

- **Radium Hot Springs, Pemberton and Tofino fastest-growing municipalities in 2003**
- **Exports continue to slump in November**
- **Non-residential building construction down for the fifth time in six years in 2003**

Population

- **BC's smallest regional district (Stikine) had the fastest-growing population in the province in 2003.** The region, home to 1,357 people, saw its population increase 2.6% during 2003. Other fast-growing regions include Central Okanagan (+1.6%), Fraser Valley (+1.6%), Northern Rockies (+1.2%), Greater Vancouver (+1.1%), Squamish-Lillooet (+0.9%) and Nanaimo (+0.9%). Overall, the province's population grew 0.8%, increasing by 31,599 in 2003. Of the 28 regional districts in the province, 14 experienced population growth, two saw virtually no change in their population, and the rest lost people to other parts of the province, or locations further afield. Central Coast (-2.1%) and Skeena-Queen Charlotte (-1.5%) were the regions with the biggest population decline during 2003.

Data Source: BC Stats

- **Radium Hot Springs (+8.1%), Pemberton (+7.3%) and Tofino (+6.2%) were the fastest-growing municipalities in the province in 2003.** Other municipalities that saw population growth of at least five percent were Courtenay (+5.7%), Slocan (+5.6%) and Harrison Hot Springs (+5.4%). Chetwynd (-4.8%) and Port Alice (-4.6%) experienced the biggest population declines.

Data Source: BC Stats

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products continued to slump in November, declining 2.8% (seasonally adjusted) from the October level.** US exports were flat (-0.2%), but the value of goods shipped to other international destinations was off 8.2%, falling for the third month in a row.

Exports dropped below October levels in most categories, with autos and machinery & equipment (-5.5%) and energy (-5.0%) products posting the biggest declines. International shipments

of forest products (-2.6%) and industrial and consumer goods (-0.8%) were also weak. However, producers of agriculture and fish products saw shipments rise 1.6% in November, largely due to growth in US markets. Overall, US markets for BC products were stronger in November, with the exception of autos and machinery & equipment (-6.3%). Exports of forest products levelled off (0.0%) after declining in the previous month.

Canadian exports edged down 1.1% in November, largely due to weakness in overseas markets. Exports to the US were flat (-0.1%), as the auto sector took a big hit (-5.7%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Most provinces recorded lower exports last November (unadjusted) than in the same month of 2002.** BC's 9.8% decline was smaller than the year-over-year downturn at the national level (-10.4%). Quebec (-11.8%), Ontario (-13.2%) and Newfoundland (-38.3%) all recorded double-digit declines. Exports were also down in Manitoba (-6.1%) and Saskatchewan (-2.5%), and were flat in Alberta (0.0%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Investment in non-residential building construction remained weak in the fourth quarter, tumbling 2.0% (seasonally adjusted).** Spending on both industrial (-3.7%) and commercial (-4.2%) buildings continued to slump, while the institutional and government sector posted a 4.2% gain. Non-residential building construction activity in both Vancouver (-5.5%) and Abbotsford (-14.2%) fell sharply, partly due to a slowdown in construction of new office buildings. However, Victoria, where several projects (including a new arena facility) are underway, is experiencing a building boom, with spending up 7.8%.

The fourth-quarter slowdown in construction

Did you know...

Prince Rupert is the wettest city in the country. Port Alberni, Chilliwack and Abbotsford are ranked second, third and fourth, respectively, in terms of average annual rain and snowfall.

