

- **BC's unemployment rate drops in December**
- **The value of building permits falls after record highs in October**
- **Research and development funding from all sources increased in 2000**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate dropped back to 8.3% (seasonally adjusted) in December.** The decline in the jobless rate occurred because 7,000 (-0.3%) left the labour force while the number of jobs in the province only fell by 3,100 (-0.2%).

Higher employment in the goods sector (+0.8%) was more than offset by lower service sector employment (-0.4%). On the goods side, the new jobs were concentrated in agriculture (+10.1%) and utilities (+5.7%). Employment in construction continued to fall (-0.2%) and the manufacturing industry pared down its work force (-1.0%) after expanding in the previous month.

In the service sector, the trend was generally down, with some exceptions. The number of people with jobs in transportation and warehousing (+3.1%), management & administrative services (+1.9%), and education services (+2.1%) grew. However, this was more than offset by drops in accommodation & food services (-4.3%), information, culture & recreation (-3.5%), professional, scientific & technical (-1.2%) and other service industries.

The number of part-time jobs (+3.6%) increased substantially while full-time employment (-1.3%) fell. Employment was up in both the private (+0.5%) and public (+0.2%) sectors, but there were less self-employed workers (-2.7%). Men (-0.6%) experienced job loss for the third month in a row while women saw an increase in jobs (+0.4%) in December.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canada's unemployment rate stayed constant in December at 7.5%, as employment growth (+0.4%) matched an increase in the**

size of the labour force (+0.4%). Manitoba (5.0%) had the lowest unemployment rate in the country, with similar rates in the other prairie provinces (5.1% in Alberta and 5.6% in Saskatchewan). Newfoundland and Labrador maintained the highest unemployment rate (18.5%) during December.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Unemployment rates were substantially higher in the more rural areas of the province than in the urban centres.** Lower Mainland/Southwest (7.6%, three-month moving average) and Vancouver Island/Coast (7.7%) had the lowest jobless rates. Three of the seven regions for which unemployment rates in the province are calculated had double-digit jobless rates in December. The three-month-moving average in these regions ranged from 11.6% in Northeast to 11.9% in North Coast/Nechako.

Source: Statistics Canada

Annual Labour Force Data

- **Employment in the province grew 1.6% during 2002, after falling 0.3% the year before.** An average of 1.973 million British Columbians had jobs last year, up from 1.942 million in 2001. Employment increased in both the goods (+1.8%) and service (+1.6%) sectors. Strong growth in the construction (+5.1%) industry, as well as agriculture (+15.9%) led the growth in the goods sector. Employment in the wood products industry was down 9.8%, likely due to layoffs caused by US tariffs. On the service side, increased employment in trade (+9.3%) and health care (+13.8%) were the main factors for the increase. Provincial government cutbacks resulted in a 20% drop in its workforce.

Source: Statistics Canada

Did you know...

Funding for research and development has almost doubled in BC over the past decade

The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities dropped 10.1% (seasonally adjusted) in November as planned spending on both residential (-12.0%) and non-residential (-5.4%) projects levelled off.** This decline has to be put in perspective however as October saw record highs. Despite the province-wide downturn, building plans in the capital city continued to boom. Permits in Victoria were up 8.3%, while Vancouver (-9.4%) saw a decline. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **The cost of new housing in BC's biggest cities continued to climb in November.** The New Housing Price Index was up 1.9%, year-over-year, in Vancouver and rose 5.6% in Victoria. A healthy demand for new housing in conjunction with increased costs to builders pushed prices up nationally. Edmonton (+9.3%) led the way with the largest 12-month increase for new homes. Ottawa-Gatineau (+8.8%) and Montreal (+8.3%) also saw price increases. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **There were fewer jobs advertised in British Columbia newspapers as the help-wanted index dropped 0.9% (seasonally adjusted) in December.** Ontario's index (-3.1%) fell for the sixth straight month. Newfoundland and Labrador (-4.1%) and Quebec (-3.3%) fared the worst. New Brunswick (+3.7%) was the only province to see an increase in the index. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Motor Vehicle Theft

- **The rate of motor vehicle theft in British Columbia jumped 12.5% in 2001.** There were 812 vehicle thefts per 100,000 population in BC. Only Manitoba (1,148) had a higher theft rate in 2001. Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest rate (119), far below the national average (548).
British Columbia has the lowest clearance rate (rate at which thefts were "solved" by police) of all provinces and territories. Only 6.0% of all vehicle thefts in BC during 2001 were solved. Northwest Territories was the most successful at solving vehicle theft

crimes (29.1%). The national average was 12.2%.

