



# Quick Facts

## British Columbia

### Demographics

- Population: 4,279,462 (Jan 2006)  
*Canadian Population: 34.2 million*  
Population Growth (2004-2005): 1.2%  
*Canadian Population Growth: 0.9%*
- Median Age (2001): 34.7 years  
*Canadian Median Age: 37.6 years*
- Visible Minority Population: 21.6% (2001)  
*Canadian Minority Population: 13.4%*
- Urbanized: 85.0% (2001)  
*Canadian Average: 79.7%*

### Aboriginal Population

- Aboriginal Population in BC: 170,025  
Percentage of Canadian Aboriginal Population: 17%
- Average Age: 26.8 years  
*Canadian Average: 24.7 years*
- Unemployment Rate: 22.5%
- Median income: \$ 15,067
- Percentage over 15 years with a formal education of high school diploma or greater: 72%

Source: Statistics Canada Aboriginal Peoples Survey  
2001

### Key Economic Indicators

Year	2005	2006	2007f
(\$ Millions 1997)	131,962	136,376	140,505
Percentage change	3.7%	3.3%	3.0%
GDP at Basic Prices Canada (\$ Millions 1997)	1,155,947	1,190,410	1,227,209
Percentage change	2.8%	3.0%	3.1%
Inflation Rate (CPI-based)	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%
Inflation Rate Canada	2.4%	2.5%	2.0%
Retail Sales (\$ Millions)	50,318	53,172	55,528
Percentage Change	6.6%	5.7%	4.4%
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.7%	5.9%
Unemployment Canada	6.7%	6.7%	6.9%
Employment (000s)	2,129	2,177	2,216
Percentage Change	3.3%	2.3%	1.8%
Average Weekly Wages (\$)	698.4	724.1	748.3
Percentage Change	3.2%	3.7%	2.7%
Housing Starts (Number of Units)	34,667	31,805	30,864
Percentage Change	5.3%	-8.3%	-3.0%

Source: Conference Board of Canada Metropolitan Outlook (Winter 2006)

### Top Five Exports by Commodity Groups (\$ millions)

	2003	2004	Percent Share
Wood	7,915	9,757	30.3%
Mineral Fuels & Oils	4,849	4,522	14.0%
Woodpulp	2,801	3,034	9.4%
Paper & Paperboard	1,893	1,936	6.0%
Machinery	1,300	1,480	4.6%

Source: International Trade Canada, Provincial Pocket Facts - November 2005