

- **Jobless rate falls again in November**
- **Labour income rises 1.7% in third quarter**
- **Residential investment up 12.3%**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate continued to tumble in November, dropping to 4.9% (seasonally adjusted), the lowest level since 1976 (the first year for which labour force estimates are available).** The continued improvement in the province's job market occurred despite a significant increase (+0.6%) in the size of the labour force, as employment growth (+0.8%) was more than strong enough to absorb the net addition of 14,300 people who were either working or looking for work.

Full-time employment increased 1.5% in November, but there were fewer people with part-time (-1.7%) jobs. Self-employment, a strong source of job growth in October, fell back 2.1% in November. There were 2.0% more private sector jobs, but employment in the public sector was down for the sixth month in a row. Although the unemployment rate for those aged 25 and over edged up to 4.6%, young people (aged 15-24) were less likely to be unemployed. The jobless rate in this age group dropped 1.6 percentage points, to 6.9%.

Among the regions, jobless rates were lowest in Thompson-Okanagan (4.3%, 3-month-moving average) and Mainland/Southwest (4.4%) and highest in North Coast/Nechako (6.8%). Kootenay (-2.8%) and Northeast (-4.8%) were the only regions to see a net decline in employment, relative to the same period of 2004.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canada's unemployment rate dropped to 6.4% in November, partly because there were more jobs (+0.2%) but also because the labour force shrank (-0.1%).** Eight of the provinces saw unemployment rates decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Wages, salaries and benefits received by BC**

workers advanced 1.7% (seasonally adjusted) in the third quarter after posting an even stronger second-quarter gain (+2.4%). The third quarter increase was equal to the national average and the same as in both Ontario and Quebec. Alberta led the provinces with a 2.4% gain. Manitoba (+0.5%) and PEI (+0.9%) were the only provinces where labour income rose less than one percent in the third quarter.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Investment in residential construction projects was up 12.3% (unadjusted) in the third quarter, compared to the same period last year.** The investment growth was primarily driven by spending on new dwellings, particularly apartments (+26.4%) and row housing (+21.8%). Investment in new single family dwellings (+1.9%) and duplexes (+4.2%) was relatively flat. Acquisition costs, such as real estate commissions, increased a relatively modest 6.9% after rising by nearly a third (+32.5%) in the second quarter.

BC's third-quarter increase was nearly four times the national average (+3.2%) but fell short of the 22.2% growth seen in Alberta. Investment in Ontario was virtually unchanged (+0.6%) from the third quarter of 2004.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of British Columbians receiving regular employment insurance (EI) benefits dropped 6.1% to 47,690 (seasonally adjusted) in September.** Nationally, the number of EI beneficiaries was down 3.0%, to 513,020. While Alberta (-12.3%) and Manitoba (-8.9%) posted the most significant decreases, the number of beneficiaries was down in most provinces.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **During the third quarter of 2005, Canada's in-**

Did you know...

49% of British Columbians would most like to spend their European dream vacation immersed in historical culture, while 33% would rather be relaxing or sightseeing

Source: Ipsos-Reid Poll March 2005

International travel deficit fell for the first time in a year, as the deficit with overseas countries dropped to its lowest level since the second quarter of 2003. Canadians spent approximately \$1.3 billion (*seasonally adjusted*) more outside the country than foreigners spent in Canada, down \$174 million from the second quarter. The decrease in the deficit was mainly the result of less spending by Canadians in the US (-1.8%) and overseas (-5.1%). Spending by Americans travelling north of the border was also down (-2.7%) and as a result, Canada's travel deficit with the United States rose to over \$800 million for the first time in more than eight years. However, the deficit with overseas countries decreased considerably, as travellers from overseas increased their spending by 3.1%. During the third quarter, the value of the Canadian dollar gained over most major foreign currencies, including the euro, the British pound and the yen. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **More Canadians travelled to overseas destinations in the second quarter of 2005, registering a 13.6% increase over 2004's record-setting second quarter.** Travel to the United States was also up (+5.9%) from the same quarter last year. Business trips to the US increased significantly, with 15.7% more Canadians travelling south for work-related reasons.