While cars remain the most commonly stolen vehicle, the rate of truck, including sport utility vehicles, theft is growing quickly, with an increase of 59% over the past decade.

Source: SC, 85-002-XPE Vol. 23 no. 1

- **The rate of thefts from motor vehicles increased slightly (+1.3%) across Canada in 2001.** British Columbia again had the highest rate (at 1,968 thefts from vehicles per 100,000 population), while New Brunswick had the lowest rate in the nation (313). Compared to a decade ago, thefts from motor vehicles have decreased substantially (-37%), probably due to the increasing sophistication of anti-theft devices. The item most likely to be stolen from a motor vehicle was audio equipment. About 20% of all thefts involved audio equipment, while clothing & luggage (14%) was the next most likely to be stolen.

Source: SC, 85-002-XPE Vol. 23 no. 1

Farm Prices

- **The price BC farmers received for their agricultural commodities decreased 6.7% in October (year-over-year).** The Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) fell to 97.4 (1997=100), the lowest of the provinces. Prices of crops (-7.4%), and livestock and animal products (-6.3%) contributed to October's overall decline. Nationally, prices increased (+0.5%) due to growth in crop prices (+4.4%) more than offsetting a drop in livestock and animal products (-3.4%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

Research & Development

- **Total funding for research and development in BC grew 16.9% to \$1,500 million in 2000.** Funding from the federal government increased 10.5% while funding from the provincial government grew 8.3%. The largest proportional increase was from the higher education sector, which increased its contributions by 54.5% to \$51 million.

Source: SC, 88F0006XIE2002015

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Municipal Population Estimates—2002

The Province

British Columbia's population grew by 1.0% between 2001 and 2002. This represented an increase of 39,693 persons from 4,101,579 on July 1, 2001 to 4,141,272 on July 1, 2002. The total population of Canada also grew by 1.0% over the same period. As in the previous year, B.C.'s population growth in the 2001–2002 period was again ranked third after Alberta (1.8%) and Ontario (1.5%).

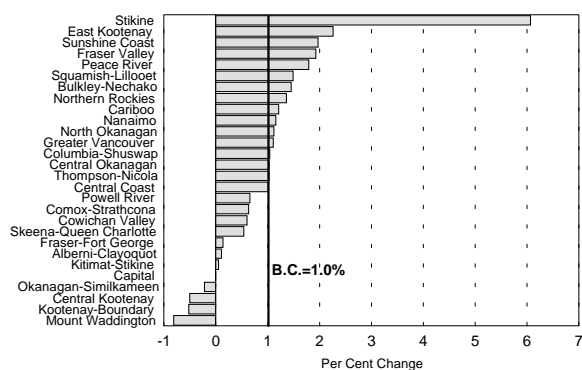
A majority of the province's population growth has been the result of a strong inflow of immigrants from other countries. Over the period 2001–2002, B.C. gained a total of 35,368 persons through net international migration. The second contributor of population growth was the net gain of 11,319 persons through natural increase (births less deaths). Offsetting this growth was a net loss in population due to interprovincial migration. During that period, B.C. had a net loss of population to Alberta and Ontario.

Regional Districts

Twenty-three of the total 28 regional districts showed positive population growth between 2001 and 2002. Five regional districts, namely Capital, Okanagan-Similkameen, Central Kootenay, Kootenay-Boundary and Mount Waddington, had population declines. However, the total population decrease in these five districts was minimal. Collectively, only 752 fewer people were living in these five districts when compared to the previous year.

Of the 23 districts that had population growth, 16 showed a growth stronger than the provincial average of 1%. Greater Vancouver, home of more than half the province's population, showed a growth of 1.1% or 23,234 persons. This represented the largest increase in the number of people among all regional districts. On the other hand, while Stikine showed the highest growth in percentage terms, it only gained 84 persons over the period as it has a much smaller population base.