expenditures was widespread across regions. Canadian spending was off 0.3%, with all four of the large provinces posting modest declines (ranging from -0.2% in Ontario to -2.0% in BC).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Spending on non-residential buildings in BC reached \$2.3 billion in 2003, falling (-4.6%) for the fifth time in the last six years.** A 28.3% drop in the institutional sector was the main reason for the decline. Despite weakness at the end of the year, investment in industrial (+11.5%) and commercial (+7.4%) projects was up strongly from 2002 levels. Both Vancouver (-1.3%) and Abbotsford (-30.0%) posted declines, but spending increased (+11.5%) in Victoria. Nationally, investment rose a solid 5.7%, boosted by strong gains in Newfoundland (+46.0%), Manitoba (+33.9%), Ontario (+12.7%) and Saskatchewan (+6.7%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The cost of new housing in BC's two largest metropolitan areas continued to rise in November.** In Victoria, new housing prices were 9.8% higher than in November 2002, while homebuilders in the Vancouver area received an average of 3.8% more for their work. New housing prices in Victoria have been rising rapidly since early 2002, as the cost of both land and buildings has crept up. In recent months, land prices in particular have been exerting inflationary pressure on new housing costs. In Vancouver, the opposite is true: building prices are rising much faster than is the cost of land. Nationally, new housing prices were 5.0% higher in November than in the same month of 2002, as prices increased in every metropolitan area surveyed except Windsor, where they were unchanged.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities edged up (+1.0%) in November after plunging (-23.5%) in the previous month.** Permits for residential housing projects were down (-12.3%) for the second month in a row, while planned spending on non-residential construction bounced back (+46.6%) from a slump (-51.2%) in October. Canadian permits fell (-3.9%) in November, with five provinces, including Ontario (-8.3%) and Alberta (-7.8%) posting declines.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Year-to-date, the (unadjusted) value of building permits issued during the first eleven months of 2003 was 12.5% higher than in the same period of 2002.** Every region except Nechako (-34.2%) saw a boom in planned construction spending. The biggest increases were recorded in Thompson/Okanagan (+51.1%), Kootenay (+49.1%) and Cariboo (+41.5%), where planned spending on non-residential projects has soared. Strong growth in residential permits also contributed to the increases in Thompson/Okanagan and Kootenay. These may be due in part to rebuilding in the wake of the fires that ravaged some areas during the summer.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **More new cars, trucks and vans were driven off car lots in the province in November (+1.0%, seasonally adjusted) than in the previous month, but BC was the only province where business improved.** Lower prices contributed to the upturn in sales. Sales of North-American manufactured vehicles advanced, while retailers of vehicles manufactured overseas continued to see declines. Nationally, the number of new vehicles sold fell (-3.2%) for the fourth month in a row.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Accounting and Bookkeeping Services

- **The Enron and WorldCom scandals took a toll on Canada's accounting and bookkeeping industry, which contracted in 2002 for the first time in recent history.** Revenues were down 3%, partly due to organizational restructuring which saw some firms refocus on traditional auditing and accounting services while others spun off their consulting and legal services to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest. Consulting, which accounted for 15% of total revenues in 2001, comprised just 7% of industry earnings in 2002.

In British Columbia, revenues in this industry fell 17%, dropping to \$1.1 billion. The consulting arm of the industry accounted for just 4% of total revenues, down from 13% in 2001.

Data Source: SC, 2002 Survey of Accounting & Bookkeeping Services

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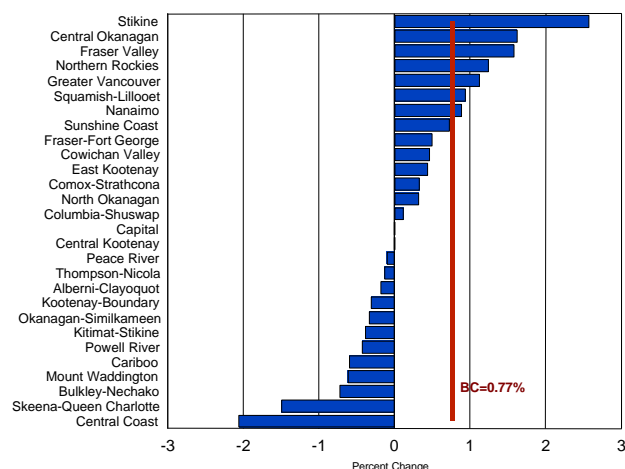
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Municipal Population Estimates, 2003

The Province

British Columbia's population grew by slightly less than 1% (.8%) between 2002 and 2003. This represented an increase of 31,599 persons—from 4,114,981 in 2002 to 4,146,580 in 2003. The total population in Canada also grew by less than 1% (.9%) in the same period. As in the previous year, B.C.'s population growth in 2002–2003 was ranked third after Alberta (1.3%) and Ontario (1.2%).

