the number of divorces in 1998, were higher than the previous

year in all but three provinces: Manitoba (-6.9%), Quebec (-3.2%) and Nova Scotia (-2.5%).

Source: SC Catalogue 91-209

Spousal Abuse

- **BC women are suffering less violence from their spouses.** The percentage of women who were subject to spousal assault in the five years prior to 1999 was 10%, down from 14% in the five-year period prior to 1993. Rates were down in most parts of the country, giving a national average of 8% in 1999 compared to 12% in 1993. Along with the decline in rates of wife assault, there was an increase in the percentage of women who reported violent incidents to the police. In BC, 43% of victims contacted the police in the five years prior to 1999, compared to 36% in the five-year period up to 1993. These rates were higher than the national average of 37% in 1999 and 29% in 1993.

Source: SC Catalogue 85-224

- **BC wives are more likely to be killed by their husbands than wives in Eastern Canada.** Spousal homicide rates in BC for the period 1976-1999 were 11.9% per million couples, for killings of wives, and 4.2% for husbands. Although these rates were lower than in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, they were higher than all other provinces. In addition, wives were far more likely to be killed by their husbands, than husbands by their wives, in all areas of Canada.

Source: SC Catalogue 85-224

The Nation

- **Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) remained unchanged in April this year (seasonally adjusted), after edging up 0.1% in March.** Goods producing industries GDP rose 0.1%, buoyed by increased oil and gas exploration activity (+2.4%). In the service sector, total value added was unchanged.

Source: Statistics Canada

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Co-operatives Grew Steadily Throughout the 1990s

There was steady growth throughout the last decade in the number of co-operatives registered in British Columbia. The number of non-financial co-operatives has risen 42 percent from 503 in 1990 to 716 in 1999.

A co-operative is an independent organisation of which the members share joint ownership. There are many kinds of co-operatives providing services ranging from housing, to financial services (through credit unions), to food retailing, to product marketing.

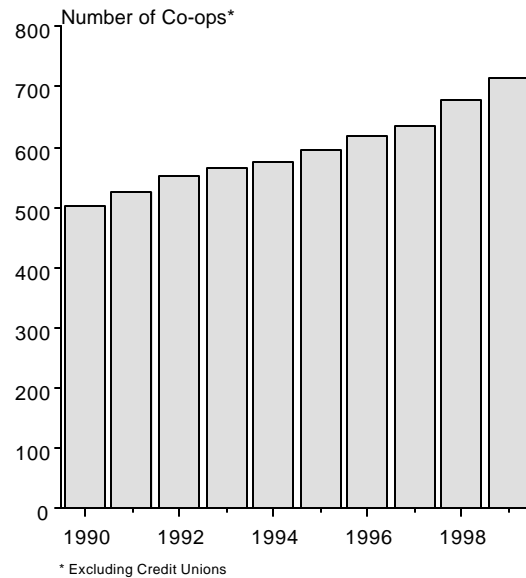
In 1995, seven principles were adopted to provide guidelines for co-operatives:¹

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training and information
- Co-operation among co-operatives
- Concern for community

The application of these principles is apparent when one examines existing co-operatives. Whether they are marketing co-ops designed to help small operators compete with the larger enterprises, or housing-co-ops organised to assist people by providing affordable housing, the principles of co-operation and community participation stand out. Many co-ops are involved in promoting environmental initiatives and ensuring their operations are environmentally sound. The Mountain Equipment Co-op, for example, contributes 0.4 percent of the previous year's gross sales to environmental preservation projects.

¹ Source: *Canadian Co-operatives Resource File 2000*, Co-operatives Secretariat, Government of Canada

The Number of Co-operatives in BC
Continues to Expand



Types of Co-operatives

Although co-operatives can be established to operate virtually any type of business, in practise they are most often found where either the desired products are not available through private sector sources (for example, in remote rural areas), or where consumers feel there is insufficient market competition. An example of this kind of situation is where people living in a remote community set up their own general store as a co-operative.

Co-operatives are not limited to rural areas, however. An example of an urban-based co-operative is Mountain Equipment Co-op, which operates out of Vancouver. It has large retail outfits in several major urban centres across the country, and also does significant mail-order business.