Population Growth by Regional District
2001-2002



Source: BC STATS

| Regional Districts | % Growth | Population Growth | 2002 Population |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Greater Vancouver | 1.1 | 23,234 | 2,114,314 |
| Fraser Valley | 1.9 | 4,809 | 253,844 |
| Central Okanagan | 1.0 | 1,593 | 156,033 |
| Nanaimo | 1.2 | 1,532 | 133,988 |
| Thompson-Nicola | 1.0 | 1,282 | 126,173 |
| Comox-Strathcona | 0.6 | 637 | 101,038 |
| Fraser-Fort George | 0.1 | 142 | 100,366 |
| North Okanagan | 1.1 | 855 | 77,268 |
| Cowichan Valley | 0.6 | 448 | 75,525 |
| Cariboo | 1.2 | 830 | 69,558 |
| East Kootenay | 2.3 | 1,331 | 60,234 |
| Peace River | 1.8 | 1,040 | 58,997 |
| Columbia-Shuswap | 1.0 | 521 | 50,826 |
| Bulkley-Nechako | 1.5 | 623 | 43,513 |
| Kitimat-Stikine | 0.0 | 20 | 42,914 |
| Squamish-Lillooet | 1.5 | 523 | 35,565 |
| Alberni-Clayoquot | 0.1 | 35 | 31,753 |
| Sunshine Coast | 2.0 | 524 | 27,110 |
| Skeena-Queen Charlotte | 0.5 | 124 | 22,912 |
| Powell River | 0.7 | 136 | 20,781 |
| Northern Rockies | 1.4 | 82 | 6,131 |
| Central Coast | 1.0 | 40 | 4,013 |
| Stikine | 6.1 | 84 | 1,467 |

Municipalities

There are a total of 154 municipalities for which population was estimated. In the period 2001–2002, 99 municipalities showed population increases. The smallest municipality was Silverton with 229 people and the largest was City of Vancouver with 577,772 people. There were 73 municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more people. Of those, View Royal showed the strongest growth in percentage terms with a rate of 3.9% (or 295 people) while Surrey showed the strongest growth in terms of population with an increase of 11,234 persons (or 3.4%).

Top 10 Municipalities by Population

| | % Change | Population Change | 2002 Population |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Vancouver | 0.1% | 516 | 577,772 |
| Surrey | 3.1% | 11,234 | 376,757 |
| Burnaby | 0.8% | 1,548 | 205,955 |
| Richmond | 1.2% | 2,070 | 174,617 |
| Abbotsford | 2.7% | 3,328 | 124,591 |
| Coquitlam | 2.0% | 2,346 | 120,967 |
| Saanich | -0.4% | -459 | 108,084 |
| Kelowna | 0.8% | 760 | 101,592 |
| Delta | -0.3% | -289 | 101,226 |
| Langley Township | 0.0% | 8 | 90,997 |

The top ten municipalities made up almost half of the province's population. The largest municipality, City of Vancouver, while showing small growth during 2001–2002, represented about 14% of the B.C. population. Many municipalities in the Greater Vancouver areas—such as Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond and Coquitlam—continued to show strong growth in 2002. These so called "bed-room cities" for the GVRD have been growing relatively faster than the City of Vancouver as the potential for housing development in Vancouver has diminished over the years.

Saanich and Victoria, both on Vancouver Island, were the two municipalities that lost the most population over the period. In fact, many other municipalities on the island have experienced small population losses during the period, including Oak Bay, Sidney, Esquimalt and Port Alberni. On the Mainland, North Vancouver DM, West Vancouver and Delta were among the five municipalities that lost the most population. However, the population decreases were relatively small in all these cities.

5 Largest Population Decreases

| | % Change | Population Change | 2002 Population |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Saanich | -0.4% | -459 | 108,084 |
| Victoria | -0.6% | -448 | 77,941 |
| North Vancouver DM | -0.4% | -364 | 85,720 |
| Delta | -0.3% | -289 | 101,226 |
| West Vancouver | -0.6% | -255 | 42,778 |