The most popular overseas destinations for Canadians were the United Kingdom, France, Mexico, and Cuba. A 48.9% jump in trips to Italy was likely related to the funeral of Pope John Paul II and the installation of Pope Benedict XVI in April. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **Canada's economy expanded 0.9% (*seasonally adjusted, chained 1997 dollars*) in the third quarter, as domestic demand for goods and services remained robust (+1.0%).** Business investment (+2.1%) continued to drive economic growth. Spending on machinery and equipment was up 3.0%, with a similarly strong increase in non-residential construction (+2.9%). Investment in new housing advanced a more modest 0.7%. Consumer spending on goods

and services continued to rise (+0.6%), but at a slower pace than earlier in the year. The external sector also contributed to overall growth, as exports (+2.5%) soared after slowing in the second quarter. However, this was offset by a 2.2% increase in imports, and a continued decline in the value of business inventories.

Corporation profits climbed 5.4% (*current dollars*), while investment income rose 5.8% in the third quarter. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's current account surplus with the rest of the world increased by \$4.4 billion (*seasonally adjusted*) in the third quarter of 2005, rising to \$9.3 billion, the third largest surplus ever recorded.** The spike in energy prices and the resulting record export values for energy products were the main contributors to the surplus. Foreign direct investment in Canada rebounded to \$13.7 billion, almost triple the amount in the second quarter. About 70% of the investment came from the United States and most was invested in companies in the energy & metallic minerals sector. Canadian direct investment abroad rose to \$11.8 billion.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canadian manufacturers' prices jumped 1.4% during the twelve-month period ending in October.** Petroleum and coal products (+24.6%) were again the major factor in the 12-month change. Prices for BC softwood lumber continued to drop, falling to 11.3% below the October 2004 level. Both interior (-10.6%) and coastal (-13.0%) lumber producers received less for their product than they had a year earlier.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Clarification

The November 25th issue of *Infoline* characterized the incidence of children living in families with incomes below the low income cut-off (LICO) as "child poverty". Statistics Canada has stated that the LICO is not a measure of poverty, but a comparative statistic that shows whether families are substantially worse off than the average.

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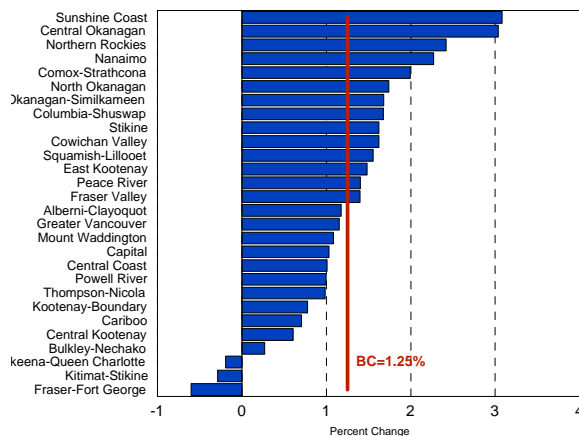
Municipal Population Estimates 2005

The Province

Between July 1st 2004 and 2005 British Columbia's population grew by 1.25%. This represented an increase of 52,655 persons: from 4,201,867 in 2004 to 4,254,522 in 2005. The total population in Canada grew at a lower rate of 0.9% in the same period. Of the provinces, B.C.'s population growth in 2004-2005 was second after Alberta (1.62%). Ontario grew at 1.08%

The majority of the province's recent population growth was still due to strong inflows of immigrants from other countries. Over the period 2004-2005 (July 1 to July 1), B.C. gained a total of 34,735 persons through net international migration (45,282 total immigrants less 10,547 total emigrants). The second contributor to population growth for the same period was the net gain of 10,464 persons through natural increase (40,465 births less 30,001 deaths). BC also had a net gain in migration, of 7,456 from all provinces and territories, except Alberta where a loss of 202 was recorded.

Population Growth by Regional District



Regional Districts

Twenty-five of the total 28 Regional Districts exhibited a positive population growth between 2004 and 2005, while three Regional Districts experienced population declines. Of these three, declines were fairly small, with Fraser-Fort George showing the largest percentage drop at -0.6%. Collectively, only 780 fewer people were living in these three Regional Districts when compared to the previous year, with most of the decline in Fraser-Fort George.

