

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points between August and September, dropping to 7.7% (seasonally adjusted).** The decline in the jobless rate occurred because the number of people working or looking for work shrank 0.3%. Employment was unchanged from August. September marked the fifth time in six months that employment in the province has been flat or declined. At the same time, the labour force has been contracting as job seekers have dropped out of the labour market. This has kept the unemployment rate from advancing as much as it otherwise would have.

Canada's unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.2% in September, as both employment (+0.1%) and the labour force (+0.1%) grew at the same rate. Unemployment rates were down in BC, Alberta, and three Atlantic provinces, unchanged in Ontario and Quebec, and increased in the rest of the country. BC's jobless rate was higher than the national average, continuing a trend that has persisted during most of the last four years.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Self-employment in the province fell again in September, dropping 1.5% after decreasing 0.7% in the previous month.** The drop in self-employment completely offset the positive effect of a 0.3% increase in the number of employees, with job gains seen in both the private (+0.2%) and public (+0.5%) sectors. Full-time employment was virtually unchanged from August, while the number of part-time workers fell 0.4%.

Men (8.4%) continued to experience a greater incidence of unemployment than women (6.8%). The unemployment rate for young people—those

aged 15-24—was 13.4%, nearly double the 6.7% average for workers who were 25 or older.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Workers in BC's two biggest cities were less likely to be unemployed than those living in other parts of the province.** Both Vancouver (6.4%, seasonally adjusted) and Victoria (6.2%) had unemployment rates that were well below the provincial average.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Among the regions, unemployment rates were highest in North Coast/Nechako (10.2%, 3-month moving average), Thompson/Okanagan (10.1%) and Cariboo (9.3%).** Vancouver Island/Coast (9.0%) also registered a relatively high unemployment rate, despite the low jobless rate in the capital region. Workers in the rest of the Island are feeling the pinch from the slowdown in the forest sector. The softwood lumber countervail duty imposed by the US has led to a number of mill closures, and some coastal communities have been particularly hard-hit. Kootenay (6.2%) had the lowest unemployment rate in the province.

Source: Statistics Canada

Note to Readers

The effects of the September 11 terrorist attack are beginning to be felt in North America, especially in some industries that have been particularly hard-hit in the aftermath of the attack. They do not show up in the September labour force statistics, as the survey on which this data is based was taken during the week of September 9-15. Workers who were laid off after September 11, or who missed time from work because of the terrorist attacks, would have been counted as employed as long as they were on the job earlier in the week. Layoffs announced late last month will be reflected in the October data, when it is released.

Did you know...

Canadians consumed an average of 150 grams of fresh and 80 grams of frozen, brussels sprouts in 1999. That's down from 220, and 230, respectively in 1985.

The Economy

- **Department store sales in BC and the territories grew 12.6% in August, compared to August 2000.** Sales reached \$193.7 million. Across the country, department store sales increased in every region, with the largest gain in Newfoundland/Prince Edward Island (+22.9%). Canadian sales were up 10.4% in August.

So far this year, department store sales in BC and the North have climbed 10.2% compared to the same period in 2000. Nationally, sales have risen 8.7%.
Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued by municipalities in the province dropped 23.5% (seasonally adjusted) in August.** For the third straight month, residential permits fell (-14.5%). Non-residential permits also declined (-32.9%). Canada-wide, permits decreased 4.4% in August. Values dropped in Ontario (-5.8%) but were up in Alberta (+18.7%) and Quebec (+2.5%).
Source: Statistics Canada

- **Year-to-date, the value of building permits issued in the province was 10.3% higher than in the first eight months of 2000, but not all regions posted increases.** Permits fell sharply in North Coast (-33.4%), Kootenay (-26.6%) and Nechako (-12.1%), but these declines were offset by strong gains, ranging from +11.6% in Mainland/Southwest to +40.4% in Thompson/Okanagan, where both residential (+19.8%) and non-residential (+72.0%) permits have soared. The value of permits in Vancouver Island/Coast (+0.2%) was virtually unchanged from the first eight months of last year.
Source: Statistics Canada