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 telephone line location information, 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 2002 (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 2001†† | Estimate 2002 | 2001-02 % Chg. | Name | Area Type | Estimate 2001†† | Estimate 2002 | 2001-02 % Chg. |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Alberni-Clayoquot | | 31,718 | 31,753 | 0.1 | Comox-Strathcona | | 100,401 | 101,038 | 0.6 |
| Port Alberni | C | 18,535 | 18,465 | -0.4 | Campbell River | DM | 29,802 | 29,718 | -0.3 |
| Tofino | DM | 1,555 | 1,549 | -0.4 | Comox | T | 11,632 | 11,809 | 1.5 |
| Ucluelet | DM | 1,640 | 1,646 | 0.4 | Courtenay | C* | 19,160 | 19,435 | 1.4 |
| Bulkley-Nechako | | 42,890 | 43,513 | 1.5 | Cumberland | VL | 2,739 | 2,718 | -0.8 |
| Burns Lake | VL | 2,044 | 2,063 | 0.9 | Gold River | VL | 1,421 | 1,391 | -2.1 |
| Fort St. James | DM | 2,032 | 2,038 | 0.3 | Sayward | VL | 394 | 405 | 2.8 |
| Fraser Lake | VL | 1,333 | 1,364 | 2.3 | Tahsis | VL | 627 | 597 | -4.8 |
| Granisle | VL | 364 | 371 | 1.9 | Zeballos | VL | 235 | 230 | -2.1 |
| Houston | DM | 3,764 | 3,738 | -0.7 | Cowichan Valley | | 75,077 | 75,525 | 0.6 |
| Smithers | T | 5,690 | 5,710 | 0.4 | Duncan | C | 4,909 | 4,810 | -2.0 |
| Telkwa | VL | 1,441 | 1,444 | 0.2 | Ladysmith | T | 6,871 | 7,073 | 2.9 |
| Vanderhoof | DM | 4,617 | 4,603 | -0.3 | Lake Cowichan | T | 2,951 | 2,976 | 0.8 |
| Capital | | 341,564 | 341,563 | 0.0 | North Cowichan | DM | 27,276 | 27,457 | 0.7 |
| Central Saanich | DM | 15,993 | 15,995 | 0.0 | East Kootenay | | 58,903 | 60,234 | 2.3 |
| Colwood | C | 14,410 | 14,534 | 0.9 | Cranbrook | C | 19,352 | 19,653 | 1.6 |
| Esquimalt | DM | 16,984 | 16,903 | -0.5 | Elkford | DM | 2,708 | 2,735 | 1.0 |
| Highlands | DM | 1,754 | 1,767 | 0.7 | Fernie | C | 4,846 | 4,914 | 1.4 |
| Langford | DM | 19,796 | 20,117 | 1.6 | Invermere | DM | 2,989 | 3,030 | 1.4 |
| Metchosin | DM | 5,083 | 5,134 | 1.0 | Kimberley | C | 6,767 | 6,862 | 1.4 |
| North Saanich | DM | 10,824 | 10,824 | 0.0 | Radium Hot Springs | VL | 610 | 649 | 6.4 |
| Oak Bay | DM | 18,506 | 18,360 | -0.8 | Sparwood | DM | 3,996 | 4,137 | 3.5 |
| Saanich | DM | 108,543 | 108,084 | -0.4 | Fraser Valley | | 249,035 | 253,844 | 1.9 |
| Sidney | T | 11,362 | 11,281 | -0.7 | Abbotsford | C | 121,263 | 124,591 | 2.7 |
| Sooke | DM | 9,140 | 9,255 | 1.3 | Chilliwack | C | 65,850 | 66,611 | 1.2 |
