



International Migration to British Columbia's Regions

2009

Overview: International Migration to British Columbia's Regions

International migrants to British Columbia's regions arrive as permanent residents (immigrants) or temporary residents (temporary foreign workers, international students, humanitarian cases, and others). Over the past five years, approximately 40,000 new immigrants arrived to B.C. every year. The number of temporary residents in B.C. has increased over the period from 96,000 in 2005 to 142,000 in 2009.

Permanent and temporary residents come to different communities and regions of B.C. bringing their skills, knowledge, business experience, and culture. They settle permanently or temporarily in communities and help to support the local economy and invigorate communities by providing labour, supporting local business and sending their children to local schools.

The first part of this fact sheet describes immigrant arrivals by Development Region. The second part provides descriptions of immigrant characteristics such as age, education, English language ability, and source country by Development Region. Part three includes data on the number of temporary residents by Development Region.

Map of BC Development Regions



Photo: Downtown Prince George, Northern British Columbia
(Credit: JF Bergeron)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Vancouver Island – Coast | 5. Cariboo |
| 2. Mainland – Southwest | 6. North Coast |
| 3. Thompson – Okanagan | 7. Nechako |
| 4. Kootenay | 8. Northeast |

The Development Region of choice is the intended destination of immigrants and temporary residents. Subsequent relocations are not reflected in the data.

Part 1 - B.C. Development Region Immigrant Arrivals 2005-2009

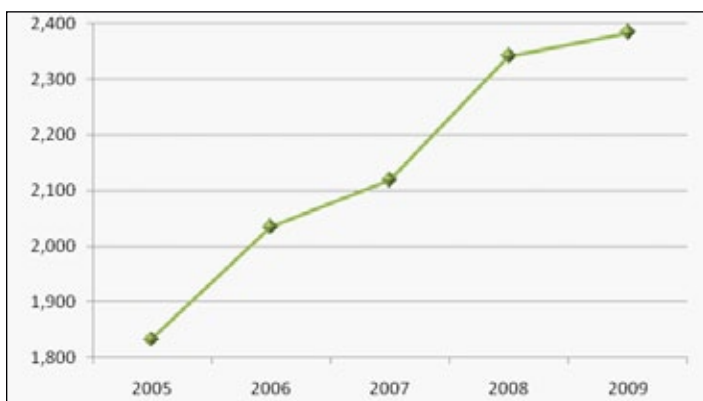
Vancouver Island – Coast



Photo: Pacific Rim National Park, Vancouver Island (Credit: Tourism BC/Tom Ryan)

- 10,712 new immigrants came to the Vancouver Island - Coast Development Region, accounting for 5% of total B.C. immigrant arrivals during this five year period.
- 4% of immigrants to the region were seniors (age 65 and over). It was the second highest percentage among all B.C. Development Regions, following Nechako.
- More than half (52%) of immigrants to the region arrived with university education¹. Tied with Mainland – Southwest, this percentage was the highest among all B.C. Development Regions.
- Over three-quarters (81%) of the immigrants² came to the region with English skills.
- The primary source countries of immigrants to the region were the United States, the United Kingdom and Mainland China.

Chart 1: Immigrants to Vancouver – Island Development Region, 2005-2009



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

¹ Immigrants who come to Canada at age 25 and over

² Immigrants who come to Canada at age 15 and over

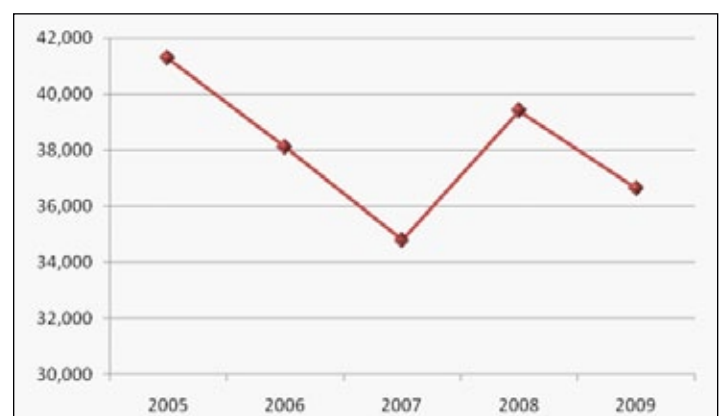
Mainland – Southwest



Photo: English Bay, Vancouver (Credit: Caroline West)

