

Feature Article: Regional Interprovincial Migration

Summary

Interprovincial migration has a strong impact on population change in many parts of the province. In addition to affecting the total population, the age of the migrants also has an influence on the facilities and services that will be required.

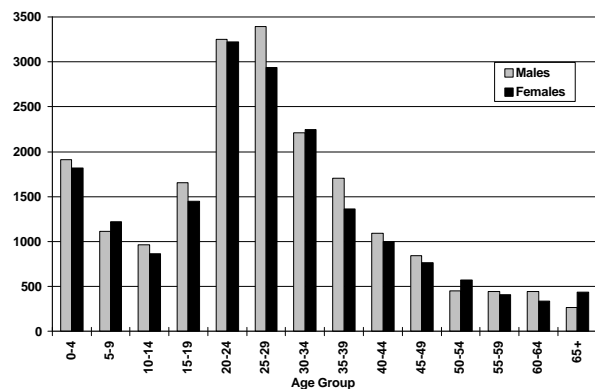
Unlike international migration, which mainly affects the lower mainland, interprovincial migration has a more widespread impact across the province. Although the Greater Vancouver Regional District accounts for 87% of net international migration, its share (46%) of interprovincial migration is much smaller, and other parts of the province, in particular Vancouver Island and the Okanagan, play a bigger role.

The following table shows the top ten regional districts in terms of net interprovincial migration. Together they accounted for 86% of the provincial total of 38,385 people in the period from July 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993. The population of Greater Vancouver increased by 17,700, the Capital by 3,800 and the Central Okanagan by

3,200, as a result of migrants from other provinces.

Interprovincial migration occurs most frequently among those in their twenties. Almost 35% of population gain as a result of net interprovincial migration is between the ages of 20 and 29. Persons in this age group tend to have fewer commitments, both in terms of family and assets, than those in the older age groups, resulting in relatively lower social and economic costs from migration. As seen in the following chart, there are also slight differences between males and females in the most frequent age groups for interprovincial migration. For those in their twenties, females tend to be slightly younger on average. This may be due to the fact that, among migrating married couples, the husband tends to be slightly older on average.

Interprovincial migration is greatest for those in their twenties



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In addition to those in their twenties, net interprovincial migration was also strong among the 30 to 34 age group and the 0 to 4 age group, who would mostly be children

Interprovincial Migration by Regional District, 1992-93

Regional District	Net Migration	Percent of Total Migration		
		Net	In	Out
Greater Vancouver	17,708	46.1	41.6	36.8
Capital	3,794	9.9	11.4	13.1
Central Okanagan	3,191	8.3	6.8	5.1
Nanaimo	1,923	5.0	4.0	2.9
Okanagan Similkameen	1,202	3.1	2.7	2.1
Comox-Strathcona	1,178	3.1	3.3	3.6
Central Fraser Valley	1,165	3.0	2.7	2.4
Central Kootenay	983	2.6	2.1	1.5
Thompson-Nicola	960	2.5	2.8	3.1
North Okanagan	955	2.5	2.3	2.2
Sub-total	33,059	86.1	79.7	72.8
Rest of the Province	5,326	13.9	20.3	27.2
Total	38,385	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Revenue Canada income tax file

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with parents in their late twenties and early thirties.

Although the proportion of interprovincial migration attributable to seniors is relatively small, it is fairly constant over time and less likely to be affected by the relative economic conditions in different provinces. Only 1.8% of net interprovincial migration to the province was in the group aged 65 and over. According to the General Social Survey¹ conducted by Statistics Canada in 1990, the main reason for seniors to make a long distance move (more than 1,000 km) is to be closer to family. Those in the pre-retirement age group (55 to 64 years) also make long distance moves to be closer to family, while those under 55 are more likely to move for economic reasons relating to the work situation of one of the family members.

At the regional level, Greater Vancouver, Capital and Central Fraser Valley have the highest proportion of interprovincial migrants in the 20 to 24 age group, among the ten regions that receive the bulk of the migrants. In Greater Vancouver almost 20% of the net interprovincial migration was in this age group and in Capital almost 17%. The other seven regions have their highest concentration of migrants in the 25 to 29 age group. With the exception of Greater Vancouver and Capital, the other eight regions have more than 10% of their net gain from other provinces under the age of five.

¹ Che-Alford, Janet, *Residential Mobility of Canadians*, Statistics Canada, 1990.