

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Labour Force

- **BC's unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) dropped slightly in April to 6.9% from 7.0% in March but was nearly two full percentage points below the 8.8% of a year ago.** The Canadian rate remained unchanged at 6.8% between March and April and had also improved from the 8.2% level measured in April 1999. Among the provinces, the highest rate in April was in Newfoundland at 16.8%. The lowest unemployment rates were felt in the prairie provinces of Saskatchewan (4.8%), Manitoba (5.0%) and Alberta (5.1%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Employment in BC dropped by 9,600 workers from March to April, while the labour force shrank by 13,400 as fewer people were also seeking work.** Alberta (-0.3%) and Saskatchewan (-0.7%) also had declines in the number of people working. Employment for the country as a whole remained virtually unchanged.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Youth employment was down by 2,000 in April from March.** However, for males, an estimated 900 more had jobs, while for females, there were 2,900 fewer with work. For persons 25 years and older, there was also a drop in employment. In a reversal of the youth situation, there were 5,100 fewer men working and 2,600 fewer women with jobs. For all age groups, men saw a loss of 9,100 full-time jobs but an increase of 4,900 part-time jobs. Women, on the other hand saw 5,400 more full-time jobs but a loss of 10,800 part-time jobs.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Both the goods and service sectors saw job losses of half a percent in April over March levels.** This was a result of declines in agriculture (-7.2%), utilities (-7.7%), construction (-0.8%), retail and wholesale trade (-1.5%), education (-2.6%), other services (-3.0%) and public administration (-0.4%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Regionally, the lowest unemployment rates (actual 3-month moving averages) in April were in the Northeast (3.9%) and Mainland/Southwest (6.3%).** The highest rates were in Thompson-Okanagan (11.4%), Cariboo (11.3%) and Kootenay (11.1%).

Source: Statistics Canada

Help-Wanted Index

- **BC's Help Wanted Index (seasonally adjusted) declined slightly in April, to 1.4% below the March level.** However, the index has been trending up since 1996. This measure of metropolitan newspaper help-wanted ads was 16.9% above the level of April 1999. The Canadian index fell 2.3% in April but was 7.1% above the level of the previous April.

Source: Statistics Canada

Prices

- **BC softwood lumber prices continued to fall in March after having peaked in the summer of 1999.** Although overall, softwood lumber prices are up 1.8% over March 1999 levels, they are 18.2% below the July 1999 levels. Interior softwood lumber prices showed a 3.4% rise over March 1999, but have fallen 21.9% from the record level of last July. At the same time, BC Coast lumber prices averaged 1.5% lower than a year earlier, but 8.8% below the high set in September 1999. The Douglas Fir plywood price also set a record in the

Did you know...

**The average Canadian consumed 27.4 kg of pork and 31.0 kg of beef in 1999.
That's 128 lbs. of red meat not counting veal and lamb.**

summer of 1999, and although the March level was 4.3% above the price a year earlier, it was 14.8% below the high of last August. Pulpwood chip prices have increased steadily since early 1999 and were up 9.9% over a year earlier.

Source: Statistics Canada

Business Conditions

- **A quarter of BC manufacturers surveyed in April reported that they expected production to increase in the next three months, up only slightly (4%) from the proportion that reported in January that an increase was anticipated.** Twenty-eight percent also stated that new orders were rising, compared with 20% in the previous survey. However, 15% reported a decline in new orders, almost double the 8% who reported that in January.

Across Canada, the proportion of manufacturers reporting expectations of increased production dropped from 40% in January to 34% in April. Those reporting rising levels of new orders increased only slightly from 28% to 30% between surveys, while those reporting declining levels remained the same at 8%.

