BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Population

- **During the second quarter of 2000, BC gained 4,632 people as a result of net migration from all sources.** This compares to an increase of 5,777 in the second quarter of last year. Net migration from other countries totalled 8,109 people in the second quarter, nearly a fifth (-19.0%) less than in the same period last year.

  There was a net outflow of 3,477 people from BC to the rest of Canada in the second quarter. British Columbia's net loss to other provinces in the second quarter of 1999 was 4,232 people. Alberta (-3,200) and Ontario (-878) were the beneficiaries of the outflow. BC drew more people from the rest of Canada than it lost. Manitoba (+205) and Quebec (+156) were the biggest donors. *Source: BC STATS*

- **British Columbia's population stood at 4.06 million on July 1st, up from 4.03 million a year earlier.** This marked the fourth straight quarter in which the province's year-over-year population increase has been 0.9%. BC's population growth remained just over the national average (+0.8%), but continued to trail behind Alberta and Ontario, where the population grew 1.3% during this period. Alberta's population is now nudging the 3-million mark and will likely surpass that number during the third quarter. *Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products fell sharply (-5.1%, seasonally adjusted) between June and July.** US-bound shipments slipped 4.6%, while shipments destined for overseas customers dropped (-5.9%) for the fourth time in six months. Total forest product exports were down 3.0%, largely due to a decline in the value of wood products exported from BC. However, the forest sector fared better than other exporters in the province. International shipments of mineral products fell sharply (-14.6%) in July. Agriculture and fish (-7.7%) and other manufactured goods (-4.8%) exports were also weaker than in June. *Source: BC STATS*

- **Canadian exports were also down in July, falling 2.9% (seasonally adjusted).** The value of shipments to the US dropped 2.3%, while exports to other countries decreased 6.8%. Nationally, forest product exports were flat (-0.0%) in July. The downturn in exports was due to a month-to-month decline in the value of energy (-7.3%), machinery and equipment (-6.3%) and automotive product (-4.5%) exports. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Multifactor Productivity

- **Multifactor productivity in Canada's business (for-profit) sector increased 1.5% in 1999.** This was up sharply from 1998's anemic gain of 0.1%, but fell short of the 2.8% increase seen in 1997. The growth was largely driven by the goods sector, where productivity rose 2.7%. It increased a more modest 0.8% in the service sector.

  Over the longer term, productivity grew at an average annual rate of 0.7% between 1988 (the last peak in the business cycle) and 1999. Goods-producing industries (+1.2%) accounted for most of the increase. Multifactor productivity in the service sector rose only marginally (+0.2%) during this period. Multifactor productivity is a measure of the productive efficiency of both labour and capital. It measures the portion of total economic growth that can be explained by factors such as advances in technology and efficiencies in organizational structure rather than simple increases in the amount of labour and capital used in production. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Report **Sport fishing in British Columbia**

Did you know...
Four out of every ten British Columbians who were in common-law unions in 1996 had previously been married. Thirty-seven percent were separated or divorced, while 3% had been widowed.

Organic Farming

- **An estimated 640 fruit and vegetable farms–about 5% of commercial fruit and vegetable farms in Canada–consider themselves to be organic producers.** These farms are typically quite small (less than 5 acres in size), and account for less than 2% of the commercial fruit and vegetable area under cultivation in Canada.

  British Columbia leads the nation in this type of farming. Nearly half (48%) of the organic fruit farms, and a third of the vegetable producers in Canada are located in this province. They account for about a third of the total acreage in Canada that is devoted to organic farming. A significant percentage of the acreage devoted to shallot (37%), spinach (20%), leek (20%) and radish (16%) production in the province is organic. Ontario and Quebec are the other provinces where organic farming is prevalent. Most of the remaining organic farmers are blueberry growers located in Atlantic Canada. *Source: SC, Catalogue 21-004-XIE*

Divorces

- **During 1998, there were 9,827 marriages that were ended by divorce in BC.** The number of divorces granted in BC was up slightly (+1.4%) from the previous year. Nationally, the number of divorces increased 2.5% (to 69,088) in 1998, rising for the first time since 1994. Divorces were up in all but three provinces: Manitoba (-6.9%), Quebec (-3.2%) and Nova Scotia (-2.5%).
  Source: SC, The Daily

- **BC's crude divorce rate (number of divorces per 100,000 population) edged down from 250 to 248 between 1997 and 1998, but was the second highest in the country.** Alberta, where the ratio jumped from 258 to 270, had the highest divorce rate in the country.

