

# 2021 Sub-Provincial Population Estimates Highlights

Reference date: July 2021

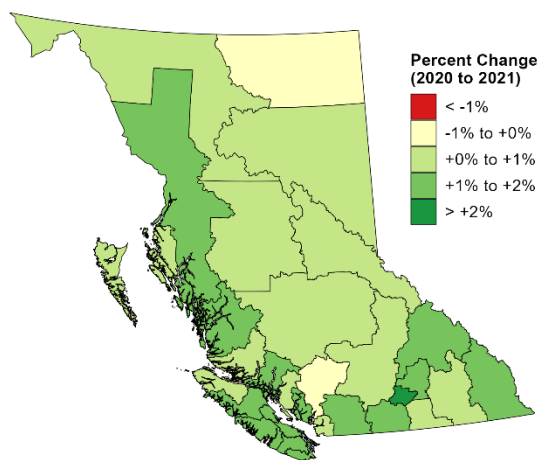
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## Overview

In this new release the population of B.C. was estimated at 5,214,805 as of July 1, 2021. The province's population grew by 1.1% between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 – an increase of just over 56,000 persons. Regional population changes varied from growth of 2.6% to decline of -0.8%.

## B.C. Regional Districts

During the 2020-2021 period, Central Okanagan Regional District experienced the highest population growth (+2.6%), followed by Comox Valley and Strathcona (both +1.5%). Northern Rockies Regional District and Squamish-Lillooet were the only two regions that showed a population decline of -0.8% and -0.1%, respectively.



In absolute terms, Metro Vancouver Regional District saw the largest increase in population in the twelve months ending June 30, 2021 (+26,663), followed by Capital Regional District (+5,941), Central Okanagan (+5,775) and Fraser Valley (+4,620). Northern Rockies and Squamish-Lillooet together showed a small decline of 76 persons during the period. Over the past five

years since 2016, Central Okanagan showed the highest population growth at 12.5% whereas the Metro Vancouver Regional District and the Capital Regional District showed a growth of 7.4% and 7.9%, respectively.

## B.C. Municipalities

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

As of July 1, 2021, 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 (+6.5%), followed by the Municipality of Sooke and the City of West Kelowna (both +4.0%). Seven of the top ten most populated municipalities were in Metro Vancouver Regional District. These top ten large municipalities had a combined population of 2,629,950 which accounted for more than half of the provincial population on July 1, 2021. When ranking the large municipalities by population growth during 2020-2021, four out of the top ten were on Vancouver Island. Surrey no longer had the largest growth within Metro Vancouver. Instead, the City of Langley and Maple Ridge showed the strongest population growth (both +3.0%) within Metro Vancouver Regional District.

For municipalities with a population between 1,000 and 10,000, Anmore, Bowen Island, Fort St. James, Keremeos and Telkwa are amongst the top when ranked by population growth during 2020-2021. Thirty municipalities had a population fewer than 1,000 and their combined population was 15,942 representing only 0.3% of the overall B.C. population.

### Top 10 municipalities with 10,000+ population, ranked by population growth (%), 2020 to 2021

Name	2020 pop	2021 pop	Change	% growth
Langford	44,423	47,313	2,890	6.5%
West Kelowna	36,827	38,311	1,484	4.0%
Sooke	14,946	15,539	593	4.0%
North Saanich	12,078	12,500	422	3.5%
Maple Ridge	91,941	94,742	2,801	3.0%
Langley, City of	28,117	28,957	840	3.0%
Langley, District Municipality	133,537	137,399	3,862	2.9%
Lake Country	15,833	16,238	405	2.6%
Salmon Arm	19,338	19,825	487	2.5%
Parksville	13,533	13,871	338	2.5%

Prepared by BC Stats

### Top 10 municipalities with less than 10,000 population, ranked by population growth (%), 2020 to 2021

Name	2020 pop	2021 pop	Change	% growth
Fort St. James	1,758	1,930	172	9.8%
Bowen Island	3,955	4,222	267	6.8%
Port Alice	663	707	44	6.6%
Telkwa	1,413	1,502	89	6.3%
Anmore	2,501	2,632	131	5.2%
Keremeos	1,733	1,820	87	5.0%
Tumbler Ridge	2,172	2,273	101	4.7%
Ucluelet	1,962	2,055	93	4.7%
Highlands	2,474	2,582	108	4.4%
Radium Hot Springs	843	879	36	4.3%

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See [BC Stats website](#) for a complete listing of B.C. regional district and municipal population estimates from 2001 to 2021.

## 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 data<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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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