Source: Statistics Canada

Building Permits

- **The value of BC building permits (seasonally adjusted) in March was up 30.9% over February.** BC recorded the third highest gain after Saskatchewan (+126.3%) and New Brunswick (+46.2%). Nationwide, permits were up 11.5%. Non-residential construction permit values in BC accounted for the largest share of the gain, up 48.3% in the month, while planned residential construction was up 19.0%. In the non-residential sector, the growth was in the commercial and institutional and government components. While industrial construction permit values declined (-41.9%), commercial permits were up strongly (+82.1%) as were permits for institutional and government projects (+27.6%).

Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **Labour productivity increased 1.4% in 1999, reflecting strong growth in Gross Domestic Product (+4.7%) and hours worked (3.3%).** At the same time, unit labour costs rose 0.2%, the lowest increase in the past four years. Over the past decade, labour productivity growth averaged 1.1% annually compared to 1.2% in the 1973 to 1989 period. However, between 1966 and 1973, productivity growth rates averaged 3.7% per year.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Foreign control of company assets in Canada stood at 22.6% in 1997, up 1.9 percentage points from 1988.** The industries with the highest levels of foreign control of assets were chemicals and chemical products and textiles at 71.1% and transportation equipment at 52.6%. Overall, foreign controlled firms were responsible for 31.0% of operating revenues, while foreign controlled companies in chemicals and chemical products and textiles generated 66.7% and transportation equipment generated 55.3% of revenues within their industries. American firms controlled 13.0% of corporate assets in Canada and 21.1% of operating revenue.

Source: Statistics Canada

Transportation

- **Canadian railways employed on average 45,318 people in 1998 down from 59,247 in 1993.** At the same time, total freight tonne-kilometres were 299.5 billion, up 16.8% over the same period. The number of passengers carried declined somewhat (-3.2%) to 3.98 million, although those passengers travelled somewhat greater distances.

Source: S C, Catalogue 52-216-X1B

**highlights, Issue 00-28
May 5, 2000**

The highlighted publication is an in-depth review of the Provincial Electoral Districts that will be contested in the next general provincial election. This Infoline Report is not a summary but an effort to raise awareness of this new release from BC STATS. The spiral-bound and tab divided printed edition is a handy reference document. The entire publication, including additional detailed tables not published in the book, may be found on our Internet site. Under the heading Popular Topics, choose the first item, Provincial Electoral District Profile.

Introduction

This is the latest in a series of census-based profiles of British Columbia Provincial Electoral Districts (PED) produced by BC STATS. Single-page graphic profiles of current PEDs, based on the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, are posted on our web site.

The initial set of 1996 Census-based graphic profile pages conform to the riding boundaries in effect for the general provincial election held on May 28, 1996 and for subsequent by-elections. This report provides a demographic profile of PEDs based on the boundaries proposed by the *Electoral Boundaries Commission* on June 3, 1999. These boundaries will be in effect in the next general provincial election.

What you get

Some people like to see information portrayed in pictures. Others think you've got something to hide unless you give them reams of tables and all the small print. We set out to satisfy both camps. We'll review a couple of profiles below, but all the tables and text are published on our site. We've even made it easy for you to download the tables for your own analysis.

We produced a graphic profile page for each of the 79 new PEDs and samples of two are included here. These pages result from data as-

sembled from a series of tables that focus on a range of topics or characteristics.

While we have tried to make the charts representative of the underlying tables, the information we draw from is so rich and the presentation possibilities so open that all we can hope to do is pique your interest.

What you'll learn

We've attached two profiles that are representative of different realities to be found in the urban core of the lower mainland and a resource dependent district.

Columbia River-Revelstoke

- With just over 34 thousand persons, Columbia River-Revelstoke is numerically small.
- While immigrants make up 24.2% of the population of BC, here they account for only 10.2%. By and large they are of European and American descent.
- Immigration from Europe remains a far stronger influence than the Asian influx that has only started to register since the 60s.
- The labour force has relatively greater numbers in primary and accommodation industries demonstrating the district's dependence on resources and tourism.
- Ethnically the district has a strongly European tone in a diversifying province. They tend to be inter-mingled with many claiming multiple ethnic origins.
- English is overwhelmingly spoken at home. Only 1.4% of the population speaks only a foreign language at home.
- Relative to BC, education levels are low. Relatively more have a trade certificate.