- **Business bankruptcies in the province were down 2.2% in August, compared to the same month last year.** Nationally, the number of business bankruptcies fell 5.1%. *Source: Industry Canada*

- **The number of consumer bankruptcies in the province rose 7.3% in August over August 2000 levels, to reach 827.** Consumer bankruptcies in Canada totaled 6,707, up from 6,402 in August 2000. Among the provinces, the largest increase was reported in Nova Scotia (+21.4%). Ontario (+13.0%) and

Newfound-land (+10.4%) also saw consumer bankruptcies rise significantly. *Source: Industry Canada*

Tourism

- **Tourism spending in Canada grew 3.9% in the second quarter of 2001, compared to the same period last year.** The driving force behind this was increased demand from foreigners (+6.5%), although domestic tourism spending was also up (+2.7%). Spending on food and beverages increased the most, climbing 5.2%.
Source: Statistics Canada

- **Visits to BC parks declined 3% during the first eight months of 2001, largely because of fewer day and boat visits.** A total of 18.4 million visits were made to parks in the province between January and August, down from 19.0 million in the same period last year. Campground use increased (+2%), but the number of day and boat trips to BC parks fell (-4%) to 16.1 million.
Source: BC Parks data

- **Vancouver Island parks bucked the provincial trend, with visits increasing 2% year-to-date.** A total of 4.3 million visits—3.8 million day trips and 489,000 campground visits—have been made to Vancouver Island parks so far this year. Park use in all other regions declined at rates ranging from 3% in the Lower Mainland to 6% in Thompson/Cariboo.
Source: BC Parks data

Workplace Injuries

- **A total of 217,205 short-term disability claims were accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board for injuries received during the three-year period from 1997 to 1999.** During this period, 3,946 workers were harmed by acts of violence. The vast majority of them were either in sales and service (1,516) or health (1,234) occupations. Within the sales and service category, people working in protective services (599), retail sales (165), child care/home support (152) and other sales and services (213) recorded the largest number of injuries from acts of violence by people. Other acts of violence include attacks by animals.
Source: WCB data

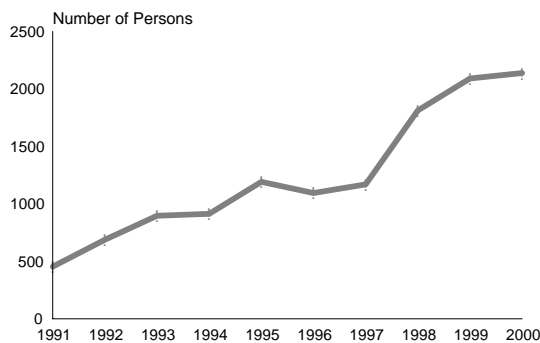
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Immigrants from South Korea

South Korea has been among the top immigrant source countries to British Columbia. Recently, it has also become the biggest supplier of entrepreneur immigrants to the province...

Over the last decade, there were about 43,200 immigrants who arrived in Canada from South Korea (or Republic of Korea, referred to as Korea for the rest of this article). Of those, 28.8 per cent (or about 14,500 persons) chose to settle in British Columbia. The number of immigrants from Korea has been increasing steadily over the past decade. Since 1992, Korea has always been ranked within the top ten immigrant sources to the province. In both 1999 and 2000, Korea was the fifth leading source. While the majority of Korean immigrants are destined for Ontario, B.C. has been the second most favored destination for immigrants from Korea.

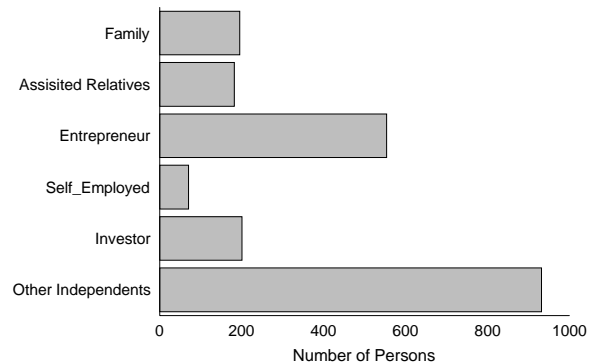
Korean Immigrants to B.C.