- The Mainland – Southwest Development Region was the initial destination for the majority (90%) of all B.C. immigrants.
- There were 190,208 immigrants who arrived in the region from 2005-2009.
- Similar to all B.C. Development Regions, over 60% of immigrants to Mainland – Southwest were working age adults (age 25-64).
- More than half (52%) of immigrants to the region arrived with university education. Tied with Vancouver Island – Coast, this percentage was the highest among all B.C. Development Regions.
- The region had the lowest proportion (61%) of immigrants who came with English skills.
- The primary source countries of immigrants to the region were Mainland China, India and the Philippines.

Chart 2: Immigrants to Mainland – Southwest Development Region, 2005-2009



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

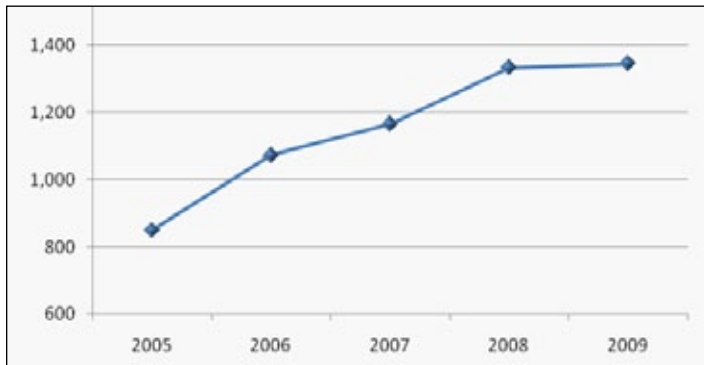
Thompson – Okanagan



Photo: Oliver, Okanagan Valley (Credit: Jochen Manz)

- The Thompson - Okanagan Development Region received 5,765 new immigrants.
- This represented 3% of all B.C. immigrant arrivals over the time period.
- Of all the regions, Thompson - Okanagan had the lowest percentage (37%) arriving with university education and the highest percentage (34%) who came with high school or less.
- Over three quarters (78%) of immigrants arrived in the region with English skills.
- The primary source countries of immigrants to the region were the United Kingdom, India and the United States.

Chart 3: Immigrants to Thompson – Okanagan Development Region, 2005-2009



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

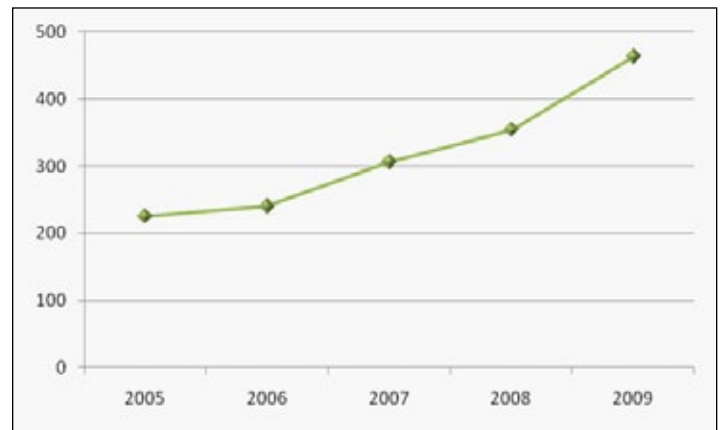
Kootenay



Photo: Fernie, Kootenay (Credit: Tourism BC/David Gluns)

- 1,588 new immigrants came to the Kootenay Development Region, accounting for 1% of total B.C. immigrant arrivals during this five year period.
- The region had the lowest proportion (29%) of child and youth immigrants (age under 25) and the highest proportion (69%) of working adult immigrants (age 25-64) among all B.C. Development Regions.
- Almost three quarters (73%) of immigrants to the region arrived with either a university degree, college certificate/ diploma or trade qualification. This percentage was the second highest after Vancouver Island – Coast.
- The region had the second highest percentage (85%) of immigrants coming with English skills, after Nechako.
- The primary source countries of immigrants to the region were the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