- First Nations representation matches their provincial share.
- Remarkably few were members of a visible minority.
- The area is slightly poorer than average and it is the sharply lower incomes of women here that account for much of the difference.

Vancouver-Kensington

- Vancouver-Kensington is numerically large, densely populated urban riding with immigrants making up more than half (56.5%) the population.
- Most immigrants are from Asia.
- Prior to the 60's European immigrants outnumbered those from Asia. Since then, new European arrivals have all but disappeared.

- The top four ethnic origins are Chinese, East Indian, Filipino and Vietnamese. By far the majority of these claim only a single ethnic origin.
- Almost half the population (46%) speak a foreign language at home. Most of these speak Chinese.
- Households here tend to be larger.
- While relatively many have not completed high school, university attainment levels approach the provincial average.
- For remarkably many the language they first learned was foreign.
- Most are members of a visible minority.
- Incomes are below the provincial average.

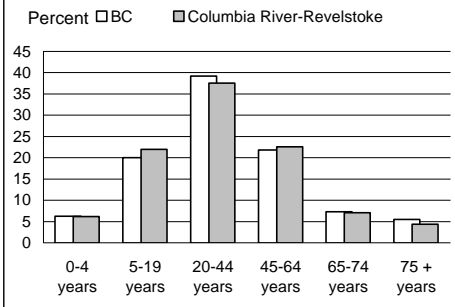
1996 Census Profile
Columbia River-Revelstoke
 Provincial Electoral District

13

Population by Age Group

Columbia River-Revelstoke		BC
Total population		
(as of May 14, 1996)	34,056	3,724,500
Percent of BC	0.9	100.0
Aged 20+ years	24,355	2,746,395
Percent of total population	71.5	73.7

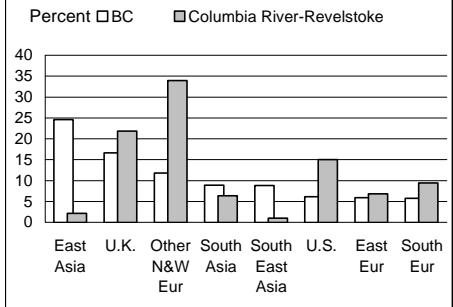
Population by Age Group



Immigrant Population

Columbia River-Revelstoke		BC
Non-Immigrants	29,620	2,756,530
% born in BC	58.0	63.2
% born other provinces	42.1	36.8
Immigrants	3,460	903,190
% of population	10.2	24.2

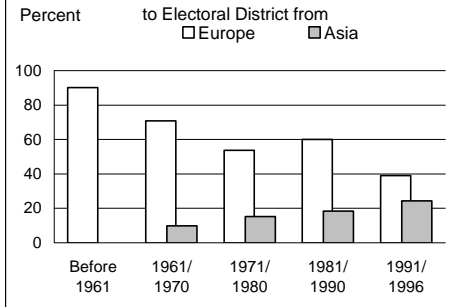
Birthplace of Immigrant Population



Changing Face of Immigrants

Columbia River-Revelstoke		BC
Ever immigrants	3,460	903,190
% born in Europe	71.0	40.1
% born in Asia	9.1	44.4
Immigrants since 1981	530	402,475
% born in Europe	51.9	16.0
% born in Asia	20.8	69.8

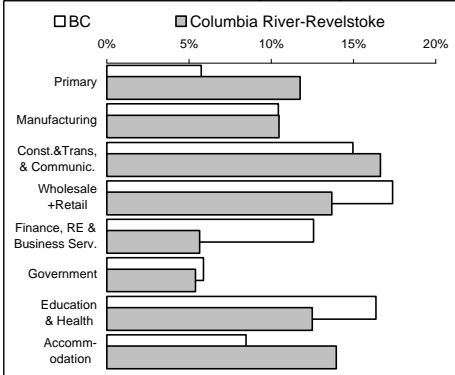
Percent of Immigrants from Europe and Asia