The most recent immigrants from Korea were admitted under the skilled worker or business classes. In fact, since 1999, Korea has surpassed Hong Kong and Taiwan to become the top source of entrepreneur immigrants to B.C. In 2000, entrepreneur immigrants from Korea represented 31.5 per cent of the total entrepreneur immigrants landed in the province, more than double the number from Taiwan which was the second top source of immigrants in that class. Last year, Korea was also ranked second in the number of im-

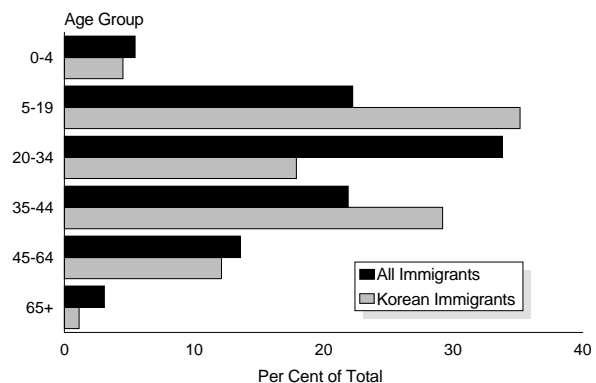
migrants who arrived under the Self-Employed Class and third in the Investor Class.

Korean Immigrants to B.C. By Class Landed 2000



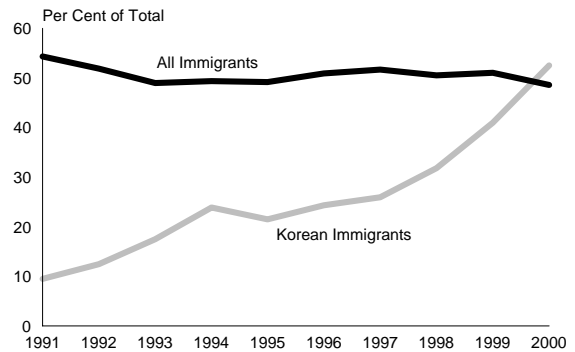
As a result of the high proportion who arrived under the economic classes, a majority of Korean immigrants came as members of a nuclear family that is commonly made up of middle-aged parents and teenaged children. For recent newcomers during the five year period 1996-2000, approximately 30 per cent were in the 35-44 age group, and 35 per cent in the 5-19 age group. This age distribution is typical for immigrants who come under the business or independent categories.

Age Distribution of Immigrants to B.C. Landed 1996-2000



Education qualifications are relatively high in recent immigrants from Korea. This is, again, due partly to the high proportion of immigrants in the independent and business categories. Compared to all immigrants aged 25 or older from all sources in the last five years, immigrants from Korea are relatively less likely to have below high school education. Also, compared to immigrants who came from the top ten source countries, Korean immigrants represented the highest proportion who have university or higher education at time of landing. Of Korean immigrants aged 25 years or older who landed in the province during 1996-2000, almost 60 per cent possessed a bachelor's degree or higher post graduated education. This is considerably higher than the 41 per cent observed for the overall immigrant landings in the province.

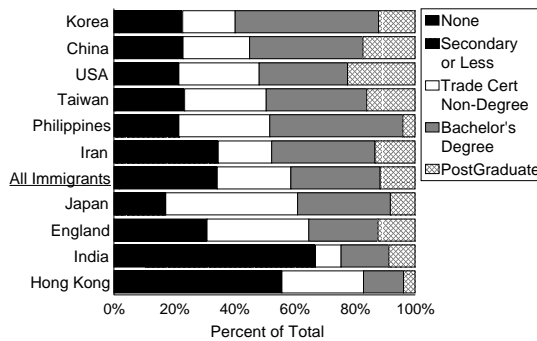
B.C. Immigrants with English Language Ability



A very high percentage of immigrants from Korea chose to settle in the Greater Vancouver area. This trend has not changed in the last two decades. Generally, about 95 per cent of all Korean immigrants who were destined for B.C. have reported an initial place of settlement within Greater Vancouver.