A majority of the province's recent population growth has been due to strong inflow of immigrants from other countries. Over the period 2002–2003 (July 1 to July 1), B.C. gained a total of 24,813 persons through net international migration. The second contributor of population growth for the same period was the net gain of 11,377 persons through natural increase (births less deaths). Offsetting this growth was a net loss in population of 4,591 due to interprovincial migration. During that period, B.C. had a net loss of population to Alberta and Ontario.



Regional Districts

Fifteen of the total 28 regional districts exhibited a positive population growth between 2002

and 2003, while 13 regional districts had shown a population decline. However, the total population decrease in these 13 districts was relatively small (with Central Coast showing the largest percentage decline of -2.1%). Collectively, only 2,128 fewer people were living in these 13 districts when compared to the previous year.

Of the 15 districts that had population growth, seven showed a growth stronger than the provincial average of .8%. Greater Vancouver, home of more than half of the province's population, displayed a growth of 1.1% or 23,627 persons. This represented 75% of the provincial population growth. On the other hand, while Stikine gained only 34 persons in the period, it showed the highest growth in percentage terms (2.6%) because it has a much smaller population base.

Regional District	% Change	Pop Growth	2003 Pop
Greater Vancouver	1.12	23,627	2,126,806
Capital	0.00	10	340,132
Fraser Valley	1.58	3,987	256,462
Central Okanagan	1.63	2,537	158,562
Nanaimo	0.89	1,186	134,475
Thompson-Nicola	-0.13	-167	124,455
Comox-Strathcona	0.33	335	100,576
Fraser-Fort George	0.50	495	99,245
Okanagan-Similkameen	-0.34	-271	80,012
North Okanagan	0.32	248	77,116
Cowichan Valley	0.47	350	75,563
Cariboo	-0.60	-407	67,673
Central Kootenay	-0.01	-6	59,388
East Kootenay	0.44	258	59,334
North Okanagan	0.44	258	59,334
Peace River	-0.10	-58	57,913
Columbia-Shuswap	0.12	62	50,614
Bulkley-Nechako	-0.72	-307	42,157
Kitimat-Stikine	-0.39	-164	42,093
Squamish-Lillooet	0.94	328	35,179
Kootenay-Boundary	-0.31	-103	33,227
Alberni-Clayoquot	-0.18	-57	31,448
Sunshine Coast	0.73	196	27,018
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	-1.50	-335	22,011
Powell River	-0.43	-89	20,495
Mount Waddington	-0.62	-83	13,376
Northern Rockies	1.24	74	6,044
Central Coast	-2.06	-81	3,849
Stikine	2.57	34	1,357
British Columbia	0.77	31,599	4,146,580

Municipalities

There are a total of 155 municipalities for which population was estimated. In the period 2002–2003, 84 municipalities demonstrated population growth while the rest either lost population or showed no growth. The smallest municipality was Zeballos with 228 people and the largest was City of Vancouver with 568,442 people. There were 73 municipalities having a population of 5,000 or more people. Of those, Courtenay showed the strongest growth with a rate of 5.7% (or 1,104 people) while Surrey showed the strongest growth in terms of population with an increase of 11,972 persons (or 3.2%).

Top 10 Municipalities by Population Size

	2002–03 Pop. Change		2003 Population
	%	Persons	
Vancouver	-0.06	-365	568,442
Surrey	3.17	11,972	390,145
Burnaby	0.78	1,596	205,261
Richmond	0.38	656	174,201
Abbotsford	2.27	2,824	127,451
Coquitlam	1.12	1,355	122,696
Saanich	0.04	45	107,964
Kelowna	1.68	1,713	103,421
Delta	-0.33	-330	100,571
Langley (Township)	0.81	735	91,359

The top ten municipalities made up almost half (48%) of the province’s population. The largest municipality—the City of Vancouver—while it showed a small decline during 2002–2003, still represented about 14% of the B.C. population. Many of municipalities in the Greater Vancouver areas such as Surrey, Port Coquitlam, Maple Ridge and New Westminister showed strong growth in 2003. These so called “bedroom cities” for the GVRD have shown higher growth rates than the City of Vancouver as Lower Mainland growth has reflected the Greater Vancouver growth concentration strategy.