BC Registered Co-operatives by Type

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change 1990-1999
Housing	285	300	310	319	321	330	337	339	342	349	22.5
Other Service	81	82	85	87	93	101	110	116	137	152	87.7
Consumer	46	47	50	50	50	50	52	55	58	58	26.1
Supply	8	9	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	12	50.0
Production	47	51	56	59	61	62	64	65	73	82	74.5
Marketing	36	36	40	40	40	41	44	49	58	63	75.0
Total Non-Financial	503	525	551	566	576	595	618	635	679	716	42.3
Credit Unions	111	108	106	103	101	100	100	96	86	78	-29.7

Although retail co-operatives such as Mountain Equipment Co-op have some of the largest memberships, housing co-operatives are the most numerous. Almost half of all non-financial co-operatives in British Columbia in 1999 were those providing housing services to their members. Co-operatives providing services other than housing are the second most numerous, and posted the largest growth in number from 1990 to 1999, increasing 88 percent from 81 to 152. These co-ops provide services such as childcare, community development, medical care, and a variety of other activities.

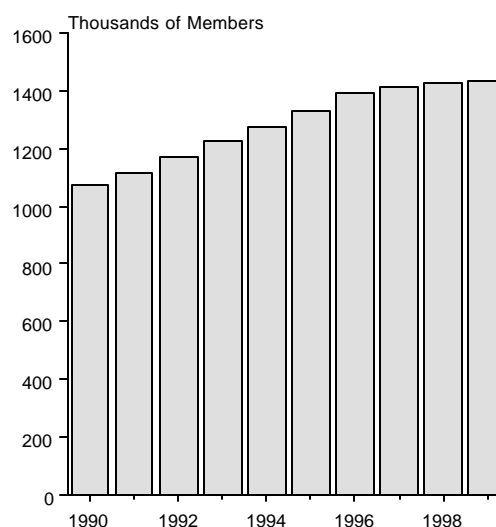
Marketing and Production co-operatives were the next fastest areas of growth. Marketing co-ops in British Columbia include dairy co-operatives like Island Farms in Victoria, fruit and vegetable co-ops like BC Fruit Packers in Kelowna as well as other agriculture-related ventures such as wholesale or retail operations selling livestock, grains and so on. Production co-ops are designed to carry out functions like agricultural feeder operations, handicraft production and wood processing.

Supply co-ops are responsible for distributing products ranging from agricultural supplies to petroleum products.

Financial co-operatives

The popularity of credit unions in British Columbia looks to have reached a plateau as membership as a percentage of population has levelled off at around 36 percent. The number of credit unions in the province has dropped 30 percent since 1990, but this is mainly due to mergers. Membership has continued to grow from 1.1 million members in 1990 to over 1.4 million in 1999.

Credit Union membership in BC has levelled off after rapid expansion earlier in the decade



Credit unions are particularly important for small communities that have no other financial outlets. In British Columbia, credit unions serve 125 communities, including 30 in which there are no other financial institutions. As the major banks continue to consider mergers, the number of communities served only by credit unions could increase. There could be another growth spurt in membership if the Canadian banking system becomes more streamlined than it is already. Consumer concern over "mega-banks" could help attract more people to credit unions.

 fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

 also on the Internet at <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>

<h2>BC at a glance . . .</h2>		
POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago
	Jan 1/01	
BC	4,077.4	0.7
Canada	30,714.7	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago
<i>(BC - at market prices)</i>	1999	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	118,783	4.2
GDP (\$ 1992 millions)	104,323	2.1
GDP (\$ 1992 per Capita)	25,899	1.3
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1992 per Capita)	16,700	0.0
TRADE (\$ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Dec	3,155	-4.9
Merchandise Exports (raw) Apr	3,330	27.3
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Apr	3,072	4.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>	May '01	
BC	115.6	2.5
Canada	117.4	3.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on one year ago
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>	May '01	
Labour Force - BC	2,118	1.0
Employed - BC	1,974	1.2
Unemployed - BC	144	-0.7
		May '00
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	6.8	6.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.0	6.7
INTEREST RATES (percent)	June 27/01	June 28/00
Prime Business Rate	6.25	7.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.70	8.10
- 5 year	7.75	8.45
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	June 27/01	June 28/00
<i>(avg. noon spot rate)</i> Cdn \$	1.5169	1.4839
US \$ <i>(reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.6592	0.6739
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	May '01	
BC	649.78	2.2
Canada	635.08	3.8
SOURCES:		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade,	} Statistics } Canada	
Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm		

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- Business Indicators, June 2001
- Migration Highlights, First Quarter 2001
- Current Statistics, June 2001