

Current Statistics ♦ November 1999

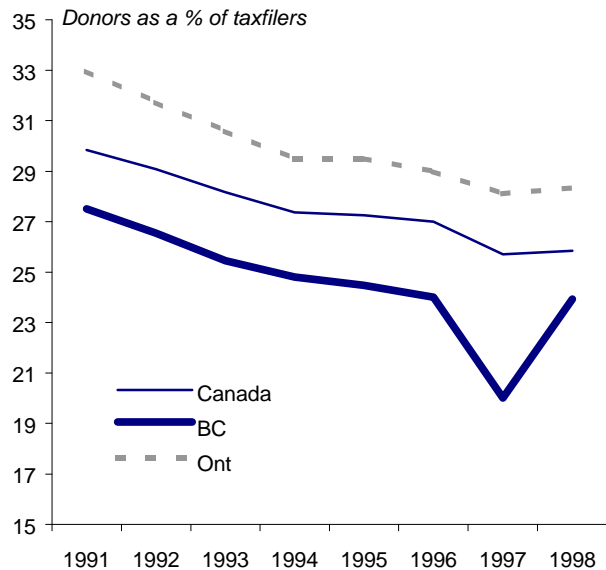
- **A total of 10,055 immigrants landed in BC during the three-month period ending in September, 5.4% more than in the same period last year.** Almost a fifth (19%) of the immigrants coming to Canada were headed for BC. The province was the second-most popular destination for new immigrants in the country, after Ontario, the intended destination of more than half (56%) of the immigrants

Source: BC STATS

- **Vancouver continued to be the main draw for immigrants coming to BC.** Eight in ten (7,919) of the 10,055 immigrants who landed in BC during the third quarter intended to settle in the lower mainland area. For immigrants from Mainland China, Taiwan and South America, the percentage was even higher, at about 90%. Most (69%) of the people coming to the province were economic immigrants (independent immigrants, entrepreneurs, investors, or self-employed). Of the remaining 31%, the majority (25%) came to Canada as part of the family reunification program, while 6% were refugees. BC received proportionally fewer refugees than other parts of the country. Eleven percent of all immigrants to Canada in the third quarter were refugees. *Source: BC STATS*

- **Just under a quarter (640,500) of the 2.7 million people in British Columbia who filed income tax returns in 1998 reported that they had made charitable contributions.** Half of them had donated less than \$200, while the other half indicated contributions in excess of this amount. The median donation for all Canadians was \$170. Among the regions, median donations were highest in PEI (\$280) and lowest in Quebec (\$100). During the 1990s, Quebecers have consistently been at the low end of the scale, while median contributions made by residents of Newfoundland and PEI have been the highest in the country. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Relatively fewer taxfilers are reporting charitable donations on their tax returns



- **As a percent of all taxfilers, the number of people reporting charitable contributions on their tax returns is declining.** At the beginning of the decade, nearly 28% of British Columbians reported some donations on their tax forms. By 1997, the share had fallen to 20%, giving BC one of the lowest participation rates in the country. Last year, more residents of the province loosened their purse strings, with 24% reporting that they had made a donation to a charity.

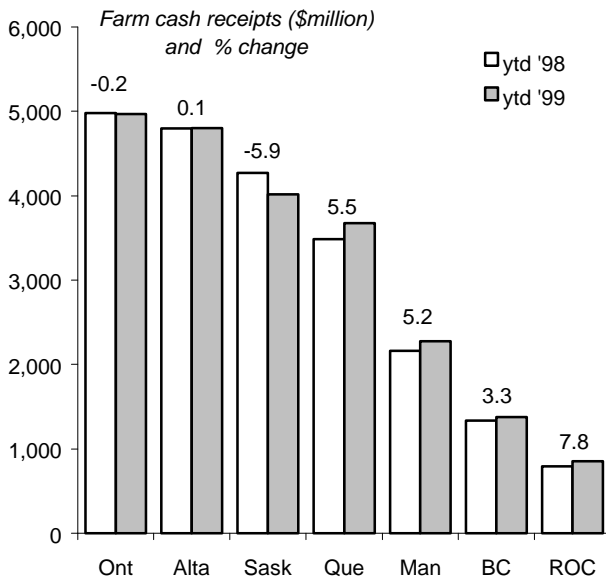
Despite a participation rate that has been consistently below the national average (which was 26% in 1998), those British Columbians who made contributions to charities were more generous than the typical Canadian. The average donation in BC was \$1,057, more than in any other province except Alberta (\$1,062). The Canadian average was \$860, and in other regions, average donations ranged from \$424 in Quebec to \$1,010 in Ontario.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Thirty-nine percent (1.1 million) of British Columbia taxfilers reported interest or dividend income on their tax returns in 1998.** This was more than in any other province except Saskatchewan (where 41% of taxfilers had investment income) and Manitoba (also at 39%). The Canadian average was 36%. Nunavut (9%) was the region with the lowest number of taxfilers reporting either interest or dividend income in 1998.

Source: Statistics Canada

BC farm cash receipts rose 3.3% during the first nine months of the year



- **Farm cash receipts in British Columbia reached \$1.4 billion during the first nine months of the year, an increase of 3.3% over the same period of 1998.** This was mainly due to a 7.3% rise in receipts from crop farming operations, which were boosted by higher sales of apples and tree fruits, as well as ongoing gains in the value of berries, grapes, and floriculture and nursery products sold by BC farmers. However, livestock receipts were weak, rising only 0.3% in the first nine months of the year.

BC bucked a national trend that saw farm cash receipts rise 0.7% on the strength of increased livestock revenues (+1.1%) and program payments (+54.5%), which were at a

five-year high. This helped offset a 3.9% drop in crop revenues as sales of wheat fell 10.4%, and other grain and cereal sales plunged between 20 and 30 percent in many cases. Higher receipts from other crops (+8.9%) were not strong enough to offset the collapse in the grain farming sector. Source: Statistics Canada

- **On a seasonally adjusted basis, exports of BC products fell 0.4% between August and September.** September's decline followed a 0.3% drop in the previous month. Shipments to the United States were down for the second month in a row, falling 2.0%. A 5.1% drop in forest product exports was the main reason for the weaker sales to the US. In addition, exports of agriculture and fish products dropped 9.8% after surging ahead 24.1% in the previous month.

While exports to the US slowed down in September, shipments to other countries picked up speed, rising for the fourth time in the last five months. In direct contrast to the situation with US exports, the increase in overseas-destined exports (+3.4%) was largely due to a continued improvement in shipments of forest products (+5.8%). Source: BC STATS

US exports, which have sustained BC's export performance in recent years, fell in September

