



## Population Projections (Updated November 2016)

The latest population projections released by BC Stats show the Island Coastal region is expected to maintain solid population growth over the next 25 years.

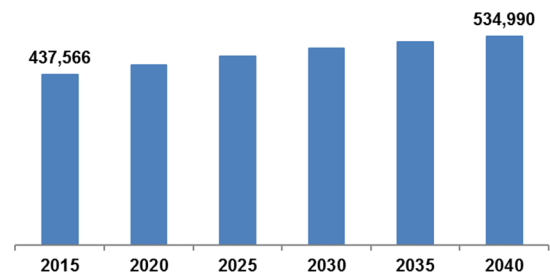
The average increase is projected to be nearly 4,000 people per year, or 0.8%.

How does this compare to past growth? Over the last 25 years, the region added 4,400 people per year, for an average growth rate of 1.2%. Slower growth in the future is partly due to the continued aging of the baby boom generation, whose members will be 76 to 94 years old by 2040.

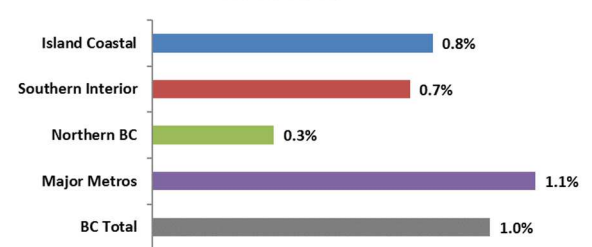
The Island Coastal region is projected to be the fastest-growing rural region in BC, slightly ahead of the 0.7% average growth in the Southern Interior.

All parts of BC are projected to grow more slowly in the next 25 years than they have in the last 25 years.

**Island Coastal Population Projection to 2040**



**Projected Annual Population Growth, 2015-2040**



### Population Projections by BC Region

Region	2015 Estimate	Population Projection					Average Annual Change, 2015-2040	Average Annual Growth Rate
		2020	2025	2030	2035	2040		
Island Coastal	437,566	461,591	483,742	503,699	520,772	534,990	3,897	0.8%
Southern Interior	734,057	771,051	805,548	836,243	861,956	882,999	5,958	0.7%
Northern BC	323,421	335,233	343,358	348,548	351,560	352,901	1,179	0.3%
Major Metros	3,188,095	3,411,414	3,632,132	3,842,617	4,030,899	4,194,730	40,265	1.1%
<b>BC Total</b>	<b>4,683,139</b>	<b>4,979,289</b>	<b>5,264,780</b>	<b>5,531,107</b>	<b>5,765,187</b>	<b>5,965,620</b>	<b>51,299</b>	<b>1.0%</b>

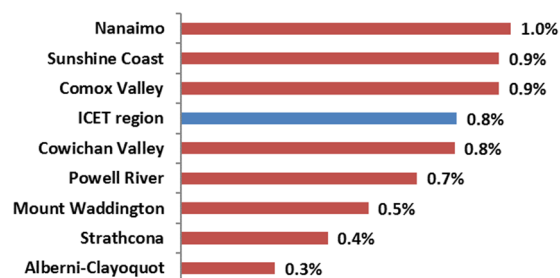
Source: BC Stats Population Projections, released August 2016

All eight of the regional districts within the Island Coastal region are projected to add population over the next 25 years. The Nanaimo, Sunshine Coast and Comox Valley RDs are projected to grow slightly faster than the regional average of 0.8% per year and each ranks among the top 10 RDs in BC in projected growth rate (Nanaimo is 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunshine Coast is 8<sup>th</sup> and Comox Valley is 9<sup>th</sup> among 28 RDs).

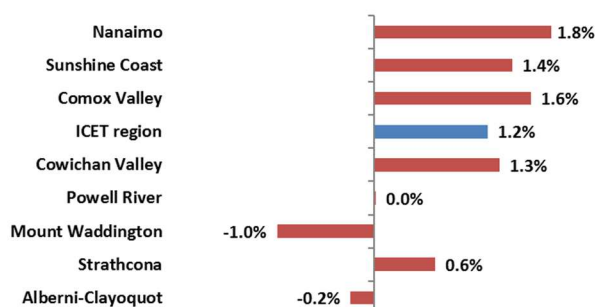
Migration is the most important factor in determining future population changes. The projections suggest that the most populated parts of the region will continue to attract the most new residents, but the smaller RDs can also retain and increase population growth. They need to support quality employment opportunities and capitalize on more affordable housing and other quality of life features that might be less accessible in larger centres.

Actual population changes over the last 25 years illustrate how the region has changed, with population decline in the smaller and more resource-dependent parts of the region, but there is no reason that these trends cannot be reversed over the coming years.

**Projected Annual Population Growth, 2015-2040**



**Annual Population Growth, 1990-2015**



### Population Projections by Regional District with the ICET Region

Region	2015 Estimate	Population Projection					Average Annual Change, 2015-2040	Average Annual Growth Rate
		2020	2025	2030	2035	2040		
Nanaimo	154,546	164,895	174,425	182,944	190,261	196,609	1,683	1.0%
Cowichan Valley	82,786	87,217	91,368	95,199	98,475	101,074	732	0.8%
Comox Valley	64,634	68,523	72,277	75,768	78,842	81,497	675	0.9%
Sunshine Coast	29,177	30,968	32,638	34,195	35,604	36,791	305	0.9%
Strathcona	45,468	47,103	48,431	49,448	50,158	50,609	206	0.4%
Powell River	19,481	20,388	21,205	21,961	22,622	23,137	146	0.7%
Alberni-Clayoquot	30,106	30,735	31,262	31,703	32,027	32,239	85	0.3%
Mount Waddington	11,368	11,762	12,136	12,481	12,783	13,034	67	0.5%
<b>ICET region</b>	<b>437,566</b>	<b>461,591</b>	<b>483,742</b>	<b>503,699</b>	<b>520,772</b>	<b>534,990</b>	<b>3,897</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

Source: BC Stats Population Projections, released August 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 ICET, but the Southern Interior and Northern BC regions do not exactly match the boundaries of BC's other regional trusts (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