Of the 25 districts that had population growth, fourteen showed a growth stronger than the provincial average of 1.25%. Greater Vancouver, home of more than half of the province's population, displayed a growth of 1.15% or 24,540 persons. This represented 46% of the provincial population growth, as opposed to 37% in 2003/04 and

Regional District	%Change	Growth	2005 Pop
Greater Vancouver	1.15	24,540	2,155,880
Capital	1.03	3,583	351,022
Fraser Valley	1.40	3,645	264,370
Central Okanagan	3.04	4,950	167,936
Nanaimo	2.27	3,134	141,080
Thompson-Nicola	0.99	1,258	128,790
Comox-Strathcona	1.99	2,059	105,327
Fraser-Fort George	-0.60	-613	101,601
Okanagan-Similkameen	1.68	1,372	83,037
North Okanagan	1.74	1,377	80,474
Cowichan Valley	1.62	1,257	78,802
Cariboo	0.71	494	70,329
Peace River	1.40	871	62,967
East Kootenay	1.48	904	61,862
Central Kootenay	0.61	363	60,237
Columbia-Shuswap	1.68	878	53,245
Bulkley-Nechako	0.27	118	43,933
Kitimat-Stikine	-0.29	-124	42,919
Squamish-Lillooet	1.56	570	37,193
Kootenay-Boundary	0.78	255	33,118
Alberni-Clayoquot	1.18	380	32,692
Sunshine Coast	3.09	855	28,557
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	-0.19	-43	22,464
Powell River	0.99	208	21,114
Mount Waddington	1.09	147	13,684
Northern Rockies	2.42	156	6,607
Central Coast	1.01	39	3,905
Stikine	1.62	22	1,377
British Columbia	1.25	52,655	4,254,522

48% in 2002/03. Sunshine Coast gained only 855 persons in the period, but showed the highest growth in percentage terms (3.08%) due to the much smaller population base.

Municipalities

There are a total of 156 municipalities for which population was estimated. In the 2004-2005 period, 109 municipalities demonstrated population growth while the rest either lost population or showed no growth. On July 1, 2005 the smallest municipality was Zeballos with 228 people, and the largest was City of Vancouver with 583,267 people. There were 76 municipalities that had a population of 5,000 or more people. Of those, Qualicum Beach showed the strongest percentage growth with a rate of 19% (or 1,404 people) (part of the growth was due to a boundary extension), while Surrey showed the strongest growth in terms of population with an increase of 7,275 persons (or 1.89%).

Municipality	2004-05 Pop Change		2005 Population
	%	Persons	
Vancouver, C	0.61%	3,551	583,267
Surrey, C	1.89%	7,275	393,137
Burnaby, C	0.63%	1,271	204,324
Richmond, C	0.15%	253	173,430
Abbotsford, C	0.54%	681	127,434
Coquitlam, C	1.61%	1,930	121,973
Saanich, DM	0.42%	457	110,387
Kelowna, C	3.39%	3,589	109,490
Delta, DM	0.53%	542	102,655
Langley, Township of, DM	2.48%	2,350	97,125

The top ten growth municipalities made up almost half (47.5%) of the province's population. The two largest municipalities, the Cities of Surrey and Vancouver, making up approximately 23% of the total BC population, demonstrated growth in 2004/05 that represented about one-fifth of the increase in B.C.'s population. Many of municipalities in the Greater Vancouver area, such as Maple Ridge, Langley and Coquitlam, showed strong growth in 2004/05. These so called

"bedroom cities" of the region have been growing faster than the GVRD as a whole.

Prince George and North Vancouver were the two municipalities that lost the most population over the period. There were 45 municipalities that lost population in the 2004-05 period, and of these, 33 had population estimated at under 5,000. Most of the areas that lost population decreased by less than two percent (35 of the 45), with 28 of these losing one percent or less.

