

2020 Sub-Provincial Population Estimates Highlights

Reference date: July 2020

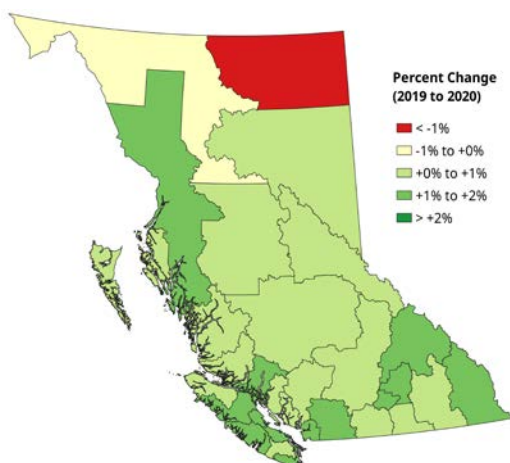
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Overview

In this new release the population of B.C. was estimated at 5,147,712 as of July 1, 2020. The province's population grew by 1.1% between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 – an increase of almost 57,000 persons. Regional population changes varied from growth of 2.0% to decline of -1.6%.

B.C. Regional Districts

During the 2019-2020 period, Central Okanagan Regional District experienced the highest population growth (+2.0%), followed by Columbia-Shuswap (+1.5%) and North Okanagan (+1.4%). Northern Rockies Regional District and Stikine Regions were the only two regions showed a population decline of -1.5% and -0.3%, respectively.



In absolute terms, Metro Vancouver Regional District saw the largest increase in population in the twelve

months ending June 30, 2020 (+30,889), followed by Capital Regional District (+5,652), Central Okanagan (4,294) and Fraser Valley (+3,795). Northern Rockies and Stikine together showed a small decline of 84 persons during the period. Over the past five years since 2015, Central Okanagan showed the highest population growth at 12.3% whereas the Metro Vancouver Regional District and the Capital Regional District showed a growth of 7.6% and 8.9%, respectively.

B.C. Municipalities

Population estimates are reported for 162 of the 163 B.C. incorporated municipalities (Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality was estimated to have no resident hence not reported). Population live outside the municipalities were reported under the grouping of unincorporated areas within their respective regional districts.

As at July 1, 2020, of the 162 reported B.C. municipalities, sixty were larger municipalities with a population over 10,000, and thirty small municipalities had fewer than 1,000 population. Among the larger municipalities, the City of Langford showed the strongest growth (+4.9%), followed by the Municipality of Sooke (+3.5%) and the City of Westminster (+2.9%). Seven of the top ten most populated municipalities were in Metro Vancouver Regional District. These top ten large municipalities had a combined population of 2,599,900 which accounted for half of the provincial population in July 1, 2020. When ranked by population growth during 2019-2020, six out of the top ten large municipalities were on Vancouver Island. The City of Surrey still showed the strongest population growth (+2.1%) within Metro Vancouver Regional District.

For municipalities showed a population between 1,000 and 10,000, Logan Lake, Lake Cowichan, Ucluelet, Princeton and Cumberland are amongst the top when ranked by population growing during 2019-2020. Thirty municipalities had a population fewer than 1,000 and their combined population was 15,577 representing only 0.3% of the overall B.C. population.

Top 10 municipalities with 10,000+ population, ranked by population growth (%), 2019 to 2020

| Name | 2019 pop | 2020 pop | Change | % growth |
|-----------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Langford | 42,024 | 44,069 | 2,045 | 4.9% |
| Sooke | 14,573 | 15,083 | 510 | 3.5% |
| New Westminster | 80,292 | 82,590 | 2,298 | 2.9% |
| Colwood | 18,908 | 19,373 | 465 | 2.5% |
| Courtenay | 28,184 | 28,862 | 678 | 2.4% |
| View Royal | 11,574 | 11,829 | 255 | 2.2% |
| Lake Country | 15,320 | 15,654 | 334 | 2.2% |
| Kelowna | 143,067 | 146,127 | 3,060 | 2.1% |
| Surrey | 586,367 | 598,530 | 12,163 | 2.1% |
| Parkville | 13,407 | 13,685 | 278 | 2.1% |

Prepared by: BC Stats

Top 10 municipalities with less than 10,000 population, ranked by population growth (%), 2019 to 2020

| Name | 2019 pop | 2020 pop | Change | % growth |
|---------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Tahsis | 294 | 348 | 54 | 18.4% |
| Logan Lake | 2,147 | 2,292 | 145 | 6.8% |
| Port Edward | 428 | 450 | 22 | 5.1% |
| Lake Cowichan | 3,506 | 3,651 | 145 | 4.1% |
| Ucluelet | 1,867 | 1,941 | 74 | 4.0% |
| Princeton | 3,000 | 3,108 | 108 | 3.6% |
| Midway | 681 | 705 | 24 | 3.5% |
| Cumberland | 4,414 | 4,558 | 144 | 3.3% |
| Revelstoke | 8,471 | 8,744 | 273 | 3.2% |
| Tofino | 2,445 | 2,522 | 77 | 3.1% |

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See [BC Stats website](#) for a complete listing of B.C. regional district and municipal population estimates from 2001 to 2020.

Estimating population for sub-provincial areas

Beginning in 2020, the Demography Division of Statistics Canada, in collaboration with the Demographic and Population Statistics section at BC Stats, produced annual population estimates at the census subdivision (CSD) level. The reference date for these population estimates is July 1 of each year and population estimates are produced using the 2016 Standard Geographical Classification (SGC).

Since the components of population growth are not produced at the CSD level, the population of CSDs is not estimated using the cohort component method, as is done with higher levels of geography.

The method consists in using T1FF administrative data¹ and other B.C. administrative datasets to calculate the change in the population of CSDs between two annual periods. These changes, expressed as a percentage, are then applied to the adjusted census populations of the CSDs. The process is repeated for subsequent years. Finally, calibration is performed to ensure consistency between the CSD and census division (CD) population estimates.

¹ The T1 family file (T1FF) is derived from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) T1 file by Income Statistics Division of Statistics Canada.



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