  Canada's divorce rate moved up slightly, increasing from 227 to 230 between 1997 and 1998. Rates in other provinces ranged from a low of 170 in Newfoundland to 232 in Quebec. In the north, Yukon (363) and NWT (137) were at opposite ends of the spectrum. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Comparing the number of divorces to the population is at best a crude measure, because the incidence of divorce depends on how many marriages occur in the first place.** Different social mores in the various regions become evident when the number of divorces occurring in a province is compared to the number of marriages. There are some striking differences among the regions. Marriage is less common in Quebec than in other parts of the country. One in four husband-wife families in that province were in a common-law union when the last Census was taken in 1996. This was more than double the rate in the other provinces, which varied between 9% and 12% of husband-wife couples.

  Quebec's marriage rate has been well below the national average during the last two decades. Couples who do tie the knot in Quebec seem more likely than other Canadians to end up dissolving their marriage. There were 730 divorces granted in Quebec for every 1,000 marriages solemnized in that province in 1997, the last year for which marriage statistics are available. This was more than double the rate in most provinces. Yukon (605) and BC (444) had the second- and third-highest rates in the country. In the rest of the country, the rate ranged from a low of 255 in Newfoundland to 419 in Manitoba. The national average was 440. Generally speaking, people who live in Atlantic Canada and Ontario are more likely than other Canadians to be entering a marriage rather than ending it.
  Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS

The Nation

- **Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) increased 0.3% (seasonally adjusted) between June and July, continuing a pattern of more modest growth after seesawing during the first half of the year.** The increase was localized in the service sector, where GDP was up 0.4%. Except for manufacturing (+0.4%) and construction (+0.7%), most of the goods industries faltered in July, and overall output in the goods sector was unchanged from the previous month.
  Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

Sport fishing in British Columbia

Contact: Lillian Hallin / (250) 387-0366

Originally published in August 2000 issue, *Business Indicators.* Annual subscription: $60 + GST

This article is the second in a series of excerpts from a BC STATS report on the province's fisheries and aquaculture sector, published earlier this year. It is available through the New Releases section of the BC STATS website at http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca.

One of the main goals of the study was to derive estimates of GDP and employment for the sport fishing industry that would be compatible with those for other industries within the sector, and comparable to data for other parts of the economy. The data presented in this paper were developed using methods similar to those used in other sectoral studies done by BC STATS (e.g., for the tourism and high-tech sectors). More information on the methodology used to derive the sport fishing estimates can be found in the original document.

Sport fishing defined

Unlike the commercial fishery, aquaculture, and fish processing, sport fishing is not a standard industry for which there is a widely accepted definition. Statistics Canada does not include "sport fishing" as one of the industries in the Standard Industrial Classification; instead, sport fishing activities are imbedded in the data for a number of other service-sector industries. This means that there have been no readily available and consistent measures of the economic impact that the industry has on the economy.

This is not a problem unique to the sport fishery. The economy is constantly evolving, and new types of activities are gaining importance as consumer tastes and preferences change. Some activities previously not considered important or large enough to merit their own grouping are now emerging as important drivers in the new economy (tourism and high technology are two examples). It therefore has become necessary to disentangle the information related to these sectors from the various industries in which they have been imbedded.

The methods developed to measure the size of the high technology and tourism sectors helped form the framework within which the sport fishing industry was defined. In fact, BC Stats drew heavily on its earlier work when addressing this issue.

