

## highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

### *Municipal Population Estimates*

- **BC's population growth (+0.9%) during the 12-month period ending July 1<sup>st</sup> occurred in pockets that were scattered throughout the province.** Squamish-Lillooet (+2.3%) and East Kootenay (+2.3%) posted the strongest gains, followed by the Nanaimo (+1.5%) and Central Okanagan (+1.5%) regions. Other regional districts with fast-growing populations include Northern Rockies (+1.4%), Columbia-Shuswap (+1.3%) and Central Coast (+1.1%). Kootenay-Boundary (-0.7%) was the only region to lose people, continuing a downward trend that began four years ago. Greater Vancouver's population grew 1.0%, while the population in the Fraser Valley (+0.9%) and Capital (+0.6%) regions showed more moderate growth. *Source: BC STATS*
- **The fastest growing municipalities (5,000+) in the province were small towns, led by Fernie (+4.6%).** Also in the top six were Whistler (+3.0%), Lake Country (+2.4%), View Royal (+2.4%), Kent (+2.2%) and Nelson (+1.9%), all of which have a population between 5,500 and 10,000. Maple Ridge (1.8%) had the greatest increase for municipalities with a population of more than 50,000 people. BC's three largest municipalities: Vancouver (+1.1%), Surrey (+1.4%), and Burnaby (+0.8%) experienced moderate growth. At the back of the pack was Trail, where the population shrank to 7,515 (-2.7%). Mackenzie (-1.5%), Creston (-1.5%), New Westminster (-1.2%) and White Rock (-1.1%) all saw population declines of more than one percent. *Source: BC STATS*

### *Labour Force*

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points between October and November, rising to 8.5% (seasonally adjusted), its highest level in two-and-**

**a-half years.** However, the rise in the jobless rate was largely due to an expanding labour force (+0.5%), which increased faster than the number of jobs (+0.2%). Canada's jobless rate rose 0.2 points, to 7.5%, for the same reason. Employment nationwide was up 0.1%, while the labour force grew 0.4%. Employment rose in all but four provinces, with the biggest gains (+1.1% in PEI) and losses (-0.9% in Newfoundland) occurring on the east coast.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Part-time employment in BC rose 2.2% (seasonally adjusted) in November, but there were fewer(-0.4%) full-time jobs available.** Self-employment (+1.0%) was up for the second month in a row. The number of paid employees was flat, as gains in the public sector (+1.7%) were completely offset by a 0.5% drop in the number of private sector workers. The youth unemployment rate rose to 14.8% and the jobless rate for men (9.5%) was up for the fourth month in a row. Women (7.3%) were much less likely to be unemployed. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **Employment in goods industries fell sharply (-3.4%) for the second straight month, as the number of jobs declined almost across the board.** Employment in utilities plunged 10.9%, marking the second big drop in the last three months. There were also fewer people with jobs in forestry/fishing/mining (-5.3%), construction (-3.6%) and manufacturing (-3.5%). Employment in agriculture expanded 5.2% in November, regaining some of the ground lost since the summer. Strong job growth in the service sector (+1.1%) offset the decline in the goods industries. Education (+5.6%), other services (+5.6%), and public administration (+3.7%) made the biggest gains. The number of people with jobs in accommodation and food services fell 2.6%,

### *Did you know...*

**Canada is the world's largest producer of mustard. Mustard production averaged 225,530 tonnes a year during the last decade, but plummeted to 89,300 tonnes this year because of drought on the prairies.**

and employment in the transportation and warehousing industry was up a modest 0.3%.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island were the only regions where the jobless rate was higher than in November 2000.** The unemployment rate in Mainland/Southwest was 7.1% (3-month-moving average) in November, up 1.4 percentage points from a year earlier. In Vancouver Island/Coast, the jobless rate rose 0.8 points, to 9.2%. Jobless rates across BC ranged from 5.2% in Northeast to 11.3% in North Coast/Nechako.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

