

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Prices

- **British Columbia's year-over-year inflation rate (+2.7%) was below the national average (+3.3%) in June.** Energy prices continued to put upward pressure on the cost of living, accounting for about a third of the increase in the all-items consumer price index (CPI) since June 2000. Prices for fuel, gas and electricity were up 14.8%, largely because the cost of piped gas remained 54.0% higher than it had been a year earlier. In addition, prices for gasoline jumped (+11.2%) as the start of the summer driving season approached. The cost of gasoline is now almost 50% higher than it was in 1992.

However, energy prices are only part of the reason why the province's inflation rate in recent months has stayed at a level that had not been seen since the mid-1990s. Prices for other goods and services purchased by individuals have also been rising. Food prices were up (+4.3%) across the board, with the biggest increases seen in the cost of fresh fruits (+12.9%) and vegetables (+13.4%). Consumers also paid more for health and personal care products (+3.3%), alcohol and tobacco (+2.1%) and recreation, education and reading materials (+1.6%). Increases in shelter (+3.6%) and transportation (+3.0%) costs were partly due to higher utility and gas prices, but also reflected other factors such as a stronger housing market, and rising prices for auto maintenance and repair services.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Inflation rates in other provinces ranged from a low of 1.9% in Newfoundland to 5.5% in Alberta.** Yukon (+2.3%) and NWT (+1.6%) experienced relatively low inflation, compared to the rest of the country. Among metropolitan areas, St Johns (+1.9%) and Victoria (+2.0%) had the lowest inflation rates in June. Vancouver's CPI

was 2.8% higher than it had been a year earlier.

Source: Statistics Canada

Private and Public Investment

- **Investment by private and public sector establishments in the province is expected to increase 3.5% this year, largely due to public sector spending, which is forecast to increase 16.8%.** Private sector establishments surveyed between April and June had a less optimistic outlook, anticipating no change (-0.1%) in spending on structures and equipment this year.

Total spending on construction is expected to rise 1.4%, with a predicted 11.9% jump in public spending more than offsetting a 1.7% drop in investment by the private sector. However, spending on residential structures is expected to increase (+2.9%) for the first time since 1997.

Purchases of machinery and equipment are also expected to rise (+7.6%), driven mainly by public sector spending (+29.2%). A small increase is anticipated in private sector investment (+2.9%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Investment in Northwest Territories is expected to nearly double (+91.9%) this year, mostly due to mining and oil and gas extraction activities.** Private and public sector establishments in Alberta (+14.2%) and Ontario (+7.9%) also anticipate increases greater than the national average of 6.3%. Spending is forecast to increase in all other regions except New Brunswick (-13.6%), Newfoundland (-3.5%) and Saskatchewan (-0.2%).

Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products increased 17.8% year-over-year in May, boosted by a 245.5% jump in international shipments of energy products.** Higher natural gas and electricity prices helped

Did you know...

Impaired driving and common assault are the most frequent offences tried in adult provincial courts in Canada. They account for one in every four cases.

push energy exports over the \$1 billion mark for the second straight month. They accounted for just over a third (34%) of total exports in May.

Exports of agriculture and fish products rose 11.0%, but shipments of all other commodities dropped below May 2000 levels. Forestry products, which accounted for 37% of the total, were down 12.6%. Industrial goods (-22.1%), automotive products (-16.1%), machinery and equipment (-10.8%) and consumer goods (-10.5%) exports also fell.

Across the country, exports rose in six provinces, with the largest gains posted in Alberta (+30.1%) and New Brunswick (+28.9%), in both cases largely due to strong exports of energy products. Nationally, exports rose 2.9%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Manufacturing shipments in BC rose 3.6% between April and May (seasonally adjusted).** This was the first increase since December 2000. Across the country, shipments were up 2.1% overall, as increases were posted in 7 provinces. New Brunswick saw the greatest gains (+14.7%), followed by Alberta (+4.7%) and BC.

BC shipments of durable goods rose 5.0%, the largest monthly increase since July 1999. The strong gain was mainly due to a 9.9% increase in wood product shipments. Increases were also posted in four other major groups, including computer and electronic products (+11.9%), and non-metallic minerals (+3.2%).