Vancouver and Victoria were the top two municipalities that lost the most population over the period. There were other municipalities on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland that lost population during the period. On the Island these included Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Port Alberni and Port Hardy, and in the Lower Mainland Delta, West Vancouver, West Vancouver and Lions Bay. However, these population decreases were small in each of these cities and represented relatively small percentage changes.

Top 10 Municipalities Losing Population

	2002–03 Pop. Change		2003 Population
	%	Persons	
Victoria	-0.78	-600	76,387
Vancouver	-0.06	-365	568,442
Kamloops	-0.41	-333	80,416
Delta	-0.33	-330	100,571
Prince Rupert	-1.92	-289	14,760
Oak Bay	-1.20	-221	18,207
West Vancouver	-0.41	-175	42,867
Quesnel	-1.44	-149	10,198
Port Hardy	-3.15	-148	4,551
Cranbrook	-0.75	-147	19,327

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 2003 (as well as the estimates for 1976–1995) are available on the BC Stats web site: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>



BC STATS

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British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	2001†	2002	2003	2002-03 % Chg.	Name	Area Type	2001†	2002	2003	2002-03 % Chg.
Alberni-Clayoquot		31,663	31,505	31,448	-0.2	Comox-Strathcona		100,323	100,241	100,576	0.3
Port Alberni	C	18,515	18,350	18,235	-0.6	Campbell River	DM	29,699	29,513	29,617	0.4
Tofino	DM	1,530	1,556	1,653	6.2	Comox	T *	11,660	11,761	11,937	1.5
Ucluelet	DM	1,627	1,625	1,652	1.7	Courtenay	C *	19,103	19,236	20,340	5.7
Bulkley-Nechako		42,636	42,464	42,157	-0.7	Cumberland	VL*	2,732	2,715	2,747	1.2
Burns Lake	VL	2,028	2,054	2,077	1.1	Gold River	VL	1,418	1,360	1,340	-1.5
Fort St. James	DM	2,011	1,978	1,964	-0.7	Sayward	VL	396	395	397	0.5
Fraser Lake	VL	1,323	1,308	1,267	-3.1	Tahsis	VL	626	580	559	-3.6
Granisle	VL	368	364	349	-4.1	Zeballos	VL	234	226	228	0.9
Houston	DM	3,733	3,593	3,551	-1.2	Cowichan Valley		75,139	75,213	75,563	0.5
Smithers	T*	5,651	5,643	5,513	-2.3	Duncan	C	4,903	4,817	4,820	0.1
Telkwa	VL	1,431	1,415	1,411	-0.3	Ladysmith	T *	6,874	6,914	6,972	0.8
Vanderhoof	DM	4,582	4,566	4,517	-1.1	Lake Cowichan	T	2,950	2,939	2,958	0.6
Capital		340,027	340,122	340,132	0.0	North Cowichan	DM	27,290	27,361	27,368	0.0
Central Saanich	DM	16,018	16,061	16,091	0.2	East Kootenay		58,744	59,076	59,334	0.4
Colwood	C	14,344	14,429	14,437	0.1	Cranbrook	C *	19,280	19,474	19,327	-0.8
Esquimalt	DM	16,834	16,789	16,710	-0.5	Elkford	DM	2,701	2,683	2,671	-0.4
Highlands	DM	1,747	1,762	1,773	0.6	Fernie	C	4,812	4,870	4,841	-0.6