### **Provincial Net Debt**

- **Provincial and territorial governments in Canada had a cumulative net debt of \$256 billion on March 31, 2000, corresponding to a total indebtedness of \$8,350 per person.** Provincial general government debt declined (-0.8%) for the first time in nearly twenty years. BC's total debt rose from \$15.2 billion in 1999 to \$16.1 billion, representing a net liability of \$3,979 per person. This was less than in any other province except Alberta, the only province in a surplus position (+\$837 per capita). Per capita indebtedness in the rest of Canada ranged from \$7,493 in PEI to \$15,593 in Newfoundland. Provincial general government includes ministries as well as agencies such as the WCB, which are not always included in the Public Accounts of provincial governments.

*Source: SC, Financial Management System data*

### **The Economy**

- **Investment in new residential construction was 9.5% higher in the third quarter of this year than in the same period of 2000.** The increase was largely driven by new apartment construction, which was more than double (+105%) the level in the third quarter of 2000. Residential investment also received a boost from a 6.7% rise in conversions, and a 3.3% increase in spending on alterations and improvements. However, spending on double (-10.0%), row (-5.5%) and single (-1.6%) family dwellings fell. Nationally, residential construction investment rose 4.9% as spending increased in all but three regions.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities was virtually unchanged (+0.2%, seasonally adjusted) in October.** A boom (+28.4%) in planned residential construction activity drove permits for housing projects to their highest level in four years. However, planned non-residential projects plunged 30.5%, virtually wiping out the increase in the previous month. Permits in Vancouver were up 20.5%, but the value of planned projects in the Victoria area fell 27.3%. Nationally, permits rose 1.0%, as residential permits increased 1.7% while non-residential permits were unchanged (+0.1%) from September. Permits were down or flat in six regions.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

### **Education**

- **Canadian 15-year-olds rank among the best in the world when it comes to reading, math and science.** When compared to students in 32 OECD countries, Canadian kids came second in reading, sixth in math and fifth in science. Finland was the only country where students consistently scored higher than their Canadian counterparts. Among the provinces, Alberta students scored highest in reading and science, while Quebecers had the top scores in math. BC ranked second in reading and third in science and math. Students in all three provinces did better than the Canadian average, and thus scored higher than those in virtually every country in the study.

*Source: SC, HRDC & Council of Education Ministers*

- **Students from low income families are less likely to enroll in post-secondary education programs than those from wealthier families.** In 1998, just under half (48.8%) of all 18-to-21-year-olds from families in the lowest income quartile were enrolled in postsecondary courses. This compares to 61.4% in the middle half, and 71.0% in the highest income quartile. The differences were most pronounced at the university level, with participation ranging from 16.3% in the lowest quartile to 26.1% and 39.6% in the middle and highest income groups.

*Source: SC, The Daily*

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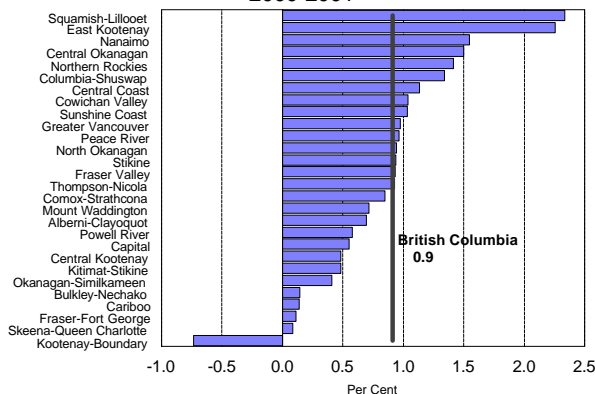
## Municipal Population Estimates ♦ 2001

### The Province

British Columbia had the third highest population growth rate in Canada between 2000 and 2001. The province grew at a rate of 0.9 per cent, or 37,101 persons, between July 1, 2000 and July 1, 2001. Alberta (1.8 per cent) and Ontario (1.6 per cent) had higher growth rates among the provinces and Nunavut (2.7 per cent) also experienced strong growth.