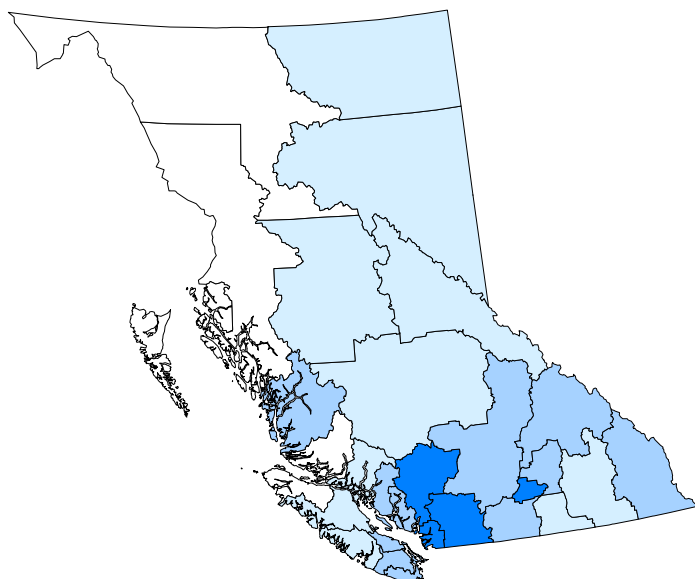
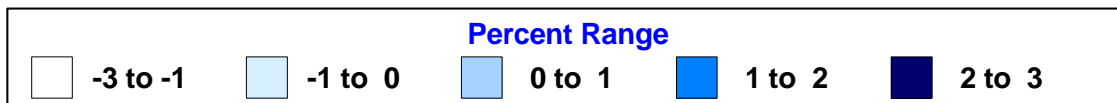
Municipality	2004-05 Pop Change		2005 Population
	%	Persons	
Prince George, C	-0.87%	-678	77,148
North Vancouver, C	-1.23%	-583	46,759
Victoria, C	-0.48%	-375	77,369
New Westminster, C	-0.61%	-354	57,480
Smithers, T	-2.53%	-143	5,509
Kitimat, DM	-1.29%	-138	10,587
Houston, DM	-3.01%	-116	3,733
Oak Bay, DM	-0.50%	-92	18,313
Prince Rupert, C	-0.56%	-85	14,974
Gold River, VL	-5.50%	-79	1,357

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 25 years. This model, which uses indicators of population change 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 is vital to the planning process. For this reason the Municipal and Regional District Estimates are an important tool for provincial and local governments in assessing current and future community needs.

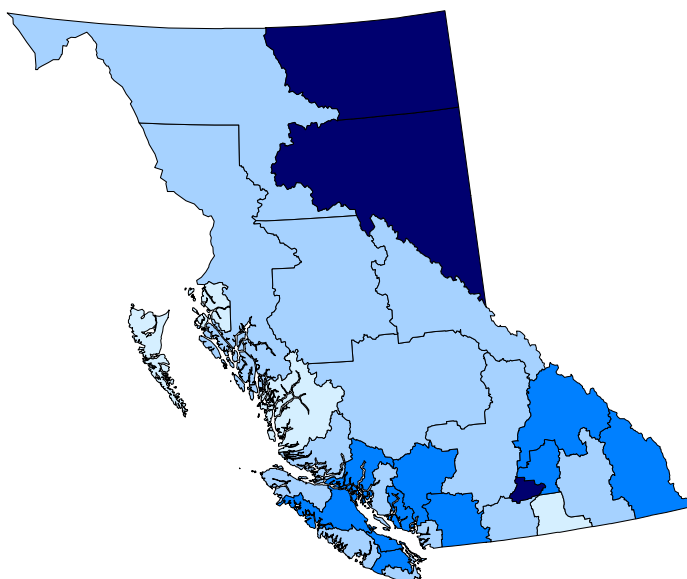
The population estimates for 1996 to 2005 (as well as the estimates for 1976-1995) are available on the BC Stats web site: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>

Total Population Average Annual Percent Change



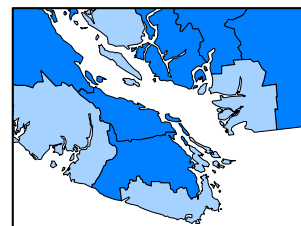
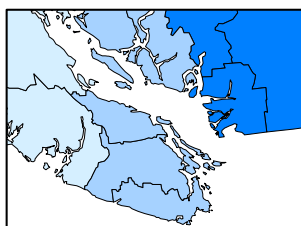
1996-2001