Langford	DM	19,661	19,980	20,292	1.6	Invermere	DM	2,983	3,000	3,084	2.8
Metchosin	DM	5,070	5,083	5,161	1.5	Kimberley	C	6,766	6,736	6,710	-0.4
North Saanich	DM	10,890	10,896	10,923	0.2	Radium Hot Springs	VL	608	639	691	8.1
Oak Bay	DM	18,572	18,428	18,207	-1.2	Sparwood	DM	3,978	3,984	3,954	-0.8
Saanich	DM	108,178	107,919	107,964	0.0	Fraser Valley		247,918	252,475	256,462	1.6
Sidney	T	11,404	11,355	11,372	0.1	Abbotsford	C	120,501	124,627	127,451	2.3
Sooke	DM	9,116	9,192	9,305	1.2	Chilliwack	C	65,672	65,947	66,618	1.0
Victoria	C	77,361	76,987	76,387	-0.8	Harrison Hot Springs	VL	1,402	1,473	1,553	5.4
View Royal	T	7,587	7,762	7,868	1.4	Hope	DM	6,455	6,435	6,431	-0.1
Cariboo		68,507	68,080	67,673	-0.6	Kent	DM	5,141	5,157	5,207	1.0
Quesnel	C	10,481	10,347	10,198	-1.4	Mission	DM	32,638	32,688	32,894	0.6
Wells	DM	245	245	237	-3.3	Fraser-Fort George		99,478	98,750	99,245	0.5
Williams Lake	C	11,639	11,558	11,422	-1.2	Mackenzie	DM	5,433	5,406	5,316	-1.7
100 Mile House	DM	1,815	1,809	1,789	-1.1	McBride	VL	742	729	716	-1.8
Central Coast		3,942	3,930	3,849	-2.1	Prince George	C	75,567	74,849	75,609	1.0
Central Kootenay		59,503	59,394	59,388	0.0	Valemount	VL	1,247	1,258	1,232	-2.1
Castlegar	C	7,306	7,262	7,168	-1.3	Greater Vancouver		2,073,681	2,103,179	2,126,806	1.1
Creston	T	5,003	4,966	4,957	-0.2	Anmore	VL	1,403	1,434	1,496	4.3
Kaslo	VL	1,077	1,052	1,053	0.1	Belcarra	VL	712	716	716	0.0
Nakusp	VL	1,772	1,773	1,765	-0.5	Bowen Island	IM	3,086	3,147	3,244	3.1
Nelson	C	9,703	9,585	9,630	0.5	Burnaby	C	202,421	203,665	205,261	0.8
New Denver	VL	561	553	553	0.0	Coquitlam	C	117,816	121,341	122,696	1.1
Salmo	VL	1,169	1,172	1,142	-2.6	Delta	DM	101,177	100,901	100,571	-0.3
Silverton	VL	232	227	232	2.2	Langley	C	24,673	24,517	24,577	0.2
Slocan	VL	351	354	374	5.6	Langley, Township of	DM	90,685	90,624	91,359	0.8
Central Okanagan		154,195	156,025	158,562	1.6	Lions Bay	VL	1,439	1,421	1,419	-0.1
Kelowna	C	100,496	101,708	103,421	1.7	Maple Ridge	DM	65,924	68,824	71,399	3.7
Lake Country	DM	9,672	9,687	9,785	1.0	New Westminster	C	57,045	57,529	59,426	3.3
Peachland	DM	4,857	4,957	4,998	0.8	North Vancouver	C	46,236	47,662	48,136	1.0
Columbia-Shuswap		50,320	50,552	50,614	0.1	North Vancouver	DM	85,904	85,645	85,839	0.2
Golden	T	4,195	4,274	4,281	0.2	Pitt Meadows	DM	15,311	15,887	16,148	1.6
Revelstoke	C	7,826	7,868	7,782	-1.1	Port Coquitlam	C	53,497	55,783	57,308	2.7
Salmon Arm	DM	15,873	15,830	15,980	0.9	Port Moody	C	24,854	25,674	26,690	4.0
Sicamous	DM	2,839	2,872	2,864	-0.3	Richmond	C	171,520	173,545	174,201	0.4
						Surrey	C	363,013	378,173	390,145	3.2
						Vancouver	C	569,475	568,807	568,442	-0.1
						West Vancouver	DM	43,228	43,042	42,867	-0.4
						White Rock	C	19,047	19,440	19,539	0.5

