

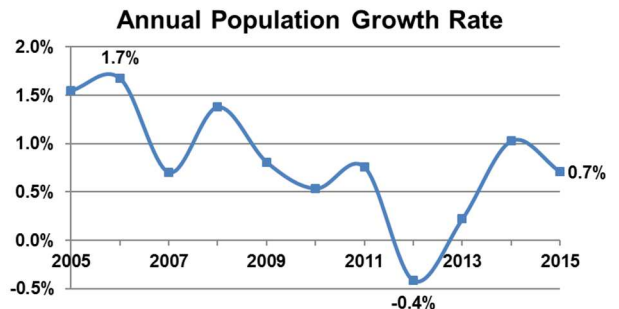


Population Growth (Updated July 2016)

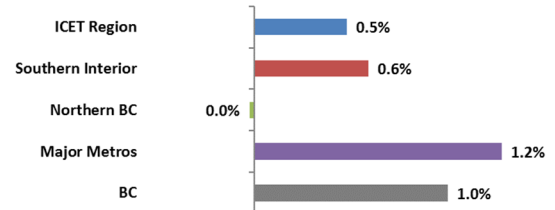
BC Stats produces annual population estimates for municipalities, regional districts and various other jurisdictions in the province. Typically released around the end of the year, the estimates in this update are as of July 1, 2015 and cover the estimated growth since July 1, 2014.

Over that time period, the ICET region is estimated to have added just over 3,000 residents, representing a 0.7% increase. This is a somewhat faster rate of increase than the region has experienced over the last five years, when it averaged annual growth of just under 2,000 people or 0.5% per year.

Compared to the rest of BC, the ICET region is consistently growing at a slower rate than both the Major Metros and the Southern Interior, but faster than Northern BC (which has lost population over the last five years).



Average Annual Population Growth by BC Region, 2010-2015



Population Estimates by BC Region, 2010-2015

Region	Annual Population Estimate						Change, 2014-2015		Average Change, 2010-2015	
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015				
ICET Region	427,688	430,921	429,120	430,068	434,490	437,567	3,077	0.7%	1,976	0.5%
Southern Interior	713,747	717,600	716,431	717,121	726,770	734,062	7,292	1.0%	4,063	0.6%
Northern BC	323,765	326,044	325,534	326,749	328,028	323,418	-4,610	-1.4%	-69	0.0%
Major Metros	3,000,724	3,024,574	3,071,493	3,108,669	3,149,127	3,188,092	38,965	1.2%	37,474	1.2%
BC Total	4,465,924	4,499,139	4,542,578	4,582,607	4,638,415	4,683,139	44,724	1.0%	43,443	1.0%

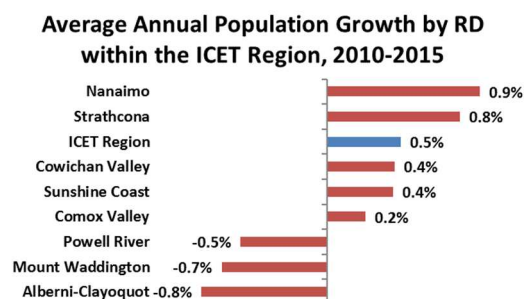
Source: BC Stats

The growth performance of the individual regional districts within the ICET region varied significantly in 2015, with four adding population and four losing population. The strongest growth rate occurred in the Strathcona RD, at 1.8%, while the RD of Nanaimo had the largest population increase of nearly 2,600 people (or 1.7% growth).

The more remote and/or resource-dependent regional districts have consistently struggled with population decline and those trends continued in 2015 as the Mount Waddington, Powell River and Alberni-Clayoquot RDs all lost more than 1% of their population. The population loss in the ACRD is most pronounced in Port Alberni, while Tofino on the west coast is showing strong growth.

Population growth in the Sunshine Coast RD has been highly variable in recent years, ranging from strong growth in some years to little or negative growth in others. The estimated population decline of 1.0% in 2015 is the SCRD's largest population drop since at least the mid-1980s (the BC Stats estimates only go back to 1986).

Over the last five years, regional growth is being driven by the RD of Nanaimo, which is already the most populous RD in the region by a wide margin and continues to lead the region in growth. The Strathcona RD has not traditionally been one of the faster-growing parts of the region, but has been buoyed in recent years by strong growth associated in part with major project construction in the area (John Hart dam project, hospital construction, etc.).



Population Estimates by Regional District within the ICET Region, 2010-2015

Region	Annual Population Estimate						Change, 2014-2015		Average Change, 2010-2015	
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015				
Strathcona	43,628	43,928	43,723	43,924	44,618	45,448	830	1.8%	364	0.8%
Nanaimo	147,456	148,770	148,933	150,057	151,995	154,572	2,577	1.7%	1,423	0.9%
Cowichan Valley	81,083	81,485	81,191	81,366	82,235	82,787	552	0.7%	341	0.4%
Comox Valley	63,875	64,417	64,048	63,943	64,247	64,634	387	0.6%	152	0.2%
Sunshine Coast	28,590	28,918	28,891	28,896	29,463	29,177	-286	-1.0%	117	0.4%
Mount Waddington	11,766	11,716	11,580	11,564	11,515	11,387	-128	-1.1%	-76	-0.7%
Powell River	19,987	20,106	19,775	19,748	19,790	19,456	-334	-1.7%	-106	-0.5%
Alberni-Clayoquot	31,303	31,581	30,979	30,570	30,627	30,106	-521	-1.7%	-239	-0.8%
ICET Region Total	427,688	430,921	429,120	430,068	434,490	437,567	3,077	0.7%	1,976	0.5%

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