Experienced Labour Force

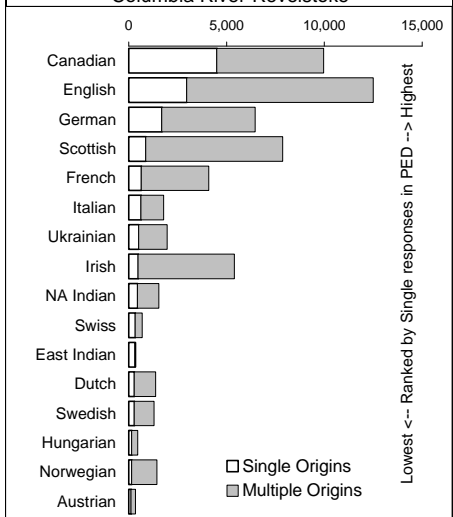
Columbia River-Revelstoke		BC
Population 15+ years	26,550	2,954,705
Labour force	18,440	1,960,665
Participation rate	69.5	66.4
Unemployment rate	13.1	9.6
Males	13.9	9.8
Females	11.7	9.2

Labour Force by Industry



Ethnicity

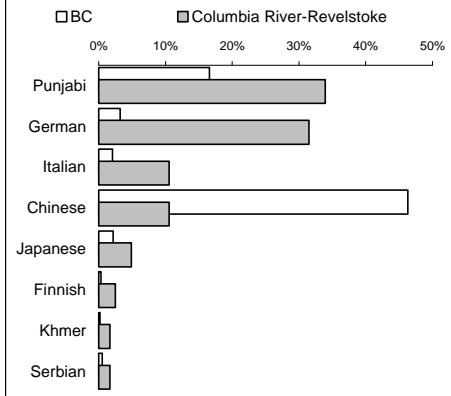
Single and Multiple Ethnic Origins in Columbia River-Revelstoke



Home Language

Columbia River-Revelstoke		BC
% reporting home language . . .		
Single response (one language)	99.4	98.0
English	97.4	85.4
Non-official (see chart)	1.4	12.1
Multiple response	0.6	2.0

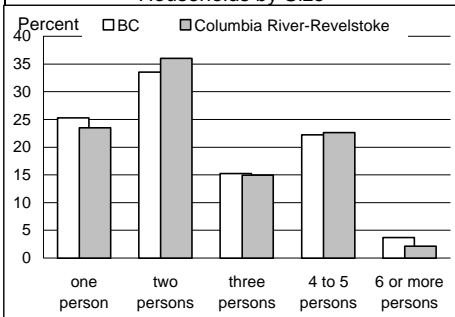
Single Non-official Home Language (Distribution)



Private Households

Columbia River-Revelstoke		BC
Total private households	13,265	1,424,635
% single person h'seholds	23.5	25.3
Total families	9,605	1,008,440
% with children	58.6	60.8
% lone parent family	11.2	13.8

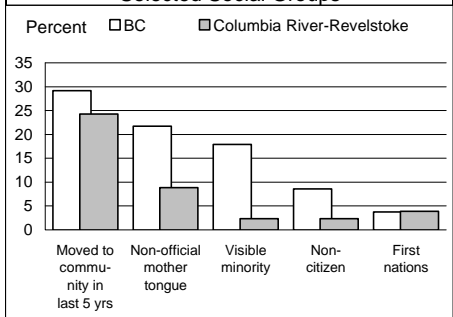
Households by Size



Education & Social Groups

Columbia River-Revelstoke		BC
% of population 15+ yrs having attained . . .		
Less than high school grad.	36.4	31.1
High school graduation	13.1	12.9
Trade certificate	4.3	3.5
Some university	8.9	11.9
University degree	8.0	13.6