British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	2001†	2002	2003	2002-03 % Chg.	Name	Area Type	2001†	2002	2003	2002-03 % Chg.
Kitimat-Stikine		42,660	42,257	42,093	-0.4	Squamish-Lillooet		34,534	34,851	35,179	0.9
Hazelton	VL	360	360	348	-3.3	Lillooet	DM	2,859	2,777	2,718	-2.1
Kitimat	DM	10,733	10,578	10,432	-1.4	Pemberton	VL	1,709	1,861	1,997	7.3
New Hazelton	DM	782	785	759	-3.3	Squamish	DM	14,870	14,835	14,954	0.8
Stewart	DM	690	694	701	1.0	Whistler	DM	9,284	9,432	9,480	0.5
Terrace	C	12,639	12,453	12,373	-0.6	Stikine		1,374	1,323	1,357	2.6
Kootenay-Boundary		33,234	33,330	33,227	-0.3	Sunshine Coast		26,675	26,822	27,018	0.7
Fruitvale	VL	2,114	2,074	2,084	0.5	Gibsons	T	4,076	4,087	4,133	1.1
Grand Forks	C	4,230	4,140	4,113	-0.7	Sechelt	DM	8,113	8,193	8,281	1.1
Greenwood	C	695	684	666	-2.6	Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	IGD**	791	790	779	-1.4
Midway	VL	666	654	644	-1.5	Thompson-Nicola		124,497	124,622	124,455	-0.1
Montrose	VL	1,114	1,109	1,098	-1.0	Ashcroft	VL	1,866	1,851	1,824	-1.5
Rossland	C	3,804	3,753	3,714	-1.0	Cache Creek	VL	1,102	1,110	1,140	2.7
Trail	C	7,905	8,152	8,167	0.2	Chase	VL	2,567	2,530	2,519	-0.4
Warfield	VL	1,815	1,839	1,828	-0.6	Clinton	VL	648	645	655	1.6
Mount Waddington		13,683	13,459	13,376	-0.6	Kamloops	C	80,655	80,749	80,416	-0.4
Alert Bay	VL	608	632	634	0.3	Logan Lake	DM	2,280	2,273	2,287	0.6
Port Alice	VL	1,175	1,164	1,111	-4.6	Lytton	VL	333	344	343	-0.3
Port Hardy	DM	4,774	4,699	4,551	-3.1	Merritt	C	7,396	7,366	7,318	-0.7
Port McNeill	T	2,944	2,894	2,847	-1.6	British Columbia		4,078,447	4,114,981	4,146,580	0.8
Nanaimo		132,555	133,289	134,475	0.9	<i>Source:</i>					
Nanaimo	C	76,185	76,344	76,736	0.5	<i>Population Section, BC Stats,</i>					
Parksville	C	10,773	10,803	10,932	1.2	<i>Ministry of Management Services,</i>					
Qualicum Beach	T	7,224	7,250	7,294	0.6	<i>Government of British Columbia.</i>					
North Okanagan		76,424	76,868	77,116	0.3	<i>December 2003.</i>					
Armstrong	C	4,442	4,567	4,642	1.6	<i>Notes:</i>					
Coldstream	DM	9,504	9,567	9,685	1.2	<i>All figures correspond to municipal boundaries</i>					
Enderby	C	2,941	2,957	2,960	0.1	<i>as of July 1st of the year stated.</i>					
Lumby	VL	1,689	1,688	1,661	-1.6	<i>All figures are as of July 1st of the year stated.</i>					
Spallumcheen	DM	5,357	5,356	5,339	-0.3	<i>C = City, T = Town, VL = Village, DM = District Municipality,</i>					
Vernon	C	34,957	34,956	35,073	0.3	<i>IM= Island Municipality, IGD = Indian Government District,</i>					
Northern Rockies		5,969	5,970	6,044	1.2	<i>DR=Development Region.</i>					
Fort Nelson	T	4,371	4,380	4,383	0.1	<i>* Denotes a boundary change between 2002 and 2003.</i>					
Okanagan-Similkameen		79,983	80,283	80,012	-0.3	<i>**Sechelt Indian Government District is split between Sunshine Coast</i>					
Keremeos	VL	1,249	1,294	1,321	2.1	<i>and Powell River Regional Districts.</i>					
Oliver	T	4,409	4,416	4,367	-1.1	<i>†2001 Census year figures include a PRELIMINARY estimate of net</i>					
Osoyoos	T	4,483	4,481	4,565	1.9	<i>census undercount.</i>					
Penticton	C	32,339	32,399	32,519	0.4	British Columbia	Area	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	
Princeton	T	2,723	2,725	2,716	-0.3	Development Region	Type	2001†	2002	2003	
Summerland	DM	11,181	11,161	11,179	0.2	Vancouver Island/Coast	DR	717,997	718,343	719,914	
Peace River		57,479	57,971	57,913	-0.1	Mainland/Southwest	DR	2,382,808	2,417,327	2,445,465	
Chetwynd	DM	2,704	2,669	2,542	-4.8	Thompson-Okanagan	DR	485,419	488,350	490,759	
Dawson Creek	C	11,224	11,115	11,024	-0.8	Kootenay	DR	151,481	151,800	151,949	
Fort St. John	C	16,734	16,827	16,730	-0.6	Cariboo	DR	167,985	166,830	166,918	
Hudson's Hope	DM	1,084	1,065	1,073	0.8	North Coast	DR	65,299	64,603	64,104	
Pouce Coupe	VL	869	856	850	-0.7	Nechako	DR	44,010	43,787	43,514	
Taylor	DM	1,193	1,227	1,258	2.5	Northeast	DR	63,448	63,941	63,957	
Tumbler Ridge	DM	1,932	2,404	2,459	2.3	British Columbia Total		4,078,447	4,114,981	4,146,580	
Powell River		20,665	20,584	20,495	-0.4						
Powell River	DM	13,550	13,480	13,407	-0.5						
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	IGD**	38	38	38	0.0						
Skeena-Queen Charlotte		22,639	22,346	22,011	-1.5						
Masset	VL	967	950	952	0.2						
Port Clements	VL	538	528	520	-1.5						
Port Edward	DM	688	668	658	-1.5						
Prince Rupert	C	15,282	15,049	14,760	-1.9						

