

2018 Sub-Provincial Population Estimates

Reference date: July 2018

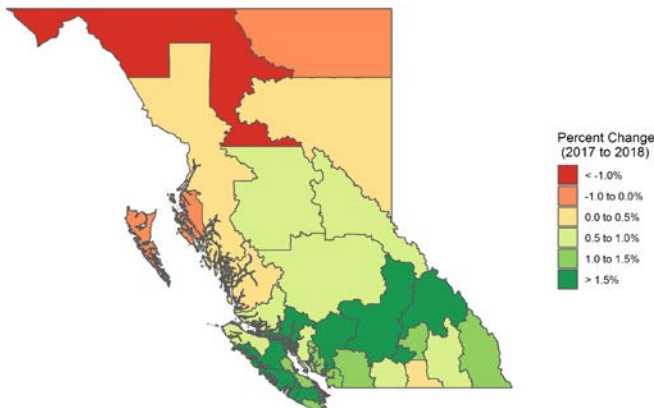
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Overview

At the provincial level, the B.C. population was estimated at 4,991,687 as of July 1, 2018. B.C.'s population grew by 1.4% between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 – an increase of over 69,500 persons. Regional changes varied from growth of 2.0% to population declines of -2.7%.

B.C. Regional Districts

Central Okanagan (+2.0%) and Columbia-Shuswap (+2.0%) regional districts experienced the highest relative growth between 2017 and 2018 followed by Alberni-Clayoquot (+1.8%) and Cowichan Valley (+1.7%) regional districts.



In absolute terms, the Greater Vancouver Regional District saw the largest increase in population in the twelve months ending June 30, 2018 (+39,462), followed by the Capital Regional District (+5,173) and Fraser Valley (+4,606). In contrast, Stikine (-2.7%), Northern Rockies (-0.7%) and North Coast (-0.2%) continue to show population decreases, losing a combined 97 persons during the same reference period. The Greater Vancouver

Regional District has seen total growth of 11.8% in the seven years since 2011.

B.C. Municipalities

Among the larger municipalities – those with at least 5,000 persons – the town of Ladysmith (+3.6%) and the City of Langford (+2.9%) saw the largest relative increases in population since July 1, 2017. In absolute terms, the City of Surrey experienced the most significant population gain between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 (+14,865 persons or +2.7%).

Other large (5,000+ persons) municipalities that experienced high relative growth during the past year include the Lake Country district municipality (+2.6%), the City of Salmon Arm (+2.6%) and the City of Kimberley (+2.3%).

For smaller municipalities with populations fewer than 5,000 people, Radium Hot Springs (+11.3%), Sun Peaks Mountain (+9.0%) and Tofino (+6.8%) reported the highest growth rates from 2017 to 2018.

With regards to municipalities with more than 5,000 people, the City of Osoyoos (-0.2%) was the only municipality that showed a population decline from 2017 to 2018.

Compared to all municipalities, the village of Zebalos saw the largest relative decline in population between 2017 and 2018 (-5.6%). In absolute terms, the Fort St. James District Municipality experienced the largest decline (-52 persons or -3.1%).

Table 1: Top 10 municipalities (5,000+) ranked by population growth (%), 2017 to 2018

	2017 pop	2018 pop	Level change	% growth
Ladysmith	9,093	9,417	324	3.56%
Langford	38,263	39,368	1,105	2.89%
Surrey	554,200	569,065	14,865	2.68%
Lake Country	13,666	14,027	361	2.64%
Salmon Arm	18,814	19,299	485	2.58%
Kimberley	7,850	8,032	182	2.32%
Sooke	13,984	14,298	314	2.25%
Hope	6,519	6,659	140	2.15%
Oliver	5,247	5,355	108	2.06%
Kelowna	133,644	136,233	2,589	1.94%

Source: BC Stats 2018 sub-provincial population estimates

Table 2: Bottom 10 municipalities (5,000+) ranked by population growth (%), 2017 to 2018

	2017 pop	2018 pop	Level change	% growth
Osoyoos	5,083	5,073	-10	-0.20%
Duncan	5,234	5,241	7	0.13%
Kitimat	8,490	8,513	23	0.27%
Peachland	5,655	5,671	16	0.28%
Esquimalt	18,760	18,818	58	0.31%
Terrace	12,209	12,248	39	0.32%
Dawson Creek	12,729	12,775	46	0.36%
Prince Rupert	12,768	12,821	53	0.42%
Whistler	11,848	11,901	53	0.45%
Quesnel	10,378	10,428	50	0.48%

Source: BC Stats 2018 sub-provincial population estimates

Table 3 provides a complete listing of B.C. regional district and municipal population estimates from 2011 to 2018.

Estimating population for sub-provincial areas

On an annual basis, BC Stats produces sub-provincial population estimates using the [Generalized Estimation System \(GES\)](#). This regression model uses symptomatic indicators such as health client registry and residential hydro hook-ups to gauge population growth from one year to the next. These estimates assist in local and provincial government planning processes.

The coverage of British Columbia's geographies using GES focuses on 191 areas comprised of 162 municipalities, 29 Regional Districts and 27 unique aggregations of unincorporated areas. Most of the province's residents (almost 9 in every 10 persons) live in municipalities. These sub-provincial population estimates are based on the 2016 Census counts adjusted for census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves to which is added the estimated demographic growth for the period from May 10, 2016, to June 30, 2018. The sub-provincial estimates are available on the [BC Stats website](#).

Source:

*Demographic Analysis Section, BC Stats
Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Government of British Columbia*

NOTES: SGC = STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION, RD = REGIONAL DISTRICT, R = REGION, RDR = REGIONAL DISTRICT UNINCORPORATED AREA, IGD = INDIAN GOVERNMENT DISTRICT, CY = CITY, T = TOWN, VL = VILLAGE, DM = DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IM = ISLAND MUNICIPALITY, RGM = REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY. All figures correspond to municipal boundaries as of July 1st of the year stated.