Chart 4: Immigrants to Kootenay Development Region, 2005-2009



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

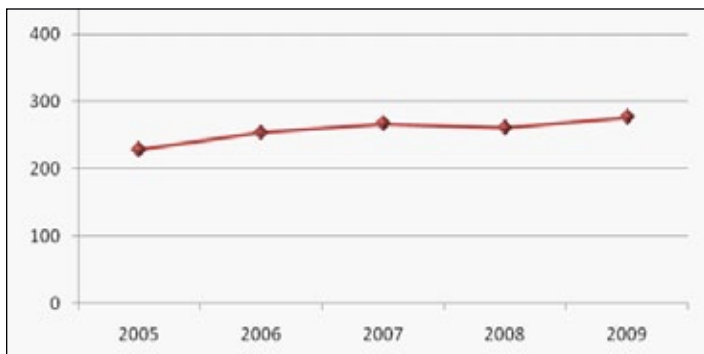
Cariboo



Highway 24, Cariboo Chilcotin Coast (Credit: Tourism BC/Tom Ryan)

- The Cariboo Development Region was the initial destination for 1,288 new immigrants.
- This represented less than 1% of total B.C. immigrants arriving from 2005-2009.
- 65% of immigrants to the region were working age adults (age 25-64).
- 69% of immigrants to the region came with either a university degree, college certificate/diploma or trade qualification.
- More than three-quarters (82%) of immigrants to the region arrived with English skills.
- The primary source countries of immigrants to the region were India, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Chart 5: Immigrants to Cariboo Development Region, 2005-2009



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

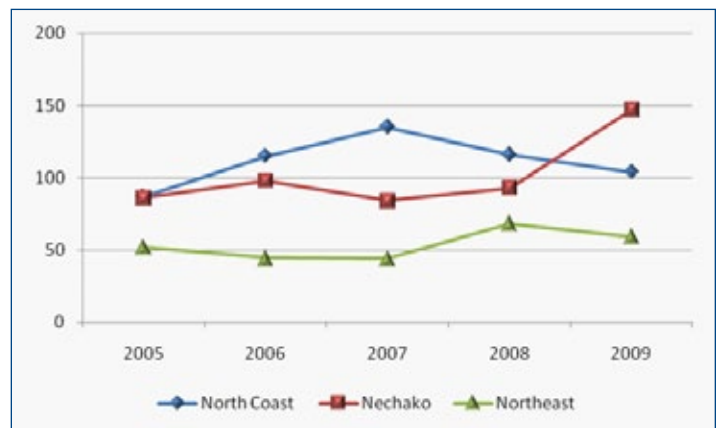
North Coast/ Nechako/Northeast



Photo:Prince Rupert, North Coast (Credit: Sian James)

- The North Coast, Nechako and Northeast Development Regions received 508, 268 and 557 new immigrants, respectively. Together these three regions received less than 1% of all B.C. immigrants arriving over the time period.
- Nechako had the highest proportion (5%) of immigrant seniors and North Coast had the highest proportion (37%) of child and youth immigrants among all B.C. Development Regions.
- Immigrants who arrived with either a university degree, college certificate/ diploma or trade qualification represented about 70% of immigrants to all three regions.
- Nechako had the highest proportion (86%) of immigrants who came with English skills among all B.C. Development Regions. The North Coast and Northeast both had 83%.
- The primary source countries of immigrants to the North Coast region were the United States, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom. For Nechako these were the United States, South Africa and the Philippines. For Northeast these were the Philippines, South Africa and the United States.

Chart 6: Immigrants to North Coast/Nechako/ Northeast Development Region, 2005-2009



