



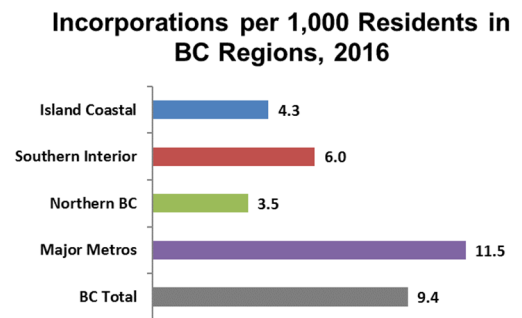
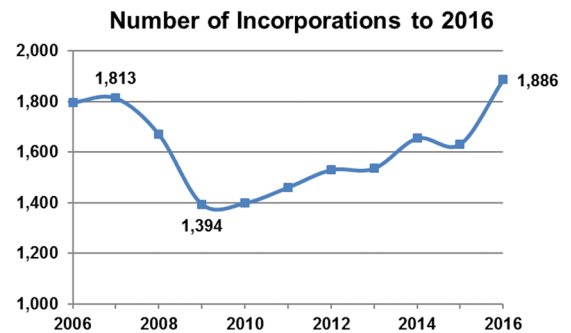
Incorporations (Updated March 2017)

The number of new business incorporations in the Island Coastal region reached a record high of 1,886 in 2016. This surpassed the previous regional high of 1,813 incorporations in 2007.

Compared to 2015, the number of incorporations increased significantly throughout British Columbia, except for the northern part of the province. The 15.6% increase in the Island Coastal region is the largest year-over-year increase in 12 years and slightly exceeds the provincial increase of 14.8%.

The strong performance in 2016 is consistent with a variety of other regional indicators, including employment, building permit values and various tourism indicators that all showed robust growth.

On a per capita basis (using 2016 Census populations), the Island Coastal region had 4.3 incorporations per 1,000 residents in 2016, higher than the economically struggling Northern BC region but lower than the Southern Interior. Incorporations are typically more concentrated in metropolitan centres.



Total Business Incorporations by BC Region

Region	2016	2015	Year Over Year Growth	2016 Compared to 10-Year Average
Island Coastal	1,886	1,631	+15.6%	+18%
Southern Interior	4,414	3,751	+17.7%	+21%
Northern BC	1,130	1,370	-17.5%	-9%
Major Metros	36,125	31,178	+15.9%	+36%
BC Total	43,556	37,934	+14.8%	+31%

Source: BC Stats

Within the Island Coastal region, all Regional Districts (RDs) had an increase in business incorporations in 2016 compared to 2015, except for Mount Waddington (which dropped by 2).

But the rate of growth in 2016 was much higher in three RDs in particular - Alberni-Clayoquot, Strathcona and Sunshine Coast. Each of these established new record highs for business incorporations and we increased by 45-51% compared to 2015 (each of them were also much higher than their 10-year average).

Looking at specific locations within those high-growth areas, Port Alberni added 25 more incorporations in 2016 compared to the previous year, while both Tofino and Ucluelet more than doubled their incorporations (albeit from a much smaller starting point). Campbell River is responsible for all the increase in the Strathcona RD, while the largest increase in the Sunshine Coast RD is in the non-municipal areas, followed by Sechelt.

The Nanaimo and Comox Valley RDs are often the growth leaders within the region, but with respect to business incorporations, neither has returned to their pre-recession peaks of 2007 or 2008.

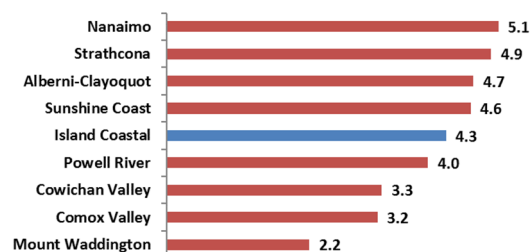
Incorporations by Regional District within the ICET Region

Region	2016	2015	Year Over Year Growth	2016 Compared to 10-Year Average
Alberni-Clayoquot	145	96	+51%	+58%
Strathcona	221	147	+50%	+36%
Sunshine Coast	139	96	+45%	+47%
Powell River	80	68	+18%	+14%
Cowichan Valley	275	251	+10%	+9%
Comox Valley	214	200	+7%	-1%
Nanaimo	788	747	+5%	+16%
Mount Waddington	24	26	-8%	-20%
Island Coastal	1,886	1,631	+16%	+18%

Source: BC Stats

On a per capita basis for 2016 (using Census results), the Nanaimo RD continues to lead the region with 5.1 incorporations per 1,000 residents, but there is little difference among the leading areas in 2016. The Cowichan Valley, Comox Valley and Mount Waddington RDs are somewhat below the regional average.