International migration was the biggest contributor to B.C.'s population growth during the year, followed by natural increase (births less deaths). Offsetting this growth was a net loss in population during the year from interprovincial migration to Alberta (-10,780) and to Ontario (-3,695).

### Population Growth by Regional District 2000-2001



Source: BC Stats

### Regional Districts

On a regional basis, the strongest population growth in the last year appeared in pockets and was not concentrated in any one part of the province. Population increases were highest (2.3 per cent) in Squamish-Lillooet and East Kootenay regions, followed by Nanaimo and Central Okanagan regions, both with increases of 1.5 per cent.

Greater Vancouver, home to half the province's population, recorded a slightly higher than average population growth rate of 1.0 per cent, while the increase in Fraser Valley (0.9 per cent) was the same as the provincial average. Population growth in the Capital region, which contains the Victoria CMA, was somewhat weaker at 0.6 per cent, but stronger than in the previous three years.

Regional District	2001 Population	% Increase
Squamish-Lillooet	37,131	2.3
East Kootenay	63,644	2.3
Nanaimo	136,920	1.5
Central Okanagan	154,910	1.5
Northern Rockies	6,520	1.4
Columbia-Shuswap	53,644	1.3
Central Coast	4,377	1.1

Kootenay-Boundary (-0.7 per cent) was the only regional district to register a decline in population over the last year, with widespread decreases throughout the region. This was the fourth consecutive year of declining population for the region.

### Municipalities

Maple Ridge had the highest population increase for municipalities over 50,000 population (1.8 per cent). This continues the strong trend of the last few years, in which Maple Ridge has had annual growth in the 1.5-2.5 per cent range.

Municipal 5,000+	2001 Population	% Increase
Fernie	5,511	4.6
Whistler	9,965	3.0
Lake Country	9,587	2.4
View Royal	7,764	2.4
Kent	5,622	2.2
Nelson	9,853	1.9
Maple Ridge	64,238	1.8
Fort St. John	17,129	1.8

The three largest municipalities in B.C. had more moderate population growth of around 1.0 per cent (Vancouver at 1.1 per cent,

Surrey at 1.4 per cent, and Burnaby at 0.8 per cent).

For municipalities greater than 5,000 population, Fernie (4.6 per cent) and Whistler (3.0 per cent) showed the largest increases. Population growth in Whistler has eased to the 2.5-3.0 per cent range in the last three years due in part to infrastructure constraints. Population growth in the nearby municipalities of Pemberton (7.1 per cent) and Squamish (1.6 per cent) picked up in 2001, after coming to a standstill in the previous year. Some other tourism-oriented areas posted strong growth in 2001: Radium Hot Springs at 8.3 per cent and Tofino at 5.8 per cent.

<b>Municipal 5,000+</b>	<b>2001 Population</b>	<b>% Decrease</b>
Trail	7,515	-2.7
Mackenzie	6,177	-1.5
Creston	5,082	-1.5
New Westminster	54,207	-1.2
White Rock	17,169	-1.1
Oak Bay	17,494	-0.9
Prince Rupert	16,924	-0.5

Municipalities such as Trail, White Rock and Oak Bay have generally been losing population over the last few years, while the changes in some of the other municipalities listed above are more variable from one year to the next.

Regional centres such as Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops, Smithers, and Courtenay are also gaining population in part due to the movement of population from smaller municipalities. This migration occurs partly due to decreasing employment opportunities in the smaller resource-dependent communities. Larger centres offer expanded employment opportunities that can act as a magnet for population.

In the north-east part of the province, Fort St. John and Fort Nelson both grew by 1.8 per cent as the oil and gas sector provided increased employment opportunities.

