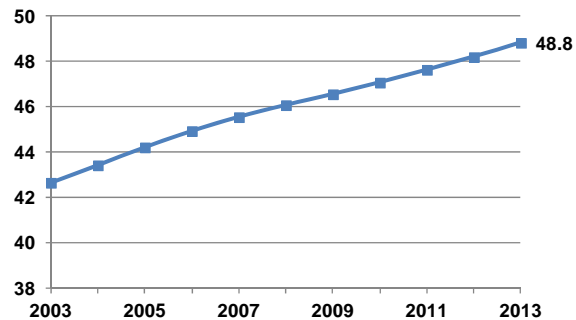


## Estimated Median Age (Updated April 2014)

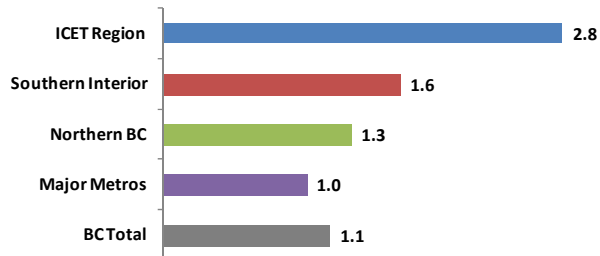
Based on the annual BC Stats population estimates, the estimated median age in the ICET region (the age where half the population is older and half is younger) has consistently moved higher over the last decade, reaching an estimated 48.8 years in 2013.

Populations are aging in most countries around the world as life expectancy increases and birth rates fall, but the ICET region is both older and aging faster than any other BC region. The region's median age has increased by 2.8 years in the last 5 years, which is much faster than the provincial increase of 1.1 years. It is also substantially faster than any other BC region, with the Southern Interior ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> with an increase of 1.6 years.

Estimated Median Age to 2013



Change in Median Age by BC Region, 2008-2013

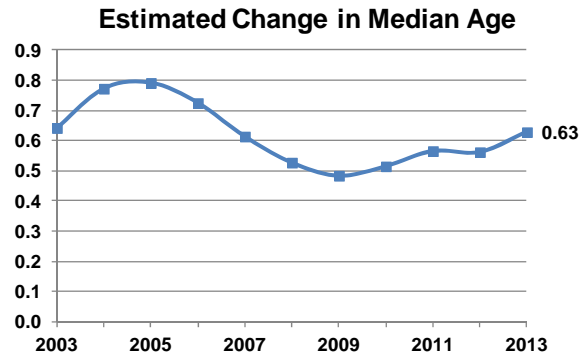


### Median Age by BC Region, 2008-2013

Region	Estimated Median Age						Change, 2012-2013	Average Change, 2008-2013
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013		
ICET Region	46.1	46.6	47.1	47.6	48.2	48.8	0.6	2.8
Southern Interior	44.1	44.3	44.4	45.1	45.3	45.7	0.4	1.6
Northern BC	38.2	38.2	38.4	39.1	39.3	39.5	0.2	1.3
Major Metros	39.1	39.3	39.5	39.7	39.9	40.1	0.2	1.0
<b>BC Total</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>

Source: BC Stats

Changes in the median age in the ICET region over the last decade show a clear relationship with overall population growth. While the region was growing rapidly in the 2005 to 2009 period, the median age was still increasing but at a slower rate from year to year. Then as regional population growth slowed to less than 0.5% per year over the last four years, the median age has started to increase at a more rapid pace again.

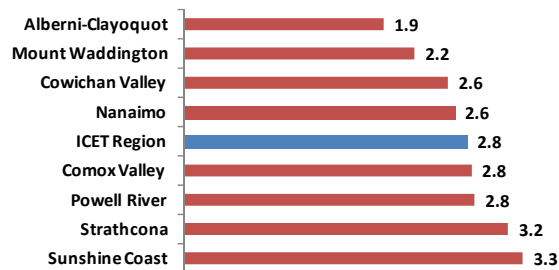


This relationship makes sense if younger people are the more variable part of regional population. When overall growth is low, there are fewer young people and the median age creeps higher at a faster pace. When overall growth is high, there are more young people either moving to the region or not leaving and the increase in the median age is less.

Within the ICET region, the Sunshine Coast, Powell River and Nanaimo RDs all have an older median age than the region as a whole while Mount Waddington and Alberni-Clayoquot are at least a few years younger and are aging at a much lower rate. The Sunshine Coast and Nanaimo areas (particularly Parksville and Qualicum Beach) are long-established retirement destinations and have the health and recreational amenities to continue

attracting this demographic. The smaller and traditionally resource-reliant communities in Northern Vancouver Island have historically been more oriented toward employment rather than accommodating large numbers of retirees, but that is changing as the population ages everywhere. The West Coast communities of Ucluelet and especially Tofino are attracting a much younger demographic due to the lifestyle amenities in those communities.

**Increases in Estimated Median Age,  
2008-2013**



**Estimated Median Age by Regional District (RD) within the ICET Region, 2008-2013**

Region	Annual Population Estimate						Change, 2012-2013	Average Change, 2008-2013
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013		
Mount Waddington	40.1	40.4	41.0	41.3	42.1	42.3	0.3	2.2
Alberni-Clayoquot	43.6	44.0	44.5	44.7	45.0	45.5	0.5	1.9
Strathcona	43.9	44.5	45.2	45.8	46.4	47.1	0.6	3.2
Cowichan Valley	45.2	45.6	45.9	46.6	47.1	47.8	0.7	2.6
Comox Valley	46.1	46.7	47.2	47.8	48.2	48.9	0.6	2.8
Nanaimo	47.2	47.7	48.1	48.7	49.3	49.8	0.5	2.6
Powell River	48.6	49.3	49.9	50.5	50.9	51.5	0.6	2.8
Sunshine Coast	49.5	50.0	50.7	51.4	52.0	52.8	0.7	3.3
<b>ICET Region</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Source: BC Stats

## Appendix: Geographic Areas

The four BC regions shown in this report are based on amalgamations of regional districts. Note that the ICET Region boundaries are an exact match for the area covered by the Trust, 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).

### ICET Region

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

