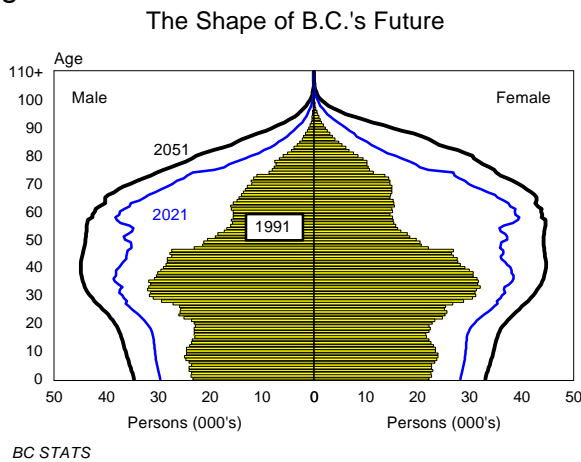


Feature Article: Migration and Population Aging

While the population of this province is growing larger, it is also aging. In a demographic sense, aging means that higher proportions of the future population will be in the older age groups. This aging of the population is caused by a long-term historical decline in the fertility of the population. The rapid increase in the birth rate that occurred between 1947 and 1966, commonly referred to as the baby-boom, helped delay the onset of the full effect of this aging of the population. As members of the baby-boom generation begin to reach age 65 by 2011, the aging process will accelerate. As seen in Figure 1, in the 15 to 20 years following that date the number and proportion of seniors will increase dramatically.

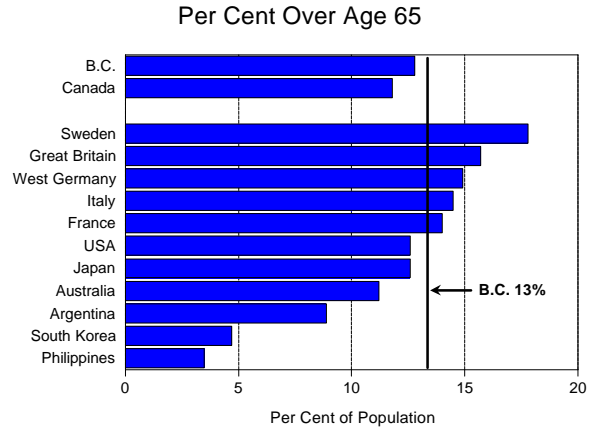
Figure 1



British Columbia is not unique in this demographic trend. Figure 1 depicts the shape of the demographic future for the rest of Canada as well as for many western countries, including the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Currently, the proportion of the provincial population that is over the age of 65 is slightly higher than that of the rest of Canada, but less than that of

Great Britain, France, West Germany, Sweden and Italy.

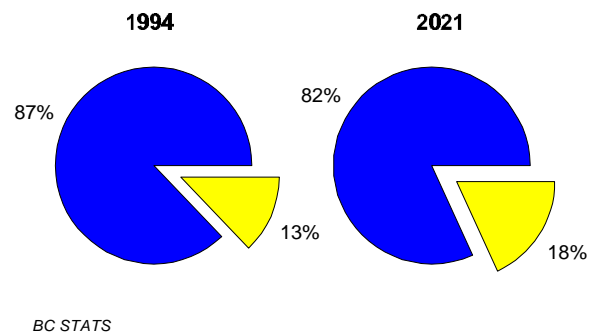
Figure 2



At present, approximately 13 per cent of the population of British Columbia is over the age of 65. This proportion will increase to 18 per cent by the year 2021, and finally stabilize at approximately 23 per cent by 2036.

Figure 3

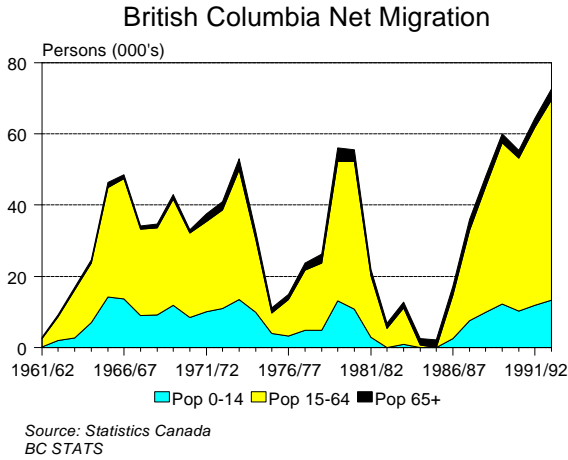
B.C. Population 65+ as a Per Cent of Total



One of the factors that helps slow this aging process is the migration of people to the province. On average, more people under the age of 65 move to this province than people over 65.

Feature Article: Migration and Population Aging

Figure 4



Since 1961, only seven per cent of the net movement of people into British Columbia was of persons over the age of 65. Hence, during times of high net inflows of population, as is the case currently, population aging is slowed. However, during times of net outflows of population, population aging is accelerated. In the absence of migration, the proportion of the

population over the age of 65 would reach 22 per cent by the year 2021 and stabilize at about 28 per cent by 2031.

Figure 5