Other highlights from the 2001 municipal and regional district estimates include:

- There are 154 incorporated municipalities within British Columbia following the incorporation in 1999 of Sooke and Bowen Island. Just over 70 per cent of all municipalities experienced a population increase over the last year.
- Over the last year, the overall population of the rural unorganized area grew at the same rate as the total of the incorporated areas.
- Within the Capital region, steady population growth has continued in the western communities (View Royal, Highlands, Langford, and Metchosin). However, larger “core” municipalities such as Saanich, Victoria and Esquimalt grew at a slower pace than the western part of the region.
- Vancouver Island's central and southern regions continue to exhibit weak but steady growth (less than 1.0 per cent) with only the Nanaimo region (1.5 per cent) and Cowichan Valley (1.0 per cent) showing above average growth.
- The East Kootenay region, especially the part closest to the Alberta border, experienced strong growth and may be benefiting from the strength of the neighbouring province.

Municipal estimates are calculated by the Population Section of BC Stats through a regional estimation model that has been developed and refined over the past 20 years. This model, which uses indicators such as residential electrical connections and Old Age Security data, has enabled BC Stats to produce relatively accurate population estimates without the high cost of conducting a census.

Knowledge of population growth and where it occurs are vital to the planning process. For this reason the Municipal and Regional District Estimates are an important tool for the provincial and local governments in assessing current and future community needs.

The population estimates for 1996 to 2001 (as well as the estimates for 1976-1995) are available on the BC Stats web site: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>