Incorporations per 1,000 Residents by RD in Island Coastal Region, 2016



Appendix: Geographic Areas

The four BC regions shown in this report are based on amalgamations of regional districts. Note that the Island Coastal boundaries are an exact match for the area covered by the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET), but the Southern Interior and Northern BC regions do not exactly match the boundaries of the other two regional trusts in BC (the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust and the Northern Development Initiative Trust).

Island Coastal

Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, Alberni-Clayoquot, Comox Valley, Strathcona, Mount Waddington, Powell River, Sunshine Coast

Southern Interior

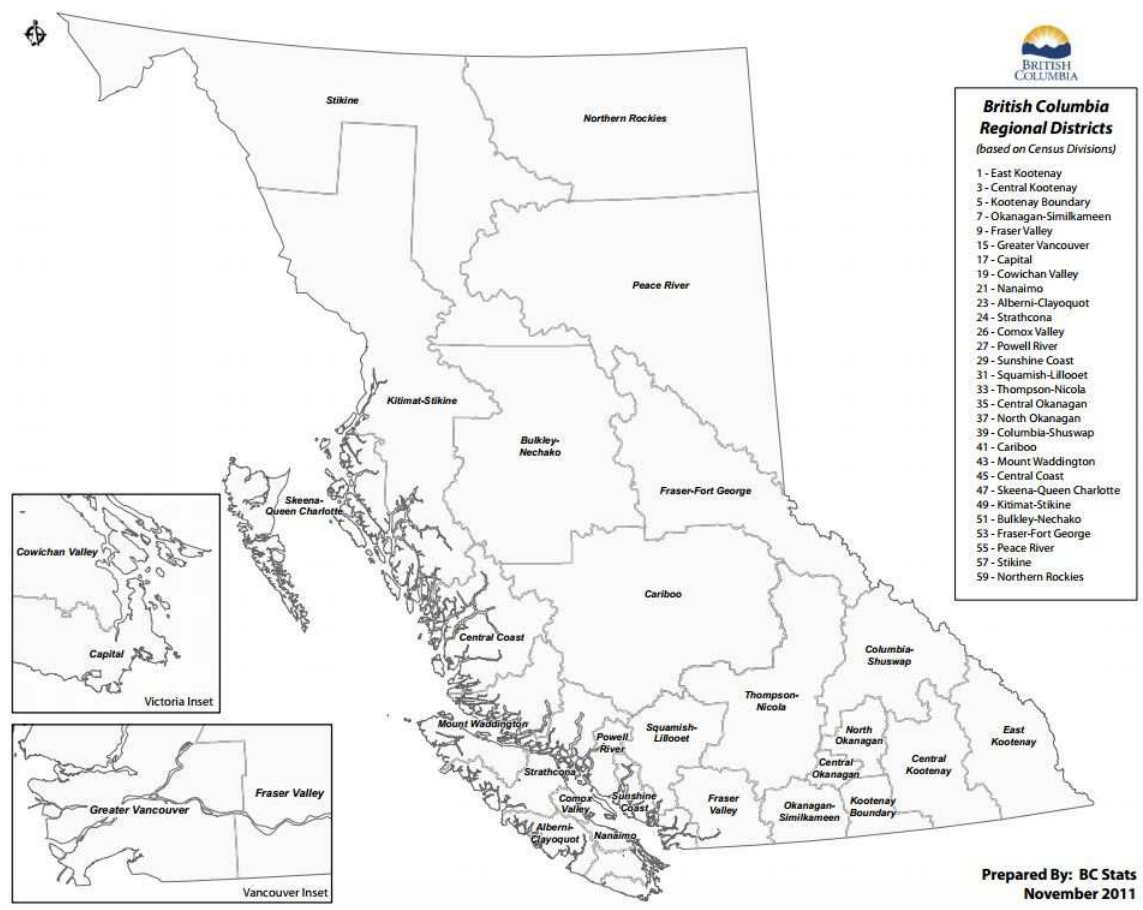
East Kootenay, Central Kootenay, Kootenay-Boundary, Okanagan-Similkameen, Central Okanagan, North Okanagan, Columbia-Shuswap, Thompson-Nicola, Squamish-Lillooet

Northern BC

Cariboo, Fraser-Fort George, Peace River, Northern Rockies, Bulkley-Nechako, Stikine, Kitimat-Stikine, Skeena-Queen Charlotte, Central Coast

Major Metros

Capital, Greater Vancouver, Fraser Valley



Prepared By: BC Stats
November 2011