| Victoria | C | 78,389 | 77,941 | -0.6 | Harrison Hot Springs | VL | 1,399 | 1,513 | 8.1 |
| View Royal | T | 7,619 | 7,914 | 3.9 | Hope | DM | 6,443 | 6,521 | 1.2 |
| Cariboo | | 68,728 | 69,558 | 1.2 | Kent | DM | 5,170 | 5,265 | 1.8 |
| Quesnel | C | 10,526 | 10,591 | 0.6 | Mission | DM | 32,793 | 32,907 | 0.3 |
| Wells | DM | 245 | 259 | 5.7 | Fraser-Fort George | | 100,224 | 100,366 | 0.1 |
| Williams Lake | C | 11,716 | 11,730 | 0.1 | Mackenzie | DM | 5,489 | 5,538 | 0.9 |
| 100 Mile House | DM | 1,814 | 1,843 | 1.6 | McBride | VL | 747 | 736 | -1.5 |
| Central Coast | | 3,973 | 4,013 | 1.0 | Prince George | C | 76,197 | 76,008 | -0.2 |
| Central Kootenay | | 59,540 | 59,245 | -0.5 | Valemount | VL | 1,252 | 1,271 | 1.5 |
| Castlegar | C | 7,328 | 7,248 | -1.1 | Greater Vancouver | | 2,091,080 | 2,114,314 | 1.1 |
| Creston | T | 4,985 | 4,908 | -1.5 | Anmore | VL | 1,409 | 1,426 | 1.2 |
| Kaslo | VL | 1,074 | 1,041 | -3.1 | Belcarra | VL | 712 | 716 | 0.6 |
| Nakusp | VL | 1,774 | 1,786 | 0.7 | Bowen Island | IM | 3,076 | 3,158 | 2.7 |
| Nelson | C | 9,746 | 9,571 | -1.8 | Burnaby | C | 204,407 | 205,955 | 0.8 |
| New Denver | VL | 560 | 559 | -0.2 | Coquitlam | C | 118,621 | 120,967 | 2.0 |
| Salmo | VL | 1,169 | 1,162 | -0.6 | Delta | DM | 101,515 | 101,226 | -0.3 |
| Silverton | VL | 231 | 229 | -0.9 | Langley | C | 24,885 | 24,682 | -0.8 |
| Slocan | VL | 350 | 349 | -0.3 | Langley | DM | 90,989 | 90,997 | 0.0 |
| Central Okanagan | | 154,440 | 156,033 | 1.0 | Lions Bay | VL | 1,439 | 1,425 | -1.0 |
| Kelowna | C | 100,832 | 101,592 | 0.8 | Maple Ridge | DM | 66,269 | 68,527 | 3.4 |
| Lake Country | DM | 9,671 | 9,750 | 0.8 | New Westminster | C | 57,713 | 57,603 | -0.2 |
| Peachland | DM | 4,823 | 4,987 | 3.4 | North Vancouver | C | 46,756 | 47,893 | 2.4 |
| Columbia-Shuswap | | 50,305 | 50,826 | 1.0 | North Vancouver | DM | 86,084 | 85,720 | -0.4 |
| Golden | T | 4,231 | 4,341 | 2.6 | Pitt Meadows | DM | 15,392 | 15,755 | 2.4 |
| Revelstoke | C | 7,854 | 7,945 | 1.2 | Port Coquitlam | C | 53,941 | 55,793 | 3.4 |
| Salmon Arm | DM | 15,847 | 15,911 | 0.4 | Port Moody | C | 25,047 | 25,545 | 2.0 |
| Sicamous | DM | 2,828 | 2,906 | 2.8 | Richmond | C | 172,547 | 174,617 | 1.2 |
| | | | | | Surrey | C | 365,523 | 376,757 | 3.1 |
| | | | | | Vancouver | C | 577,256 | 577,772 | 0.1 |
| | | | | | West Vancouver | DM | 43,033 | 42,778 | -0.6 |
| | | | | | White Rock | C | 19,049 | 19,408 | 1.9 |