BC STATS Municipal & Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	Estimate 2000	Estimate 2001	2000-01 % Chg.	Name	Area Type	Estimate 2000	Estimate 2001	2000-01 % Chg.
<b>Alberni-Clayoquot</b>		<b>33,386</b>	<b>33,618</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>Comox-Strathcona</b>		<b>105,363</b>	<b>106,254</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Port Alberni	C *	19,317	19,531	1.1	Campbell River	DM *	31,229	31,437	0.7
Tofino	DM	1,539	1,628	5.8	Comox	T *	12,242	12,352	0.9
Ucluelet	DM	1,823	1,831	0.4	Courtenay	C *	19,791	20,055	1.3
<b>Bulkley-Nechako</b>		<b>45,538</b>	<b>45,605</b>	<b>0.1</b>	Cumberland	VL	2,716	2,720	0.1
Burns Lake	VL	1,891	1,895	0.2	Gold River	VL	1,784	1,747	-2.1
Fort St. James	DM	2,128	2,095	-1.6	Sayward	VL	432	434	0.5
Fraser Lake	VL	1,327	1,308	-1.4	Tahsis	VL	896	892	-0.4
Granisle	VL	432	419	-3.0	Zeballos	VL	274	272	-0.7
Houston	DM	4,202	4,173	-0.7	<b>Cowichan Valley</b>		<b>76,762</b>	<b>77,561</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Smithers	T	6,134	6,145	0.2	Duncan	C	4,763	4,812	1.0
Telkwa	VL *	1,416	1,426	0.7	Ladysmith	T *	6,959	7,044	1.2
Vanderhoof	DM	4,826	4,862	0.7	Lake Cowichan	T *	3,083	3,177	3.0
<b>Capital</b>		<b>334,706</b>	<b>336,562</b>	<b>0.6</b>	North Cowichan	DM	27,591	27,837	0.9
Central Saanich	DM	15,542	15,694	1.0	<b>East Kootenay</b>		<b>62,240</b>	<b>63,644</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Colwood	C	14,643	14,676	0.2	Cranbrook	C *	19,859	19,907	0.2
Esquimalt	DM	16,389	16,419	0.2	Elkford	DM	2,863	2,877	0.5
Highlands	DM	1,647	1,686	2.4	Fernie	C	5,269	5,511	4.6
Langford	DM	20,045	20,342	1.5	Invermere	DM	2,950	2,965	0.5
Metchosin	DM	5,083	5,128	0.9	Kimberley	C	6,972	7,057	1.2
North Saanich	DM	10,923	10,954	0.3	Radium Hot Springs	VL	651	705	8.3
Oak Bay	DM	17,652	17,494	-0.9	Sparwood	DM	4,164	4,232	1.6
Saanich	DM	106,733	107,129	0.4	<b>Fraser Valley</b>		<b>242,097</b>	<b>244,354</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Sidney	T	11,098	11,116	0.2	Abbotsford	C	115,032	116,009	0.8
Sooke	DM *	9,651	9,759	1.1	Chilliwack	C	65,371	65,951	0.9
Victoria	C	74,953	75,369	0.6	Harrison Hot Springs	VL	1,116	1,135	1.7
View Royal	T	7,581	7,764	2.4	Hope	DM	6,819	6,831	0.2
<b>Cariboo</b>		<b>73,492</b>	<b>73,593</b>	<b>0.1</b>	Kent	DM	5,502	5,622	2.2
Quesnel	C *	10,786	10,920	1.2	Mission	DM	32,904	33,217	1.0
Wells	DM	265	266	0.4	<b>Fraser-Fort George</b>		<b>106,850</b>	<b>106,970</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Williams Lake	C *	12,092	12,124	0.3	Mackenzie	DM	6,270	6,177	-1.5
100 Mile House	DM	2,039	1,994	-2.2	McBride	VL	769	773	0.5
<b>Central Coast</b>		<b>4,328</b>	<b>4,377</b>	<b>1.1</b>	Prince George	C	81,262	81,506	0.3
<b>Central Kootenay</b>		<b>61,752</b>	<b>62,051</b>	<b>0.5</b>	Valemount	VL	1,355	1,350	-0.4
Castlegar	C	7,421	7,427	0.1	<b>Greater Vancouver</b>		<b>2,009,360</b>	<b>2,028,996</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Creston	T	5,158	5,082	-1.5	Anmore	VL	1,305	1,343	2.9
Kaslo	VL	1,096	1,092	-0.4	Belcarra	VL	711	707	-0.6
Nakusp	VL	1,785	1,796	0.6	Bowen Island	IM *	3,163	3,271	3.4
Nelson	C	9,670	9,853	1.9	Burnaby	C	192,193	193,644	0.8
New Denver	VL	600	609	1.5	Coquitlam	C	112,189	113,498	1.2
Salmo	VL	1,252	1,238	-1.1	Delta	DM	101,349	101,743	0.4
Silverton	VL	250	252	0.8	Langley	C	24,269	24,421	0.6
Slocan	VL	337	336	-0.3	Langley	DM	89,278	90,102	0.9
<b>Central Okanagan</b>		<b>152,621</b>	<b>154,910</b>	<b>1.5</b>	Lions Bay	VL	1,497	1,491	-0.4
Kelowna	C *	98,651	99,724	1.1	Maple Ridge	DM	63,088	64,238	1.8
Lake Country	DM	9,359	9,587	2.4	New Westminster	C	54,852	54,207	-1.2
Peachland	DM	4,866	4,919	1.1	North Vancouver	C	44,914	45,330	0.9
<b>Columbia-Shuswap</b>		<b>52,936</b>	<b>53,644</b>	<b>1.3</b>	North Vancouver	DM	85,741	86,152	0.5
Golden	T	4,250	4,288	0.9	Pitt Meadows	DM	14,839	15,022	1.2
Revelstoke	C	8,207	8,220	0.2	Port Coquitlam	C	51,381	52,094	1.4
Salmon Arm	DM	16,310	16,435	0.8	Port Moody	C	23,800	24,162	1.5
Sicamous	DM	3,143	3,161	0.6	Richmond	C	164,964	166,809	1.1
					Surrey	C	339,811	344,620	1.4
					Vancouver	C	565,477	571,708	1.1
					West Vancouver	DM	42,418	42,526	0.3
					White Rock	C	17,361	17,169	-1.1