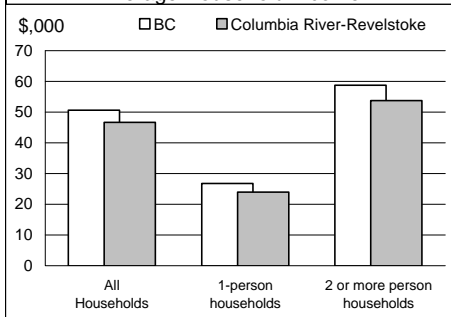
Selected Social Groups



Income

Columbia River-Revelstoke		BC
Average Total Income		
All 15 yrs+ with income	\$24,859	\$26,295
Males	\$32,131	\$32,457
Females	\$16,921	\$20,028
Avg. Employment Income	\$24,619	\$27,480

Average Household Income



This report is derived by summing data for Federal Electoral District enumeration areas (FED EAs) that constitute the Provincial Electoral District (PED). EAs crossing PED boundaries are allocated to only one PED. Since data for a number of FED EAs

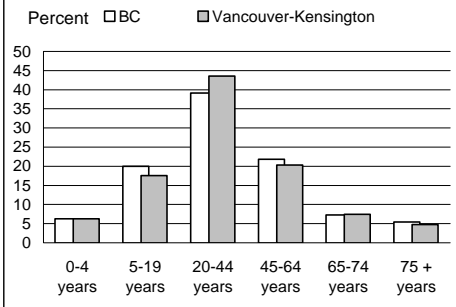
is suppressed and data for all others is randomly rounded to preserve privacy of individuals, the sum of data for all PEDs will not total to BC figures here that have been rounded after first aggregating unsuppressed and unrounded FED EA data.

1996 Census Profile
Vancouver-Kensington
 Provincial Electoral District

Population by Age Group

	Vancouver-Kensington	BC
Total population		
(as of May 14, 1996)	52,316	3,724,500
Percent of BC	1.4	100.0
Aged 20+ years	39,785	2,746,395
Percent of total population	76.0	73.7

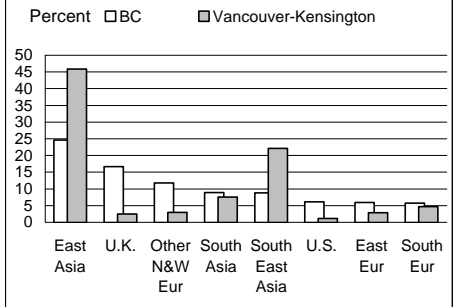
Population by Age Group



Immigrant Population

	Vancouver-Kensington	BC
Non-Immigrants	21,830	2,756,530
% born in BC	73.2	63.2
% born other provinces	26.6	36.8
Immigrants	29,580	903,190
% of population	56.5	24.2

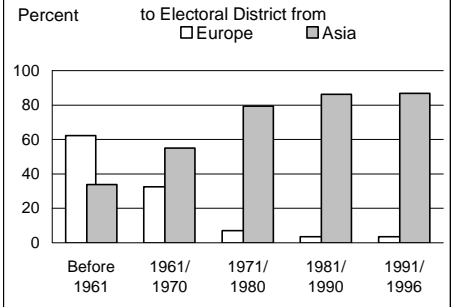
Birthplace of Immigrant Population



Changing Face of Immigrants

	Vancouver-Kensington	BC
Ever immigrants	29,580	903,190
% born in Europe	13.3	40.1
% born in Asia	76.5	44.4
Immigrants since 1981	16,270	402,475
% born in Europe	3.5	16.0
% born in Asia	86.4	69.8