Sport fishing was defined to comprise all *sport-fishing related*[1] activities of establishments that sell directly to anglers, including:

- Angling guides and charter operators;
- Resorts and fish camps;
- Boat rentals and marinas;
- Retail outlets selling directly to sport fishers (e.g., fish and tackle shops, sporting goods stores, boat and outboard motor retailers, and so on);
- Air, rail, water and other transportation industries which transport sport fishermen travelling to and from BC and within the province;
- Hotels, motels, campgrounds, and other accommodation providers; and
- Restaurants, bars, and other food and beverage establishments.

In addition, some of the output associated with the non-fishing activities (for example, visits to tourist attractions) of recreational anglers who are also tourists in the province, was attributed to the sport fishing industry.

[1] Only some of the activities of these industries were assigned to sport fishing. For example, while a significant portion of the clientele at resorts or sporting goods stores could be sport fishers, revenues from other clients might be equally, or even more, important. For these industries, a sport fishing component was determined, and used to allocate a percentage of their economic activities to sport fishing.

The relationship between tourism and sport fishing

Some, but not all, of the GDP, employment and revenue in the sport fishing industry is also part of the province's tourism sector.

Many recreational anglers are also tourists– people who travel a distance of 80 kilometres or more from their usual place of residence in order to participate in this activity.

At the same time, many anglers who live on the coast of BC or near inland waters would not be considered tourists because they can participate in their sport without travelling that far.

For this reason, a significant percentage of the GDP, employment and revenue data reported for sport fishing sector is also reported as part of the tourism sector. ***Users of tourism and sport fishing estimates should be aware of this overlap.***

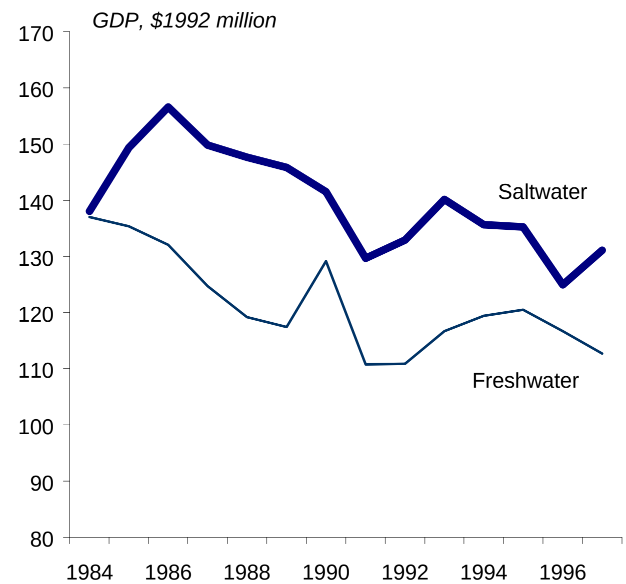
The same principles apply to the treatment of tourism data, which is calculated by allocating a share of the activities of selected service industries to the tourism sector.

Sport fishing contributed $244 million to BC's total GDP in 1997

GDP in the sport fishing industry was estimated at $244 million (constant 1992 dollars) in 1997[2]. In comparison, all tourism activities (including those related to sport fishing) in the province generated a total GDP of $4.1 billion in 1997.

The sport fishing industry's GDP increased marginally (+0.9%) between 1996 and 1997, largely due to an improvement in the saltwater component (+4.9%) of the industry, which accounts for a little more than half (54%) of the industry's total GDP. Freshwater fishing activity was down 3.4% during this period.

Both the saltwater and freshwater components of the industry have declined since 1984