On the non-durable goods side, shipments rose 1.6%, rebounding from a 5.2% drop in the previous month. The rise was largely a result of gains in paper manufacturing (+1.9%), but increases were posted in all but two of the major groups in this sector. Food shipments remained unchanged, while petroleum and coal shipments fell 0.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Wholesale sales in the province were up 0.8% in May (seasonally adjusted).** The increase was modest compared to gains in most other parts of the country. Canadian sales increased 1.8%, as sales rose in all regions except Nova Scotia (-0.4%) and NWT (-14.6%). Five regions posted double-digit gains, with the strongest growth occurring in PEI (+20.9%) and Nunavut (+49.1%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in BC and the north rose 3.4% (seasonally adjusted) between April and May.** This was the third straight month to see an increase. A total of 14,694 units were sold, up 478 on the previous month. Across the country, sales fell everywhere except BC and Nova Scotia (+1.4%). The largest drops occurred in Prince Edward Island (-6.0%) and New Brunswick (-5.3%). Nationally, sales declined 2.1%, the first fall in three months. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts in the province increased 8.3% in May, year-over-year.** This marked the sixteenth straight month in which revenues have risen. Drinking places in BC saw takings fall (-1.0%) for the first time since December, but full- and limited-service restaurant receipts rose strongly (+10.9% and 7.7%, respectively). Nationally, restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts increased slightly more than in BC, rising 8.6%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Crime

- **BC's crime rate fell for the fifth straight year in 2000, decreasing 2.9% to 11,253 criminal offences per 100,000 population.** Despite the drop, the province's rate (which excludes traffic offences) was the fifth highest in the country behind the three territories and Saskatchewan, and was also higher than the national rate (7,655). The rate of property (-6.0%) and violent (-2.5%) crimes in BC decreased last year, more than offsetting a 2.8% jump in the rate of other criminal code incidents.

Crime rates in BC's largest cities were also down last year. Vancouver's rate fell 2.8% to 11,210 per 100,000, while in Victoria the rate declined 10.5% to 10,594 per 100,000. Despite this, the cities had the third and fourth highest rates out of the twenty-five census metropolitan areas. The highest crime rate was in Regina (14,769), and the lowest, in Chicoutimi-Jonquiere (5,104). *Source: SC Catalogue 85-002*

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Projections of Registered Indian Population

Summary—*Information on the expected future growth of the province's Aboriginal population is important for the planning of many types of services. New projections for the Registered Indian population of British Columbia have recently become available, providing a useful planning tool.*

The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (DIAND), in collaboration with Statistics Canada, has developed an updated set of projections, *Registered Indian Population Projections for Canada and Regions*¹, covering the 1998 to 2008 period. These projections are based on the 1998 Indian Register, which takes into account all individuals registered under the *Indian Act*, adjusted for late and under reporting of births and deaths². The projections differ from earlier versions in that they allow for migration flows between reserves and off-reserve communities. Other forms of migration, that is international and interprovincial, are not included as they are not considered to be significant factors.

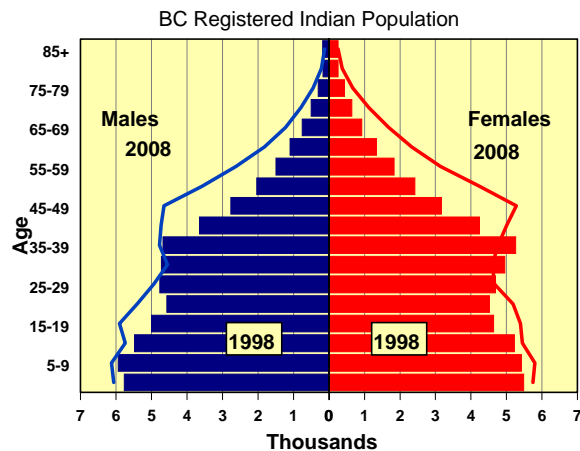
The B.C. Registered Indian (RI) population is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.7% over the 1998 to 2008 period, increasing from 109,500 persons in 1998 to 129,400 persons in 2008. By comparison, the population of the province as a whole is expected to have an annual growth rate of 1.2% over the ten-year period. Most of the RI growth is expected

to occur in the on-reserve RI population, where the average annual growth is projected at 2.7%, compared to growth of only 0.4% for the off-

reserve RI population. This slower growth is mainly the result of the assumption of positive migration flows from off-reserve communities to reserves. In addition, lower fertility and mortality rates and a higher incidence of Indian/non-Indian parenting (i.e. out-marriage rates) are observed off-reserve.

In 1998, B.C.'s RI population was second in size only to Ontario's population of 150,800 persons. However, by 2008 Manitoba's RI population is projected to surpass B.C.'s, growing from 102,700 in 1998 to 132,500 in 2008, and Saskatchewan's RI population is also expected to be slightly higher (129,700 persons) than B.C.'s, as higher fertility rates are projected for the two prairie provinces.

The working age population is growing.



