



## Ferry Passengers (Updated December 2017)

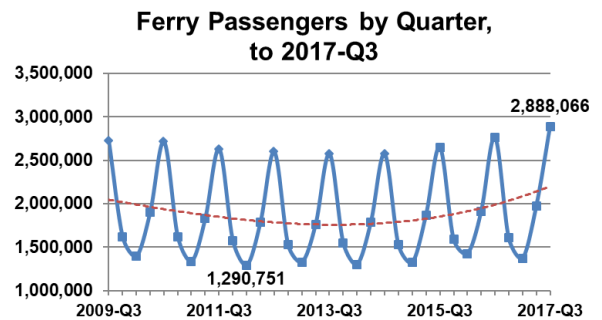
Total ferry passenger traffic into and out of the Island Coastal region was nearly 2.9 million in the summer of 2017 (July to September). This is the highest quarterly total for at least 8 years and is the third year in a row with growing summer traffic.

As shown by the dotted line in the chart to the right, ferry passenger traffic has been trending higher over the last 3-4 years after several years of a downward trend.

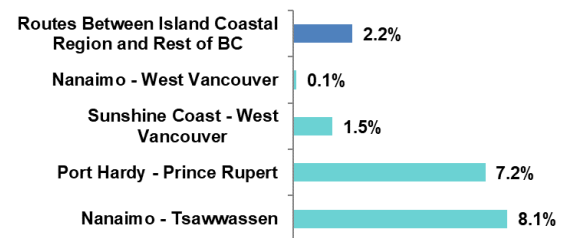
Total regional traffic for the first nine months of 2017 is up 2.2% over last year. Most of the growth has occurred on the Nanaimo - Tsawwassen route, which has increased by 100,000 passengers, or 8.1%. The Port Hardy – Prince Rupert route has also had strong growth of 7.2%, but this represents an increase of only about 2,500 passengers. The Nanaimo – Horseshoe Bay (West Vancouver) route has more than double the traffic of the Nanaimo-Tsawwassen route but is virtually unchanged compared to last year.

While continuing population growth and a strong economy are partial explanations for the traffic increase, increased tourist traffic is also likely given the 4.5% increase over summer 2016 and other positive tourism indicators:

- At a provincial level, total international visitor arrivals were up 3.1% in BC through September, including 6.2% from the Asia Pacific region and 3.5% from Europe.
- Hotel occupancy in Campbell River was up 7 percentage points over the previous year and average room rates up more than 9%.
- Occupancy rates are steady for the Parksville/Qualicum and Nanaimo markets, but average room rates are up 5-6% in both areas.
- Estimated room revenue was up 2.2% in Tofino.



**Year-to-Date Growth, to 2017-Q3, by Regional Ferry Route**



### Ferry Passengers between Island Coastal Region and Rest of BC

Ferry Route	2017-Q3	Compared to 2016-Q3	Year to Date (YTD)	YTD Growth
Nanaimo – West Vancouver (Horseshoe Bay)	1,289,430	3.1%	2,737,823	0.1%
Sunshine Coast - West Vancouver (Horseshoe Bay)	933,813	3.6%	2,124,039	1.5%
Port Hardy - Prince Rupert	25,403	8.8%	39,631	7.2%
Nanaimo – Tsawwassen (part of Metro Vancouver)	639,420	8.6%	1,329,135	8.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,888,066</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>6,230,628</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

Source: BC Ferries.