

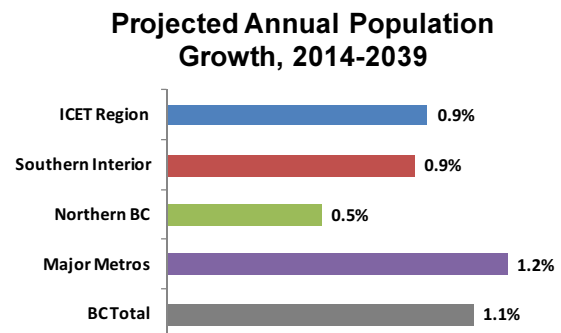
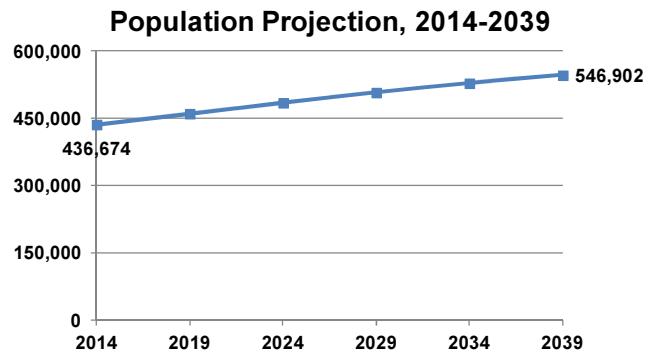


## Population Projections (Updated April 2015)

The latest population projections from BC Stats, released in the fall of 2014, have the population of the ICET region increasing by about 110,000 people over the next 25 years (from 2014 to 2039).

The average annual increase is projected to be about 4,400 people, which is somewhat lower than the average increase of 4,900 people in the region's population over the last 25 years (from 1989 to 2014). All parts of BC are projected to add fewer people over the next 25 years than over the last 25, with the exception of Northern BC, which is projected to add more than five times as many people on an annual basis.

In percentage terms the ICET region is projected to grow by an average of 0.9% per year, only slightly lower than the projected provincial growth rate of 1.1% per year. Its growth rate is expected to be the fastest among the rural regions of the province.



### Population Projections by BC Region (Projections Released September 2014)

Region	2014*	Population Projection					Average Annual Change, 2014-2039	Average Annual Growth Rate
	(Estimate)	2019	2024	2029	2034	2039		
ICET Region	436,674	460,617	485,136	508,094	528,652	546,902	4,409	0.9%
Southern Interior	723,552	760,202	798,669	834,676	866,991	895,768	6,889	0.9%
Northern BC	330,876	349,224	361,455	369,171	374,450	378,049	1,887	0.5%
Major Metros	3,137,373	3,356,124	3,588,855	3,813,237	4,019,759	4,207,874	42,820	1.2%
<b>BC Total</b>	<b>4,628,475</b>	<b>4,926,167</b>	<b>5,234,115</b>	<b>5,525,178</b>	<b>5,789,852</b>	<b>6,028,593</b>	<b>56,005</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

Source: BC Stats

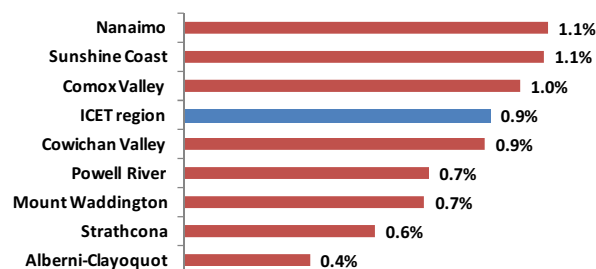
BC Stats is projecting a population increase for each regional district in the ICET region over the next 25 years. The RDs that are currently larger and faster-growing are projected to continue to absorb the majority of the new growth. About 85% of the projected growth region-wide is projected to occur in the Nanaimo, Sunshine Coast, Comox Valley and Cowichan Valley RDs.

In percentage terms, the projected growth rates are fastest in the Nanaimo, Sunshine Coast and Comox Valley RDs, all slightly faster than projected region-wide growth of 0.9% per year. These three RDs rank 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> among 29 regional districts in BC in projected growth rates over the next 25 years.<sup>1</sup>

The driving force behind these population projections is the level of net migration, so significant events or unexpected developments that affect how many people are moving into a community or region versus how many are moving away can have a substantial impact on the future path of population change.

These projections are best understood as the current path that each regional district is on. If economic development opportunities, existing patterns of migration and other local and regional conditions stay largely the same, then these projections represent what the future might reasonably look like. But most parts of the region are actively engaged in trying to improve their local conditions and it is always possible for these local initiatives to improve the long-term outlook, causing the future level of population to diverge from the projections.

**Projected Annual Population Growth,  
2014-2039**



#### Population Projections by Regional District with the ICET Region (Projections Released September 2014)

Regional District	2014* (Estimate)	Population Projection					Average Annual Change, 2014-2039	Average Annual Growth Rate
		2019	2024	2029	2034	2039		
Nanaimo	151,687	161,831	172,094	181,662	190,291	198,203	1,861	1.1%
Sunshine Coast	29,580	31,425	33,361	35,242	36,991	38,537	358	1.1%
Comox Valley	65,003	68,849	72,807	76,575	80,030	83,201	728	1.0%
Cowichan Valley	82,690	87,138	91,759	96,084	99,907	103,182	820	0.9%
Powell River	20,769	21,674	22,580	23,438	24,216	24,867	164	0.7%
Mount Waddington	11,629	12,074	12,561	13,044	13,490	13,881	90	0.7%
Strathcona	44,242	45,866	47,490	48,923	50,065	50,934	268	0.6%
Alberni- Clayoquot	31,074	31,760	32,484	33,126	33,662	34,097	121	0.4%
<b>ICET region</b>	<b>436,674</b>	<b>460,617</b>	<b>485,136</b>	<b>508,094</b>	<b>528,652</b>	<b>546,902</b>	<b>4,409</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

Source: BC Stats

<sup>1</sup> The fastest growth rates from 2014 to 2039 are projected for the Central Okanagan (1.5% per year), Squamish-Lillooet (1.3%), Greater Vancouver (1.2%), Fraser Valley (1.2%) and Peace River (1.1%) RDs.

## 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