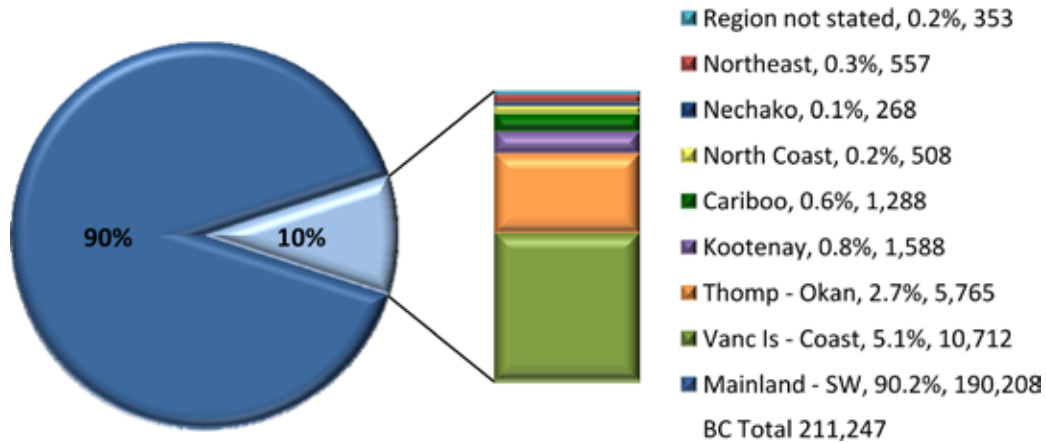
Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Part 2 – Characteristics of Immigrants to B.C. Development Regions 2005-2009

Initial Destination

Of the 200,000 immigrants who came to B.C. in the years 2005 to 2009, most chose Mainland – Southwest as their initial destination. Of the remaining 10% of immigrants, half chose Vancouver Island – Coast and a quarter chose Thompson – Okanagan. Subsequent relocations are not reflected in this data.

Chart 7: Destination Development Region of Immigrants to B.C., 2005-2009



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Change in Number of Arrivals

While there have been approximately 40,000 immigrants to B.C. annually over the past five years, there were fewer immigrant arrivals in 2009 than in 2005. This decline mostly occurred in Mainland – Southwest which has the majority of immigrants. All other Development Regions showed an increase in number of immigrant arrivals from 2005 to 2009, especially Kootenay with an increase of over 100% over this period.

Table 1: Immigrants to B.C. by Development Region, 2005-2009

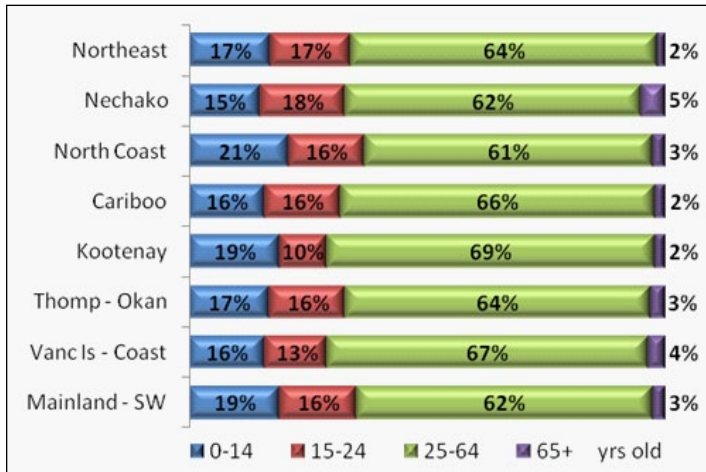
Development Region	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2005-2009 Total	% Change 2005 to 2009
Region not stated	125	121	57	20	30	353	-76%
Northeast	52	45	44	68	59	557	13%
Nechako	86	98	84	93	147	268	71%
North Coast	87	115	135	116	104	508	20%
Cariboo	229	254	267	261	277	1,288	21%
Kootenay	226	240	306	354	462	1,588	104%
Thompson - Okanagan	851	1,073	1,165	1,332	1,344	5,765	58%
Vancouver Island - Coast	1,834	2,035	2,119	2,341	2,383	10,712	30%
Mainland - Southwest	41,280	38,102	34,785	39,407	36,634	190,208	-11%
BC Total	44,770	42,083	38,962	43,992	41,440	211,247	-7%

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Age Group

The North Coast had the highest percentage of child and youth arrivals. Over 60 - 70% of immigrants to all Development Regions were adults. The percentage of senior immigrants was highest to Nechako and Vancouver Island – Coast.