## BC STATS Municipal & Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	Estimate 2000	Estimate 2001	2000-01 % Chg.	Name	Area Type	Estimate 2000	Estimate 2001	2000-01 % Chg.
<b>Kitimat-Stikine</b>		<b>46,803</b>	<b>47,029</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>Squamish-Lillooet</b>		<b>36,284</b>	<b>37,131</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Hazelton	VL	359	356	-0.8	Lillooet	DM	2,985	2,977	-0.3
Kitimat	DM	11,524	11,538	0.1	Pemberton	VL *	1,655	1,772	7.1
New Hazelton	DM	865	852	-1.5	Squamish	DM	15,345	15,584	1.6
Stewart	DM	699	696	-0.4	Whistler	DM	9,676	9,965	3.0
Terrace	C	13,859	13,875	0.1	<b>Stikine</b>		<b>1,489</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Kootenay-Boundary</b>		<b>34,040</b>	<b>33,791</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>Sunshine Coast</b>		<b>27,421</b>	<b>27,704</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Fruitvale	VL	2,163	2,123	-1.8	Gibsons	T	3,893	3,996	2.6
Grand Forks	C	4,294	4,292	0.0	Sechelt	DM	8,493	8,641	1.7
Greenwood	C	758	746	-1.6	Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	GD	848	839	-1.1
Midway	VL	681	678	-0.4	<b>Thompson-Nicola</b>		<b>130,092</b>	<b>131,295</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Montrose	VL	1,152	1,153	0.1	Ashcroft	VL	1,993	1,973	-1.0
Rossland	C	3,822	3,811	-0.3	Cache Creek	VL	1,113	1,143	2.7
Trail	C *	7,723	7,515	-2.7	Chase	VL	2,600	2,598	-0.1
Warfield	VL	1,793	1,755	-2.1	Clinton	VL *	718	729	1.5
<b>Mount Waddington</b>		<b>15,046</b>	<b>15,154</b>	<b>0.7</b>	Kamloops	C *	82,768	83,457	0.8
Alert Bay	VL	556	546	-1.8	Logan Lake	DM	2,503	2,467	-1.4
Port Alice	VL	1,247	1,258	0.9	Lytton	VL	318	317	-0.3
Port Hardy	DM	5,224	5,283	1.1	Merritt	C	8,069	8,069	0.0
Port McNeill	T *	3,078	3,085	0.2	<b>British Columbia</b>		<b>4,058,833</b>	<b>4,095,934</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Nanaimo</b>		<b>134,835</b>	<b>136,920</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<i>Source:</i>				
Nanaimo	C	76,588	77,583	1.3	<i>Population Section, BC Stats,</i>				
Parksville	C	10,607	10,772	1.6	<i>Ministry of Management Services,</i>				
Qualicum Beach	T *	7,472	7,533	0.8	<i>Government of British Columbia.</i>				
<b>North Okanagan</b>		<b>77,630</b>	<b>78,362</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<i>Notes:</i>				
Armstrong	C	4,254	4,251	-0.1	<i>All figures correspond to municipal boundaries as of July 1st of the year stated.</i>				
Coldstream	DM *	9,653	9,710	0.6	<i>All figures are as of July 1st of the year stated.</i>				
Enderby	C	2,918	2,904	-0.5	<i>C = City, T = Town, VL = Village, DM = District Municipality,</i>				
Lumby	VL	1,794	1,784	-0.6	<i>IM = Island Municipality, IGD = Indian Government District,</i>				
Spallumcheen	DM	5,730	5,790	1.0	<i>DR = Development Region.</i>				
Vernon	C *	34,654	34,790	0.4	* Denotes a boundary change between 1996 and 2001.				
<b>Northern Rockies</b>		<b>6,429</b>	<b>6,520</b>	<b>1.4</b>	** Sechelt Indian Government District is split between Sunshine Coast and Powell River Regional Districts.				
Fort Nelson	T	4,728	4,814	1.8	† 1996 Census year figures include an estimate of net census undercount.				
<b>Okanagan-Similkameen</b>		<b>80,395</b>	<b>80,723</b>	<b>0.4</b>					
Keremeos	VL	1,177	1,173	-0.3					
Oliver	T	4,356	4,335	-0.5					
Osoyoos	T *	4,483	4,541	1.3					
Penticton	C	32,519	32,513	0.0					
Princeton	T	2,941	2,908	-1.1					
Summerland	DM *	10,823	10,852	0.3					
<b>Peace River</b>		<b>60,333</b>	<b>60,914</b>	<b>1.0</b>					
Chetwynd	DM	3,003	2,930	-2.4					
Dawson Creek	C	11,706	11,789	0.7					
Fort St. John	C	16,829	17,129	1.8					
Hudson's Hope	DM	1,134	1,155	1.9					
Pouce Coupe	VL	911	930	2.1					
Taylor	DM	1,258	1,276	1.4					
Tumbler Ridge	DM	2,330	2,326	-0.2					
<b>Powell River</b>		<b>21,112</b>	<b>21,234</b>	<b>0.6</b>					
Powell River	DM	13,827	13,873	0.3					
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	GD	35	35	0.0					
<b>Skeena-Queen Charlotte</b>		<b>25,493</b>	<b>25,515</b>	<b>0.1</b>					
Masset	VL	1,265	1,268	0.2					
Port Clements	VL	566	595	5.1					
Port Edward	DM	760	742	-2.4					
Prince Rupert	C	17,014	16,924	-0.5					