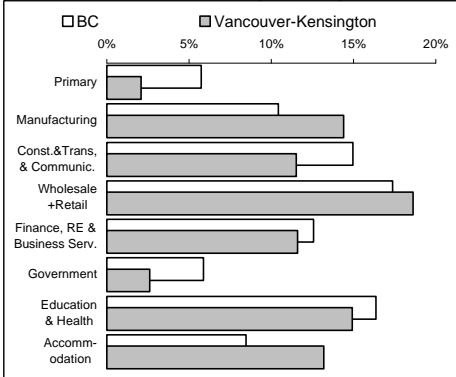
Percent of Immigrants from Europe and Asia



Experienced Labour Force

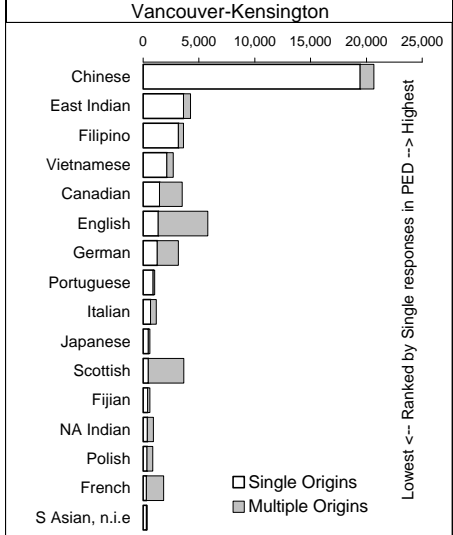
	Vancouver-Kensington	BC
Population 15+ years	42,615	2,954,705
Labour force	26,865	1,960,665
Participation rate	63.0	66.4
Unemployment rate	11.2	9.6
Males	11.8	9.8
Females	10.2	9.2

Labour Force by Industry



Ethnicity

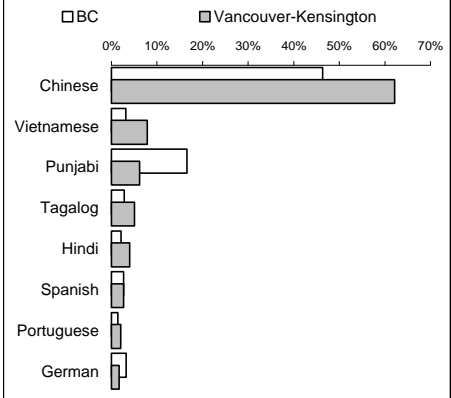
Single and Multiple Ethnic Origins in Vancouver-Kensington



Home Language

	Vancouver-Kensington	BC
% reporting home language . . .		
Single response (one language)	94.2	98.0
English	47.9	85.4
Non-official (see chart)	46.0	12.1
Multiple response	5.7	2.0

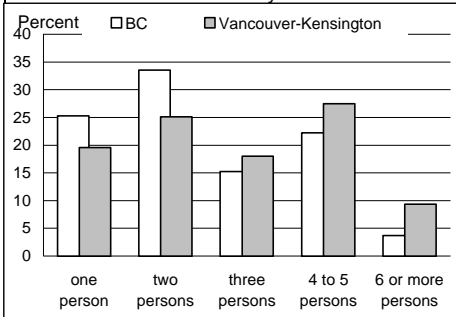
Single Non-official Home Language (Distribution)



Private Households

	Vancouver-Kensington	BC
Total private households	16,880	1,424,635
% single person h'seholds	19.6	25.3
Total families	13,350	1,008,440
% with children	72.1	60.8
% lone parent family	18.3	13.8

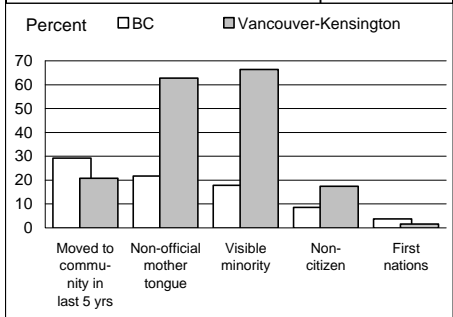
Households by Size



Education & Social Groups

	Vancouver-Kensington	BC
% of population 15+ yrs having attained . . .		
Less than high school grad.	39.6	31.1
High school graduation	12.9	12.9
Trade certificate	1.9	3.5
Some university	11.6	11.9
University degree	12.6	13.6