BC STATS Municipal & Regional District Population Estimates

| Name | Area Type | Estimate 2001†† | Estimate 2002 | 2001-02 % Chg. | Name | Area Type | Estimate 2001†† | Estimate 2002 | 2001-02 % Chg. |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--|-----------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Kitimat-Stikine | | 42,894 | 42,914 | 0.0 | Squamish-Lillooet | | 35,042 | 35,565 | 1.5 |
| Hazelton | VL | 362 | 361 | -0.3 | Lillooet | DM | 2,874 | 2,820 | -1.9 |
| Kitimat | DM | 10,771 | 10,851 | 0.7 | Pemberton | VL | 1,752 | 1,891 | 7.9 |
| New Hazelton | DM | 787 | 801 | 1.8 | Squamish | DM | 14,973 | 14,927 | -0.3 |
| Stewart | DM | 695 | 693 | -0.3 | Whistler | DM | 9,590 | 9,739 | 1.6 |
| Terrace | C | 12,711 | 12,568 | -1.1 | Stikine | | 1,383 | 1,467 | 6.1 |
| Kootenay-Boundary | | 33,184 | 33,013 | -0.5 | Sunshine Coast | | 26,586 | 27,110 | 2.0 |
| Fruitvale | VL | 2,109 | 2,052 | -2.7 | Gibsons | T | 4,066 | 4,094 | 0.7 |
| Grand Forks | C | 4,222 | 4,099 | -2.9 | Sechelt | DM | 8,081 | 8,251 | 2.1 |
| Greenwood | C | 693 | 677 | -2.3 | Sechelt Ind Gov Dist | IGD** | 841 | 850 | 1.1 |
| Midway | VL | 664 | 647 | -2.6 | Thompson-Nicola | | 124,891 | 126,173 | 1.0 |
| Montrose | VL | 1,111 | 1,097 | -1.3 | Ashcroft | VL | 1,854 | 1,875 | 1.1 |
| Rossland | C* | 3,820 | 3,739 | -2.1 | Cache Creek | VL | 1,096 | 1,123 | 2.5 |
| Trail | C | 7,884 | 8,060 | 2.2 | Chase | VL | 2,553 | 2,548 | -0.2 |
| Warfield | VL | 1,817 | 1,815 | -0.1 | Clinton | VL* | 646 | 661 | 2.3 |
| Mount Waddington | | 13,768 | 13,656 | -0.8 | Kamloops | C | 81,053 | 81,443 | 0.5 |
| Alert Bay | VL | 610 | 638 | 4.6 | Logan Lake | DM | 2,263 | 2,331 | 3.0 |
| Port Alice | VL | 1,179 | 1,199 | 1.7 | Lytton | VL | 336 | 353 | 5.1 |
| Port Hardy | DM | 4,817 | 4,804 | -0.3 | Merritt | C | 7,416 | 7,549 | 1.8 |
| Port McNeill | T | 2,967 | 2,904 | -2.1 | British Columbia | | 4,101,579 | 4,141,272 | 1.0 |
| Nanaimo | | 132,456 | 133,988 | 1.2 | | | | | |
| Nanaimo | C | 76,383 | 76,787 | 0.5 | <i>Source:</i> | | | | |
| Parksville | C | 10,713 | 10,763 | 0.5 | <i>Population Section, BC Stats,</i> | | | | |
| Qualicum Beach | T * | 7,125 | 7,151 | 0.4 | <i>Ministry of Management Services,</i> | | | | |
| North Okanagan | | 76,413 | 77,268 | 1.1 | <i>Government of British Columbia.</i> | | | | |
| Armstrong | C | 4,439 | 4,592 | 3.4 | <i>Notes:</i> | | | | |
| Coldstream | DM | 9,483 | 9,564 | 0.9 | <i>All figures correspond to municipal boundaries as of July 1st of the year stated.</i> | | | | |
| Enderby | C | 2,933 | 2,957 | 0.8 | <i>All figures are as of July 1st of the year stated.</i> | | | | |
| Lumby | VL | 1,689 | 1,722 | 2.0 | <i>C = City, T = Town, VL = Village, DM = District Municipality,</i> | | | | |
| Spallumcheen | DM | 5,350 | 5,377 | 0.5 | <i>IM = Island Municipality, IGD = Indian Government District,</i> | | | | |
| Vernon | C* | 34,998 | 35,147 | 0.4 | <i>DR = Development Region.</i> | | | | |
| Northern Rockies | | 6,049 | 6,131 | 1.4 | <i>* Denotes a boundary change between 2001 and 2002.</i> | | | | |
| Fort Nelson | T | 4,438 | 4,503 | 1.5 | <i>** Sechelt Indian Government District is split between Sunshine Coast</i> | | | | |
| Okanagan-Similkameen | | 79,645 | 79,472 | -0.2 | <i>and Powell River Regional Districts.</i> | | | | |
| Keremeos | VL | 1,236 | 1,264 | 2.3 | <i>†† 2001 Census year figures include a PRELIMINARY estimate of net census</i> | | | | |
| Oliver | T* | 4,381 | 4,357 | -0.5 | <i>undercount</i> | | | | |
| Osoyoos | T | 4,437 | 4,399 | -0.9 | | | | | |
| Penticton | C | 32,294 | 32,202 | -0.3 | | | | | |
| Princeton | T | 2,712 | 2,692 | -0.7 | | | | | |
| Summerland | DM | 11,116 | 11,044 | -0.6 | | | | | |
| Peace River | | 57,957 | 58,997 | 1.8 | | | | | |
| Chetwynd | DM | 2,737 | 2,795 | 2.1 | | | | | |
| Dawson Creek | C | 11,305 | 11,409 | 0.9 | | | | | |
| Fort St. John | C* | 16,995 | 17,117 | 0.7 | | | | | |
| Hudson's Hope | DM | 1,084 | 1,135 | 4.7 | | | | | |
| Pouce Coupe | VL | 875 | 865 | -1.1 | | | | | |
| Taylor | DM | 1,205 | 1,252 | 3.9 | | | | | |
| Tumbler Ridge | DM | 1,931 | 2,243 | 16.2 | | | | | |
| Powell River | | 20,645 | 20,781 | 0.7 | | | | | |
| Powell River | DM | 13,543 | 13,581 | 0.3 | | | | | |
| Sechelt Ind Gov Dist | IGD** | 36 | 36 | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Skeena-Queen Charlotte | | 22,788 | 22,912 | 0.5 | | | | | |
| Masset | VL | 975 | 1,006 | 3.2 | | | | | |
| Port Clements | VL | 542 | 536 | -1.1 | | | | | |
| Port Edward | DM | 694 | 686 | -1.2 | | | | | |
| Prince Rupert | C | 15,376 | 15,420 | 0.3 | | | | | |