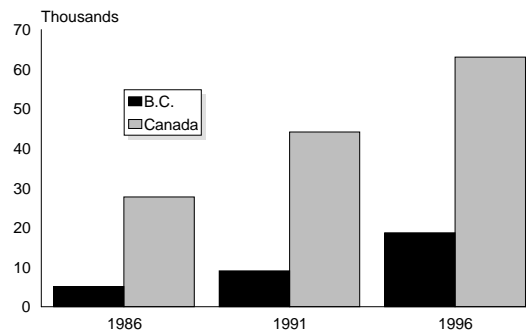
B.C. Immigrants by Education by Source

Aged 25+ and Landed 1996-2000




On the other hand, a relatively higher proportion of immigrants from Korea arrived without any English language ability. While the proportion without English language ability was about 50 per cent for the overall landings between 1996 and 2000, the proportion is significantly higher for immigrants from Korea at 62.3 per cent. However, overall English language ability of immigrants from Korea has been improving as the number arriving with some knowledge of English language has constantly been increasing over the last decade.

Population with Korean Ethnic Origin
Single Ethnicity Response Only



With the steady inflow of immigrants from Korea, Korean population in the province will continue to grow. Census information indicates very strong growth in the B.C. population who are ethnic Koreans¹. The number of persons who reported Korean as their single ethnic origin in 1996 Census was more than double that in the 1991 Census. It is believed that Koreans will become one of the faster growing ethnic groups in B.C. and Canada in the foreseeable future.

¹ Census ethnicity data combined respondents of both South Korea and People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea). However, there has been virtually no immigrant to B.C. from North Korea in the last 20 years. Hence, any growth in Korean population due to immigration would have been from South Korea.

 **fax** transmission information service from **BC STATS**

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 also on the **Internet** at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/01	% change on one year ago
BC	4,095.9	0.9
Canada	31,081.9	1.0
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.) Jul	2,880	-5.4
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jul	2,656	-2.7
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jul	3,169	5.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>	Aug '01	
BC	116.1	1.8
Canada	117.1	2.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on one year ago
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>	Sep '01	
Labour Force - BC	2,095	-1.0
Employed - BC	1,934	-1.1
Unemployed - BC	161	-0.8
	Sep '00	
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	7.7	7.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.2	6.9
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Oct 3/01	Oct 4/00
Prime Business Rate	5.25	7.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.35	7.90
- 5 year	7.05	8.25
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Oct 3/01	Oct 4/00
<i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i>	1.5681	1.4985
<i>US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.6380	0.6693
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	Sep '01	
BC	645.68	-0.4
Canada	639.50	2.5

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, } Statistics
 Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Canada
 Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
 For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Proposed 2001 Census release strategy

Date	Variables
12 Mar '02	Population & Dwelling Counts Occupied Private Dwellings Collectives
16 Jul '02	Age and Sex
22 Oct '02	Marital Status Common-law Status Families Dwellings and Households
10 Dec '02	Language Mobility and Migration
21 Jan '03	Citizenship Immigration Birthplace & Birthplace of Parents Ethnic Origin Visible Minorities Aboriginal
11 Feb '03	Labour Force Activity Presence of Children Occupation' Industry Place of Work Mode of Transportation Language of Work (new) Unpaid Work
11 Mar '03	Education Field of Study Highest Level of Schooling Earnings
13 May '03	Income of Individuals, Families and Households Social & Economic Characteris- tics of Individuals, Families and Households Shelter Costs Religion (last asked in 1991)

In September 2003, estimates of Net Census Undercount will be released.

Released this week by BC STATS

- Tourism Sector Monitor, September 2001

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, September 2001