BC Level = 1.03%



2001-2005

BC Level = 1.06%



BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services
December 2005



BC STATS

Service BC
Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

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British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.	Name	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.
Alberni-Clayoquot	32,312	32,692	1.2	Courtenay (C)*	21,120	21,797	3.2
Port Alberni (C)	18,610	18,688	0.4	Cumberland (VL)*	2,768	2,817	1.8
Tofino (DM)	1,716	1,846	7.6	Gold River (VL)	1,436	1,357	-5.5
Ucluelet (DM)	1,852	1,900	2.6	Sayward (VL)	404	407	0.7
Bulkley-Nechako	43,815	43,933	0.3	Tahsis (VL)	594	577	-2.9
Burns Lake (VL)	2,028	2,005	-1.1	Zeballos (VL)	232	228	-1.7
Fort St. James (DM)	2,004	2,003	0.0	Cowichan Valley	77,545	78,802	1.6
Fraser Lake (VL)	1,369	1,367	-0.1	Duncan (C)	4,884	4,898	0.3
Granisle (VL)	367	353	-3.8	Ladysmith (T*)	7,130	7,292	2.3
Houston (DM)	3,849	3,733	-3.0	Lake Cowichan (T)	2,986	3,029	1.4
Smithers (T)*	5,652	5,509	-2.5	North Cowichan (DM)	28,140	28,519	1.3
Telkwa (VL)	1,421	1,439	1.3	East Kootenay	60,958	61,862	1.5
Vanderhoof (DM)	4,662	4,727	1.4	Canal Flats (VL)	673	680	1.0
Capital	347,439	351,022	1.0	Cranbrook (C)*	19,660	19,774	0.6
Central Saanich (DM)	16,494	16,821	2.0	Elkford (DM)	2,683	2,670	-0.5
Colwood (C)	14,864	15,253	2.6	Fernie (C)	5,054	5,126	1.4
Esquimalt (DM)	17,083	17,156	0.4	Invermere (DM)	3,147	3,254	3.4
Highlands (DM)	1,967	2,114	7.5	Kimberley (C)	6,946	7,049	1.5
Langford (DM)	20,956	21,845	4.2	Radium Hot Springs (VL)	749	813	8.5
Metchosin (DM)	5,286	5,353	1.3	Sparwood (DM)	3,998	3,973	-0.6
North Saanich (DM)	11,132	11,274	1.3	Fraser Valley	260,725	264,370	1.4
Oak Bay (DM)	18,405	18,313	-0.5	Abbotsford (C)	126,753	127,434	0.5
Saanich (DM)	109,930	110,387	0.4	Chilliwack (C)	69,193	70,522	1.9
Sidney (T)	11,525	11,862	2.9	Harrison Hot Springs (VL)	1,542	1,585	2.8
Sooke (DM)	9,756	10,117	3.7	Hope (DM)	6,575	6,591	0.2
Victoria (C)	77,744	77,369	-0.5	Kent (DM)	5,525	5,680	2.8
View Royal (T)	8,067	8,382	3.9	Mission (DM)	34,060	34,742	2.0
Cariboo	69,835	70,329	0.7	Fraser-Fort George	102,214	101,601	-0.6
100 Mile House (DM)	1,828	1,826	-0.1	Mackenzie (DM)	5,458	5,454	-0.1
Quesnel (C)	10,444	10,487	0.4	McBride (VL)	743	752	1.2
Wells (DM)	262	248	-5.3	Prince George (C)	77,826	77,148	-0.9
Williams Lake (C)	11,865	11,872	0.1	Valemount (VL)	1,247	1,250	0.2
Central Coast	3,866	3,905	1.0	Greater Vancouver	2,131,340	2,155,880	1.2
Central Kootenay	59,874	60,237	0.6	Anmore (VL)	1,553	1,673	7.7
Castlegar (C)*	7,237	7,284	0.6	Belcarra (VL)	715	723	1.1
Creston (T)	5,053	5,097	0.9	Bowen Island (IM)	3,353	3,424	2.1
Kaslo (VL)	1,071	1,075	0.4	Burnaby (C)	203,053	204,324	0.6
Nakusp (VL)	1,789	1,779	-0.6	Coquitlam (C)	120,043	121,973	1.6
Nelson (C)	9,793	9,780	-0.1	Delta (DM)	102,113	102,655	0.5
New Denver (VL)	550	549	-0.2	Langley (C)	24,982	25,716	2.9
Salmo (VL)	1,140	1,133	-0.6	Langley, Township of (DM)	94,775	97,125	2.5
Silverton (VL)	231	230	-0.4	Lions Bay (VL)	1,421	1,421	0.0
Slocan (VL)	359	357	-0.6	Maple Ridge (DM)	70,792	73,280	3.5
Central Okanagan	162,986	167,936	3.0	New Westminster (C)	57,834	57,480	-0.6
Kelowna (C)	105,901	109,490	3.4	North Vancouver (DM)	86,868	87,083	0.2
Lake Country (DM)	10,091	10,367	2.7	North Vancouver (C)	47,342	46,759	-1.2
Peachland (DM)	5,090	5,230	2.8	Pitt Meadows (DM)	16,087	16,673	3.6
Columbia-Shuswap	52,367	53,245	1.7	Port Coquitlam (C)	56,413	57,563	2.0
Golden (T)	4,385	4,399	0.3	Port Moody (C)	26,757	28,458	6.4
Revelstoke (C)	7,932	7,964	0.4	Richmond (C)	173,177	173,430	0.1
Salmon Arm (C)	16,510	16,800	1.8	Surrey (C)	385,862	393,137	1.9
Sicamous (DM)	3,022	3,043	0.7	Vancouver (C)	579,716	583,267	0.6
Comox-Strathcona	103,268	105,327	2.0	West Vancouver (DM)	43,356	44,149	1.8
Campbell River (C)	30,250	30,810	1.9	White Rock (C)	19,299	19,577	1.4
Comox (C)	12,279	12,688	3.3				