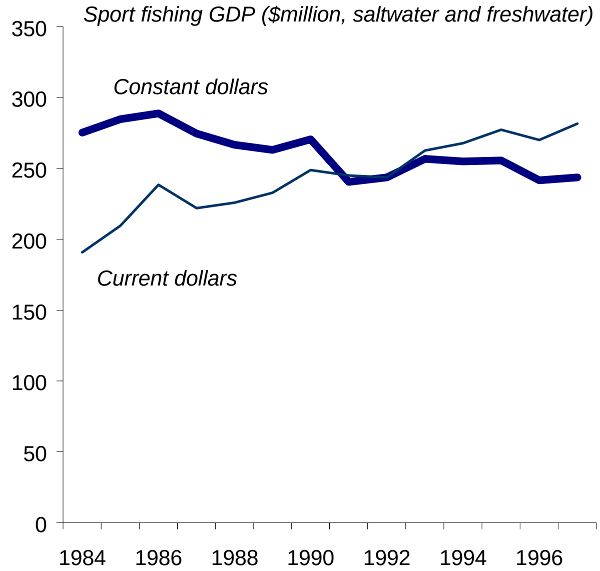
Over the longer term, GDP in the sport fishing industry has been trending down, falling 11.4% during the period from 1984 to 1997. Both the saltwater (-5.1%) and freshwater (-17.7%) components of the industry have shrunk. The tourism sector as a whole has fared better, with GDP rising by a third (+32.9%) during this period. Tourism has posted steady gains in almost every year since 1984.

The sport fishing industry's long run decline reflects many factors. Among these are fewer anglers (as reflected in the number of both saltwater and freshwater licences sold in the province), and weak performances by some of the main industries providing services to anglers. (GDP for the sport fishing industry is calculated by allocating a percentage of the output of various industries to sport fishing.) For example, air transportation, one of the industries for which there is an angling-related component, has not fared well, in real terms, during the last fifteen years. In addition, while large hotels have done quite well during the last fifteen years, smaller accommodation properties have seen their output decline, as have marinas–all of which are

[2] *While these estimates are now somewhat dated, BC STATS has begun work on a project to update the information presented to cover the period up to 1999. It is slated for release early next year.*

important components of the sport fishing industry.

Real GDP in the industry has declined slightly since 1984 even though the current dollar figures show fairly steady growth over the long term



The sharper decline in the freshwater sector of this industry is the result of differences in the pattern of expenditures made by freshwater and saltwater anglers. For example, over time, transportation costs have represented a growing share of expenditures made by freshwater anglers, but a declining share of spending by saltwater anglers. The downturn in the air transportation industry has therefore had a significant (and growing) effect on the freshwater estimates as transportation costs have represented a growing share of total spending. The opposite is true in the case of saltwater angling. Spending on transportation has not increased as much as other expenditures made by saltwater anglers.

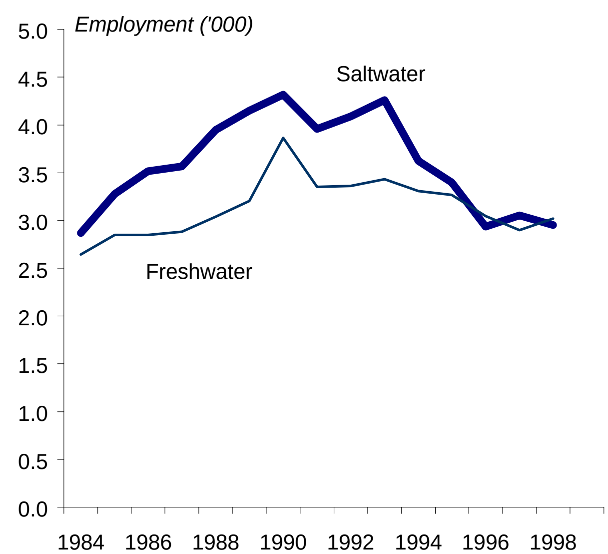
It is important to keep in mind that the GDP figures presented here are in constant 1992 dollars, which means that they have been restated to remove the effects of inflation. Price increases have, to a certain extent, masked the lack of growth in the industry since 1984, as revenues have continued to rise, reflecting price rather than volume effects. This has translated into an increase in current dollar GDP even though the constant dollar estimates, which measure the level of activity in the industry, show a modest decline over the longer term.

6,000 British Columbians are employed as a result of sport fishing activities

Sport fishing generated employment for 6,000 British Columbians in 1998, making the industry the biggest employer in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The number of jobs all four components of the fisheries and aquaculture sector (commercial fishery, aquaculture, processing and sport fishery) was 12,800 in that year. These figures include both full-time and part-time workers.

