



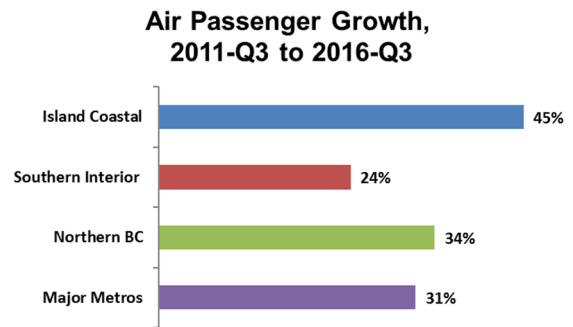
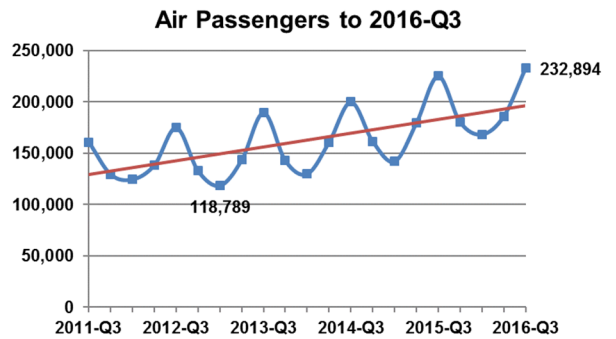
Air Passengers (Updated December 2016)

Air passenger travel at the three largest airports in the Island Coastal region continued its steady upward trend through the third quarter of 2016 (July to September). The total of nearly 233,000 passengers at the Comox, Nanaimo and Campbell River Airports was a new record high for a three-month period.

Air travel is highly seasonal, as the chart to the right demonstrates, but is clearly trending higher over time (as represented by the solid red line).

Total regional passenger traffic through the end of September, including both arriving and departing passengers, is 7.4% higher than the same period last year (see table below). This is slightly less than the 8.4% increase at the Major Metros airports, but higher than the 5.5% growth at the Southern Interior airports. With the continued challenges in the oil and gas sector and other resource industries in Northern BC, air travel in that region is lower so far in 2016.

Over the last five years, air travel has increased significantly throughout BC. Comparing the summer of 2016 to the summer of 2011, passenger figures have increased by 45% in the Island Coastal region. This is the highest among the BC regions, although all have experienced strong growth.



Air Passengers at Representative Regional Airports*

Region	Passenger Volumes at Representative Airports*						Change, 2015-Q3 to 2016-Q3	Year to Date After 3 Quarters		
	2011-Q3	2012-Q3	2013-Q3	2014-Q3	2015-Q3	2016-Q3		2015	2016	Change
Island Coastal	160,863	175,038	189,642	200,001	225,229	232,894	3.4%	547,034	587,583	7.4%
Southern Interior	452,215	469,047	483,690	531,719	528,084	558,625	5.8%	1,499,391	1,582,552	5.5%
Northern BC	144,098	155,319	182,735	197,432	197,092	192,852	-2.2%	602,743	575,046	-4.6%
Major Metros**	5,462,875	5,622,108	5,845,885	6,300,060	6,545,323	7,183,468	9.7%	17,273,509	18,724,299	8.4%

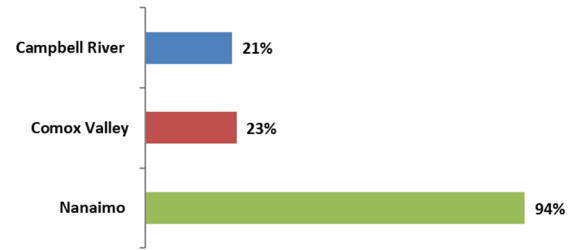
*Representative airports for the Island Coastal region are Campbell River, Comox Valley and Nanaimo. For the Southern Interior, they are Kamloops, Kelowna and Castlegar. For Northern BC, they are Prince George, Smithers and Fort St. John. For Major Metros, they are Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford. These are chosen because they are regularly tracked and reported by Destination BC.

**The passenger count for Abbotsford for September 2016 is estimated based on growth in the first eight months of the year.

Source: Destination BC Provincial Tourism Indicators

The three airports that represent the Island Coastal region in this data set – Campbell River, Comox Valley and Nanaimo – have each experienced strong growth in the last few years. Comparing the summer of 2016 to the summer of 2011, passenger traffic has nearly doubled at the Nanaimo Airport and has grown by more than 20% at the other airports. This time period coincides with the completion of some major facility upgrades at the Nanaimo Airport and the addition of new air carriers and destinations, including WestJet service to Calgary.

**Air Passenger Growth,
2011-Q3 to 2016-Q3**



Looking only at 2016, the Nanaimo Airport had growth of 10.7% through the end of September compared to the same period last year, while Comox Valley traffic was up by 7.1%. Campbell River has declined by 6.3%, reflecting a local slowdown in construction and other economic activity that had driven rapid growth over the last few years. The longer-term trend for the Campbell River Airport is still positive.

Air Passengers at Representative Island Coastal Airports

Airport	Passenger Volumes at Island Coastal Airports						Change, 2015-Q3 to 2016-Q3	Year to Date After 3 Quarters		
	2011-Q3	2012-Q3	2013-Q3	2014-Q3	2015-Q3	2016-Q3		2015	2016	Change
Campbell River	17,722	18,765	18,071	20,655	20,636	21,524	4.3%	49,714	46,600	-6.3%
Comox Valley	92,549	101,396	97,984	101,586	110,725	113,462	2.5%	265,021	283,806	7.1%
Nanaimo	50,592	54,877	73,587	77,760	93,868	97,908	4.3%	232,299	257,177	10.7%
Island Coastal	160,863	175,038	189,642	200,001	225,229	232,894	3.4%	547,034	587,583	7.4%

Source: Destination BC Provincial Tourism Indicators