British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.
Kitimat-Stikine	43,043	42,919	-0.3
Hazelton (VL)	355	342	-3.7
Kitimat (DM)	10,725	10,587	-1.3
New Hazelton (DM)	765	758	-0.9
Stewart (DM)	717	695	-3.1
Terrace (C)	12,599	12,556	-0.3
Kootenay-Boundary	32,863	33,118	0.8
Fruitvale (VL)	2,062	2,083	1.0
Grand Forks (C)	4,184	4,200	0.4
Greenwood (C)	666	668	0.3
Midway (VL)	641	630	-1.7
Montrose (VL)	1,090	1,086	-0.4
Rossland (C)	3,689	3,725	1.0
Trail (C)	7,862	7,889	0.3
Warfield (VL)	1,756	1,751	-0.3
Mount Waddington	13,537	13,684	1.1
Alert Bay (VL)	615	607	-1.3
Port Alice (VL)	1,107	1,128	1.9
Port Hardy (DM)	4,593	4,597	0.1
Port McNeill (T)	2,908	2,928	0.7
Nanaimo	137,946	141,080	2.3
Lantzville (DM)	3,763	3,819	1.5
Nanaimo (C)	78,479	79,626	1.5
Parksville (C)	11,275	11,709	3.8
Qualicum Beach (T)*	7,403	8,807	19.0
North Okanagan	79,097	80,474	1.7
Armstrong (C)	4,518	4,526	0.2
Coldstream (DM)	9,922	10,102	1.8
Enderby (C)	3,023	3,073	1.7
Lumby (VL)	1,703	1,738	2.1
Spallumcheen (DM)	5,648	5,707	1.0
Vernon (C)	35,642	36,232	1.7
Northern Rockies	6,451	6,607	2.4
Fort Nelson (T)	4,706	4,823	2.5
Okanagan-Similkameen	81,665	83,037	1.7
Keremeos (VL)	1,278	1,306	2.2
Oliver (T)	4,378	4,379	0.0
Osoyoos (T)	4,611	4,801	4.1
Penticton (C)	32,955	33,061	0.3
Princeton (T)	2,691	2,688	-0.1
Summerland (DM)	11,285	11,405	1.1
Peace River	62,096	62,967	1.4
Chetwynd (DM)	2,729	2,770	1.5
Dawson Creek (C)	11,320	11,394	0.7
Fort St. John (C)	17,326	17,781	2.6
Hudson's Hope (DM)	1,159	1,157	-0.2
Pouce Coupe (VL)	864	887	2.7
Taylor (DM)	1,291	1,346	4.3
Tumbler Ridge (DM)	2,464	2,526	2.5
Powell River	20,906	21,114	1.0
Powell River (DM)	13,716	13,831	0.8
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist (IGD)**	38	38	0.0
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	22,507	22,464	-0.2
Masset (VL)	967	967	0.0
Port Clements (VL)	534	533	-0.2
Port Edward (DM)	659	653	-0.9
Prince Rupert (C)	15,059	14,974	-0.6