Within the sport-fishing industry, the largest employers were accommodation, food and beverage and transportation providers, and fishing guides, which together accounted for nearly 4,000 jobs. Recreational vehicle dealers (including those selling boats) and gas stations employed almost 1,000 people whose jobs were supported by angling. Various other services accounted for the remaining jobs in the industry.

Saltwater and freshwater angling generate roughly equal numbers of jobs

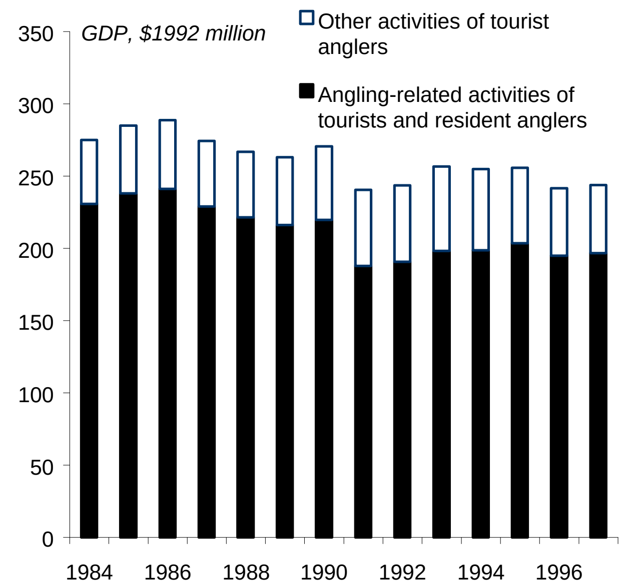


Saltwater and freshwater angling generated employment for roughly equal numbers of British Columbians (about 3,000 each) in 1998. Historically, saltwater angling was the biggest source of jobs in the sport fishing industry, but uncertainty about salmon angling opportunities in particular, and reduced activity in the industry during recent years has taken its toll. The number of saltwater jobs has declined by 1,300 since 1993. Freshwater angling activities have also tapered off slightly, with a job loss estimated at about 400 during the same period. Employment in the sport fishing industry now stands at a level that is comparable to the mid-1980s.

Freshwater and saltwater angling activities put about $99 million into the pockets of BC workers in 1997: $50 million for those employed as a result of saltwater angling activities, and $49 million for workers in the freshwater industry.

Revenue arising from angling activities in the province was estimated at $651 million in 1997, about 30% of the $2.2 billion in total earnings of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Of this total, an estimated $316 million was generated by saltwater angling, while $335 million came from the activities of freshwater anglers.

Not surprisingly, angling-related activities account for most of the sport fishing industry's GDP



Almost all of the GDP in the sport fishing industry is attributable to angling activities. In addition, angler participation in other tourist-related activities such as shopping or visits to attractions generated nearly $50 million of total value added in 1997. About a fifth of total GDP in this industry is related to these "peripheral" activities.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/00	% change on one year ago
BC	4,063.8	0.9
Canada	30,750.1	0.8
GDP and INCOME		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	1998	one year ago
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.) Jul	3,107	-0.3
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jul	2,662	5.0
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jul	2,967,470	5.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on
(all items - 1992=100)	Aug '00	one year ago
BC	114.1	2.1
Canada	113.9	2.5
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug '00	one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,110	0.9
Employed - BC	1,944	2.0
Unemployed - BC	166	-10.3
		Aug '99
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.9	8.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.1	7.7
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Sept 27/00	Sept 29/99
Prime Business Rate	7.50	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.90	6.80
- 5 year	8.25	7.70
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Sept 27/00	Sept 29/99
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4959	1.4637
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6684	0.6825
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug '00	one year ago
BC	642.75	2.0
Canada	619.49	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

Released this week by BC STATS

- Migration Highlights, Second Quarter 2000
- Business Indicators, September 2000
- Current Statistics, September 2000
- Immigration Highlights, Second Quarter 2000

Next week

- No subscription releases