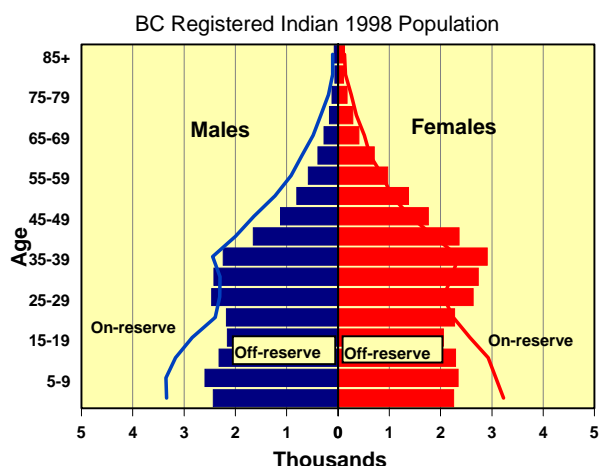
Although both the RI and the total provincial populations are aging, their distributions are expected to remain quite different. In 1998, 39% of the provincial RI population was under 20 years of age, 57% was in the working age group (20 to 64 years) and 4% was 65 years and over. Over the next 10-year period the proportion of young

¹ Available at <http://www.inac.gc.ca>.

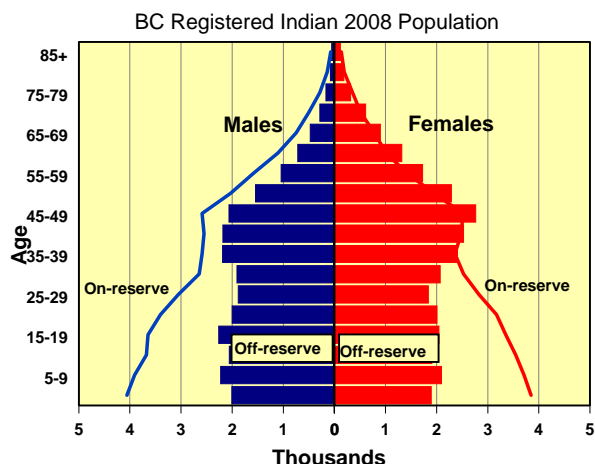
² An individual's region of residence is tied to the region of the individual's band or community. About 400 people from the Taku River Tlingit and Liard River bands located in British Columbia are included with Yukon data.

people is expected to fall to 36%, while the working age group increases to 59% and seniors to 5%. In 2008, the overall provincial population is expected to have a smaller share of young people (22%) but more seniors (14%) and working age people (64%) than the RI population.

Off-reserve women are more numerous and older than their male counterparts,



and this difference is expected to continue.




The on- and off-reserve RI populations have quite different current and future age/gender profiles. Although there are approximately 2,000 more males than females on-reserve throughout the projection period, their age distributions are expected to be very similar. In 1998, 53% of both genders were in the working age group,

around 43% were youths and 4% were seniors. Over the next ten years, the working age group is expected to increase their share by about 3 percentage points, while the share of youth falls by about the same amount.

On the other hand, the off-reserve female population is more than 3,500 persons larger than the male population and a larger proportion is in the working age group. In 1998, 64% of women were of working age compared to 58% of men and 32% of females were under age 20 compared to 40% of males. Not much growth is expected in the total off-reserve population over the next ten years and the aging of this population will lower the share of male youths to 34% and female youths to 27%. Over the same period the share of senior women is expected to grow from 4% to 7% of the female population.

As stated earlier, the projections presented here apply to the Registered Indian population based on the 1998 Indian Register. However, the greatest change in the population on-reserve is in the non-registered portion. The 1985 amendments to the Indian Act changed the rules that determine how Registered Indian status is passed on from one generation to another. As a result there may be an increasing number of children of Indian/non-Indian parents who are not eligible for registration under the Indian Act. The effect of this increase on the non-registered population is expected to be larger in off-reserve communities than on reserves. Work on projections of the non-registered on-reserve population is in progress and when completed will give a better picture of the population expected to occupy reserves in the future.

 fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

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

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/01	% change on one year ago
BC	4,087.2	0.8
Canada	30,949.9	0.9
GDP and INCOME	1999	% change on one year ago
<i>(BC - at market prices)</i>		
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	Jun '01	% change on one year ago
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>		
BC	116.3	2.7
Canada	117.5	3.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)	Jun '01	% change on one year ago
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>		
Labour Force - BC	2,105	0.6
Employed - BC	1,957	0.4
Unemployed - BC	148	3.9
		Jun '00
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	7.0	6.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.0	6.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	July 18/01	July 19/00
Prime Business Rate	6.00	7.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.70	7.90
- 5 year	7.75	8.25
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	July 18/01	July 19/00
<i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i>	1.5350	1.4756
<i>US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.6512	0.6773
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE	Jun '01	% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>		
BC	649.40	2.8
Canada	634.36	3.8
SOURCES:		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm		

Email service

Thank you to all who have submitted requests for conversion to electronic delivery. Our current schedule is to have the service activated in the second half of August. Please be patient.

Released this week by BC STATS

- No subscription releases

Next week

- Consumer Price Index
- Business Indicators
- Current Statistics
- Exports