Name	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.
Squamish-Lillooet	36,623	37,193	1.6
Lillooet (DM)	2,821	2,755	-2.3
Pemberton (VL)	2,203	2,510	13.9
Squamish (DM)	15,431	15,726	1.9
Whistler (DM)	9,809	9,775	-0.3
Stikine	1,355	1,377	1.6
Sunshine Coast	27,702	28,557	3.1
Gibsons (T)	4,216	4,349	3.2
Sechelt (DM)	8,511	8,901	4.6
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist (IGD)**	792	812	2.5
Thompson-Nicola	127,532	128,790	1.0
Ashcroft (VL)	1,868	1,836	-1.7
Cache Creek (VL)	1,145	1,134	-1.0
Chase (VL)	2,552	2,568	0.6
Clinton (VL)	672	654	-2.7
Kamloops (C)	81,916	82,714	1.0
Logan Lake (DM)	2,320	2,314	-0.3
Lytton (VL)	333	334	0.3
Merritt (C)	7,516	7,561	0.6
British Columbia	4,201,867	4,254,522	1.3

Source:

Population Section, BC Stats, Service BC,
Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services,
Government of British Columbia.
December 2005

Notes:

All figures correspond to municipal boundaries
as of July 1st of the year stated.

All figures are as of July 1st of the year stated.

C = City, T = Town, VL = Village, DM = District Municipality,
IM = Island Municipality, IGD = Indian Government District,
DR = Development Region.

* Denotes a boundary change between 2001 and 2005.

**Sechelt Indian Government District is split between Sunshine Coast
and Powell River Regional Districts.

Base population figures for new incorporations are
supplied by the Ministry of Community Services.

British Columbia Development Region	2004	2005	2004-05 % Chg.
Vancouver Island/Coast	736,819	747,626	1.5
Mainland/Southwest	2,456,390	2,486,000	1.2
Thompson-Okanagan	503,647	513,482	2.0
Kootenay	153,695	155,217	1.0
Cariboo	172,049	171,930	-0.1
North Coast	65,550	65,383	-0.3
Nechako	45,170	45,310	0.3
Northeast	68,547	69,574	1.5
British Columbia Total	4,201,867	4,254,522	1.3

 **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 1/05	% change on one year ago
BC	4,254.5	1.3
Canada	32,270.5	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago
<i>(BC - at market prices)</i>	2004	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	157,241	7.7
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	139,205	4.0
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	33,129	2.8
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	20,182	1.4
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Sep	3,535	-0.5
Merchandise Exports - Sep	3,075	1.6
Retail Sales - Sep	4,281	-0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg % change
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>	Oct '05	
BC	126.3	2.0
Canada	128.5	2.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>	Nov '05	
Labour Force - BC	2,279	0.6
Employed - BC	2,167	0.8
Unemployed - BC	112	-2.9
		Oct '05
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	4.9	5.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	6.4	6.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Nov 30/05	Dec 1/04
Prime Business Rate	4.75	4.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.60	5.00
- 5 year	6.15	6.30
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Nov 30/05	Dec 1/04
<i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i>	1.1674	1.1858
<i>US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.8570	0.8448
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	Nov '05	
BC	717.66	2.4
Canada	712.77	3.9

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

Data update

Population estimates 2005

Municipal and regional district population estimates are a basic measure that feeds into decisions around funding, services, and much more. This release contains revisions for the period back to 2002.

Municipal and regional district population 2005

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estspop.asp> [continued]

Updated results

Electoral District Profiles

Our 18-page profile of each electoral district contains a brief listing of election results in the riding. This section is now based on the official results of the May 17, 2005 provincial election as published by Elections BC.

Provincial Electoral District Profiles, 2001

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/profiles/csd_txt.asp#PED_mark

Released this week by BC STATS

- Business Indicators, November 2005

Next week

- Tourism Sector Monitor, November 2005
- Labour Force Statistics, October 2005
- Earnings & Employment Trends, October 2005