British Columbia Development Region	Area Type	Estimate 2000	Estimate 2001	2000-01 % Chg.
Vancouver Island/Coast	DR	725,538	731,680	0.8
Mainland/Southwest	DR	2,315,162	2,338,185	1.0
Thompson-Okanagan	DR	493,674	498,934	1.1
Kootenay	DR	158,032	159,486	0.9
Cariboo	DR	180,342	180,563	0.1
North Coast	DR	72,296	72,544	0.3
Nechako	DR	47,027	47,108	0.2
Northeast	DR	66,762	67,434	1.0
<b>British Columbia</b>		<b>4,058,833</b>	<b>4,095,934</b>	<b>0.9</b>

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## BC at a glance . . .

<b>POPULATION (thousands)</b>	Jul 1/01	% change on one year ago
BC	4,095.9	0.9
Canada	31,081.9	1.0
<b>GDP and INCOME</b>	2000	% change on one year ago
<i>(BC - at market prices)</i>		
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	127,564	5.8
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	124,464	3.9
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	30,664	3.1
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	25,195	2.8
<b>TRADE (\$ millions)</b>		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Sep	2,740	-12.9
Merchandise Exports (raw) Sep	2,221	-19.4
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Sep	3,166	4.9
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>	Oct '01	% change on one year ago
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>		
BC	115.8	1.1
Canada	116.8	1.9
<b>LABOUR FORCE (thousands)</b>	Nov '01	% change on one year ago
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>		
Labour Force - BC	2,103	-0.4
Employed - BC	1,924	-2.0
Unemployed - BC	179	22.0
		Nov '00
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	8.5	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.5	6.9
<b>INTEREST RATES (percent)</b>	Dec 5/01	Dec 6/00
Prime Business Rate	4.00	7.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.60	7.80
- 5 year	6.85	8.10
<b>US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE</b>	Dec 5/01	Dec 6/00
<i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i>	1.5714	1.5321
<i>US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.6352	0.6542
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE</b>	Nov '01	% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>		
BC	650.84	1.2
Canada	638.14	2.5

### 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.bankofcanada.ca](http://www.bankofcanada.ca)

### Released this week by BC STATS

- Earnings & Employment Trends, October 2001
- Tourism Monitor, November 2001

### Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, November 2001
- Immigration Highlights, Third Quarter 2001