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

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago
	Oct 1/03	
BC	4,158.6	0.8
Canada	31,714.6	0.8
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago
<i>(BC - at market prices)</i>	2002	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	135,552	2.7
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	128,151	2.4
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	31,143	1.5
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	19,576	0.1
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Oct	2,770	-3.7
Merchandise Exports - Nov	2,268	-2.8
Retail Sales - Oct	3,413	0.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg % change
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>	Nov '03	
BC	120.8	2.3
Canada	122.7	2.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>	Dec '03	
Labour Force - BC	2,223	0.3
Employed - BC	2,072	1.2
Unemployed - BC	151	-10.6
		Nov '03
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	6.8	7.6
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.4	7.5
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 14/04	Jan 15/03
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.75	4.90
- 5 year	6.35	6.45
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 14/04	Jan 15/03
<i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i>	1.2869	1.5352
<i>US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.7782	0.6507
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	Dec '03	
BC	679.72	0.5
Canada	668.75	2.7

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

2001 Census Profiles

Correction

An error was found in the **age-sex** data (pages 2 and 5). Corrected files have been posted to our site. Please replace any copies you have previously downloaded. Our apologies for the inconvenience.

Each 18-page profile, in PDF format, reveals just about all you can know about an area. Three pages of charts compare the area's makeup to that of the province. These are followed by data tables showing both local values and percentage distributions. A number of charts and tables feature data sorted according to the unique local experience.

Canada, the provinces, & regional district profiles are posted to our free site. Now in the WebStore are profiles for

- ✓ **Census Subdivisions**
- ✓ **Urban Areas & neighbourhoods**
- ✓ **Designated Places**

These additional files cost \$5 each but, once further programming is completed, will be included in our subscription site (\$200/year).

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The December and Annual 2003 CPI will be released on Thursday, January 22. Look for updated tables on our site before noon (use the **A-Z Subject List**).

Released this week by BC STATS

- Labour Force Statistics, December 2003
- Major Projects Inventory, December 2003
- Exports, November 2003

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, December 2003
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Dec. 2003