

Air Passengers (Updated December 2017)

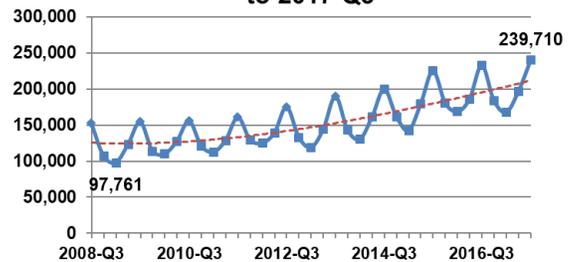
Air passenger travel in the Island Coastal region reached a new quarterly record of nearly 240,000 people in the 3rd quarter of 2017 (July to September).

Based on the combined total at the region's three largest airports (Comox Valley, Nanaimo, and Campbell River), passenger traffic in summer 2017 was nearly 3% higher than in summer 2016. The year-to-date total of 604,000 passengers to the end of September is up 2.8% over last year.

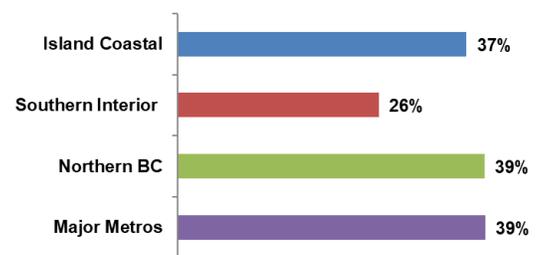
Regional air travel has been on a continual upward trend since 2009, but the same trend has been observed elsewhere in BC. Comparing air travel in the summer of 2017 to the summer of 2012, the Island Coastal region has a 37% increase over the five-year period. This is right in line with Northern BC and the Major Metro regions, both of which increased 39% over the same period.

Compared to last year, the 3% growth in the Island Coastal region is the lowest among the major BC regions (see table below).

**Air Passengers by Quarter
to 2017-Q3**



**Air Passenger Growth,
2012-Q3 to 2017-Q3**



Air Passengers at Representative Regional Airports*

Region	2017-Q3	Compared to 2016-Q3	Year to Date (YTD)	YTD Growth
Island Coastal	239,710	2.9%	603,771	2.8%
Southern Interior	589,653	5.6%	1,714,223	8.3%
Northern BC	216,243	12.1%	613,191	6.6%
Major Metros	7,834,474	9.1%	20,404,194	9.0%

*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.

Source: Destination BC Provincial Tourism Indicators

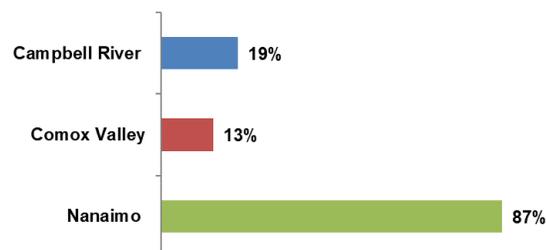
Over the long term, population growth, tourism, and the state of the economy all contribute to air travel trends. A growing economy encourages business travel and affects whether people have sufficient discretionary income to journey by air rather than more affordable options. In the short to medium term, it is also influenced by major airport improvements and the addition of new routes and destinations, which can unlock previously unmet demand. This occurred at the Comox Valley in the 2000s and more recently at the Nanaimo Airport with its facility improvements and the addition of WestJet service.

Over the last five years, comparing summer 2012 to summer 2017, traffic at the Nanaimo Airport has nearly doubled, from 55,000 passengers to 102,000. Growth has been positive, but more modest at the Campbell River and Comox Valley Airports.

Comparing the current year to 2016, both Nanaimo and Campbell River had a summer increase of more than 4% while the Comox Valley was up 1.3%.

Year to date through September, Campbell River has experienced a 15.5% spike in traffic, driven by a 39% jump in the 2nd quarter of the year. Year to date is down slightly in the Comox Valley (-1.1%) and up a healthy 4.7% for Nanaimo.

**Air Passenger Growth,
2012-Q3 to 2017-Q3**



Air Passengers at Representative Island Coastal Airports

Airport	2017-Q3	Compared to 2016-Q3	Year to Date (YTD)	YTD Growth
Campbell River	22,423	4.2%	53,826	15.5%
Comox Valley	114,941	1.3%	280,675	-1.1%
Nanaimo	102,346	4.5%	269,270	4.7%
Island Coastal Total	239,710	2.9%	603,771	2.8%

Source: Destination BC Provincial Tourism Indicators