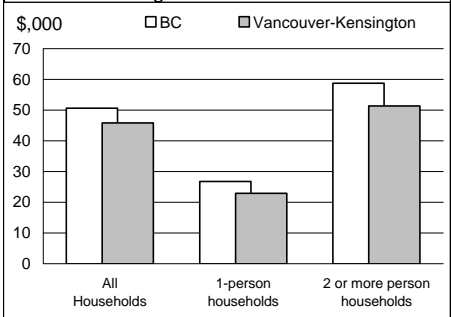
Selected Social Groups



Income

	Vancouver-Kensington	BC
Average Total Income		
All 15 yrs+ with income	\$19,621	\$26,295
Males	\$21,875	\$32,457
Females	\$17,404	\$20,028
Avg. Employment Income	\$21,456	\$27,480

Average Household Income



This report is derived by summing data for Federal Electoral District enumeration areas (FED EAs) that constitute the Provincial Electoral District (PED). EAs crossing PED boundaries are allocated to only one PED. Since data for a number of FED EAs is suppressed and data for all others is randomly rounded to preserve privacy of individuals, the sum of data for all PEDs will not total to BC figures here that have been rounded after first aggregating unsuppressed and unrounded FED EA data.

 fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

 also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .		
POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago
	Jan 1/00	
BC	4,043.7	0.9
Canada	30,606.7	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago
(BC - at market prices)	1998	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	110,948	-0.2
GDP (\$ 1992 millions)	99,708	0.2
GDP (\$ 1992 per Capita)	24,908	-0.8
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1992 per Capita)	15,969	-1.6
TRADE (\$ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Feb	3,339	14.0
Merchandise Exports (raw) Feb	2,397	13.6
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Feb	2,900	5.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago
(all items - 1992=100)	Mar '00	
BC	112.3	1.8
Canada	112.8	3.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on one year ago
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr '00	
Labour Force - BC	2,081	-0.1
Employed - BC	1,938	2.0
Unemployed - BC	143	-21.9
		Apr '99
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	6.9	8.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	6.8	8.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 3/00	May 5/99
Prime Business Rate	7.00	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.90	6.30
- 5 year	8.55	6.95
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 3/00	May 5/99
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$	1.4920	1.4560
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)	0.6697	0.6894
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr '00	
BC	635.93	3.4
Canada	612.24	3.4
SOURCES:		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate	} Statistics	
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics	} Canada	
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm		

Electoral District Profiles

BC STATS has just published a detailed review of the Provincial Electoral Districts (PED) that will be contested for the first time in the next general election. The new PEDs are the result of a rebalancing of the districts, proposed by the *Electoral Boundaries Commission* in June of 1999, and subsequently adopted by the Legislature. Four new ridings were added to bring the total to 79.

Provincial Electoral District Profiles, March 2000, organises the results of the 1996 Census within the new provincial ridings. A graphic profile page for each PED compares various census characteristics between the riding and the province. Sixty-two data tables reveal how groups of characteristics compare across all the ridings. Notes, maps, a glossary and an index help to make the information accessible. The spiral-bound and tab divided printed edition is a handy reference document that may easily be slipped into a briefcase.

The entire publication, including additional tables not published in the book, may be found on our Internet site. See the first item under **Popular Topics** on the left side of our home page. Users require Acrobat to view and print the charts. The tabular data is available in CSV format for downloading.

Printed copies are \$60, plus tax.

Contact Kris Ovens (250) 387-0359

Released this week by BC STATS

- No subscription releases

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, April 2000
- Tourism Sector Monitor, April 2000 replaces Tourism Room Revenue