| British Columbia Development Region | Area Type | Estimate 2001†† | Estimate 2002 | 2001-02 % Chg. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Vancouver Island/Coast | DR | 719,602 | 722,317 | 0.4 |
| Mainland/Southwest | DR | 2,401,743 | 2,430,833 | 1.2 |
| Thompson-Okanagan | DR | 485,694 | 489,772 | 0.8 |
| Kootenay | DR | 151,627 | 152,492 | 0.6 |
| Cariboo | DR | 168,952 | 169,924 | 0.6 |
| North Coast | DR | 65,682 | 65,826 | 0.2 |
| Nechako | DR | 44,273 | 44,980 | 1.6 |
| Northeast | DR | 64,006 | 65,128 | 1.8 |
| British Columbia | | 4,101,579 | 4,141,272 | 1.0 |

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BC at a glance . . .

| POPULATION (thousands) | Jul 1/02 | % change on one year ago |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|
| BC | 4,141.3 | 1.0 |
| Canada | 31,414.0 | 1.0 |
| GDP and INCOME | | % change on one year ago |
| <i>(BC - at market prices)</i> | 2001 Revised | |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions) | 130,859 | 1.2 |
| GDP (\$ 1997 millions) | 123,912 | -0.2 |
| GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita) | 30,252 | -1.1 |
| Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita) | 19,513 | 1.2 |
| TRADE (\$ millions) | | % change on prev. month |
| Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Oct | 2,936 | 2.2 |
| Merchandise Exports (seas. adjusted) Oct | 2,550 | 2.9 |
| Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Oct | 3,394 | 1.6 |
| CONSUMER PRICE INDEX | | 12-month avg % change |
| <i>(all items - 1992=100)</i> | Nov '02 | |
| BC | 118.9 | 2.1 |
| Canada | 120.8 | 2.0 |
| LABOUR FORCE (thousands) | | % change on prev. month |
| <i>(seasonally adjusted)</i> | Dec '02 | |
| Labour Force - BC | 2,176 | -0.3 |
| Employed - BC | 1,994 | -0.2 |
| Unemployed - BC | 182 | -2.2 |
| | | Nov '02 |
| Unemployment Rate - BC (percent) | 8.3 | 8.5 |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent) | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| INTEREST RATES (percent) | Jan 8/03 | Jan 9/02 |
| Prime Business Rate | 4.50 | 4.00 |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year | 4.90 | 4.60 |
| - 5 year | 6.70 | 6.85 |
| US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE | Jan 8/03 | Jan 9/02 |
| <i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i> | 1.5613 | 1.5962 |
| <i>US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)</i> | 0.6404 | 0.6263 |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE | | % change on one year ago |
| <i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i> | Dec '02 | |
| BC | 676.45 | 5.1 |
| Canada | 651.35 | 1.6 |

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

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Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, December 2002