Chart 8: Age Group of Immigrants to B.C. by Development Region, 2005-2009

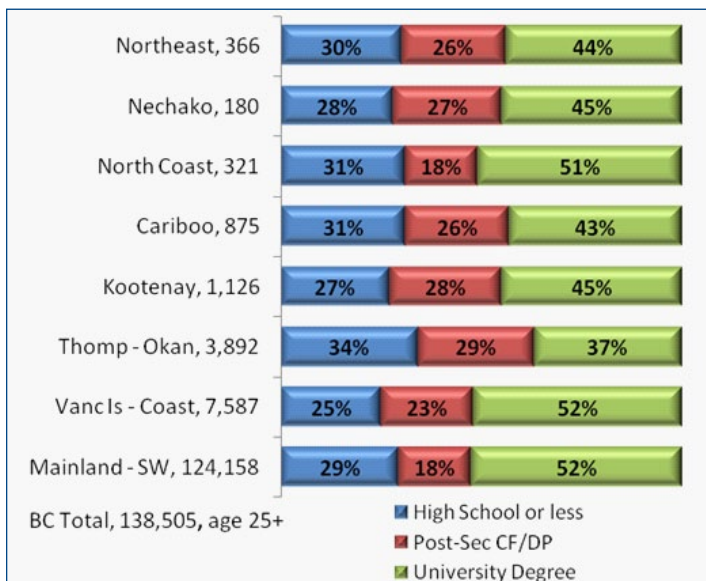


Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Education (aged 25 and over)

Over 50% of adult immigrants to Mainland – Southwest, Vancouver Island – Coast and North Coast arrived with a university degree. Those to Thompson – Okanagan had the lowest level of university degrees and the highest levels with high school or less and post-secondary certificates or diplomas.

Chart 9: Level of Education of Immigrants to B.C. by Development Region, 2005-2009



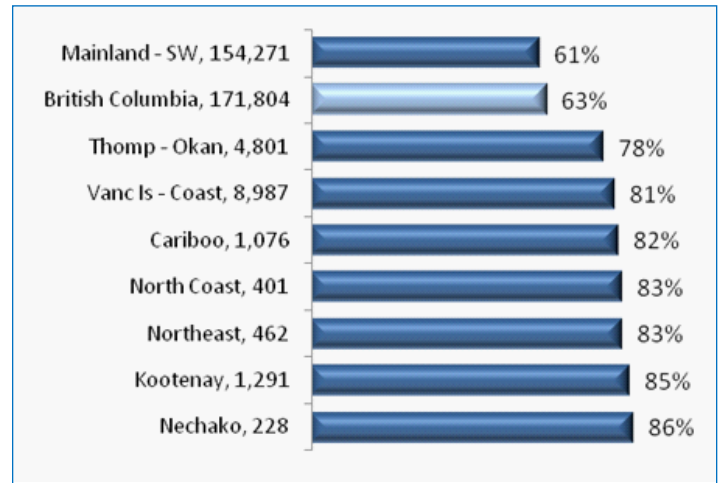
Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

English Language Ability (aged 15 and over)

Immigrants age 15 and over to Mainland – Southwest reported much lower English language ability at 60%. For all other regions, immigrants reported English language ability as 80% or higher.

English language ability is based mostly on self-reported language ability. Language ability is generally considered to overstate competency.

English Language Ability of Immigrants to B.C. by Development Region, 2005-2009



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada



Photo: Vaseux Lake from Blue Mountain Vineyard and Cellars, Thompson Okanagan (Credit: Tourism British Columbia)

Source Countries

China was the top source country of immigrants to Mainland – Southwest and third to Vancouver Island – Coast. The United States and United Kingdom were top three source countries for all other regions except Mainland – Southwest.

Table 2: Top 3 Source Countries of Immigrants to B.C. by Development Region, 2005-2009

Top 3 Source Countries	#1	#2	#3
Northeast	Philippines 16%	South Africa 12%	United States 10%
Nechako	United States 25%	South Africa 12%	Philippines 12%
North Coast	United States 16%	Philippines 13%	United Kingdom 12%
Cariboo	India 17%	United Kingdom 13%	United States 12%
Kootenay	United States 25%	United Kingdom 21%	Australia 6%
Thompson - Okanagan	United Kingdom 22%	India 13%	United States 11%
Vancouver Island - Coast	United States 18%	United Kingdom 15%	Mainland China 10%
Mainland - Southwest	Mainland China 27%	India 14%	Philippines 10%

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Part 3 – Temporary Residents in B.C. Development Regions 2005-2009

Temporary residents include temporary foreign workers, international students, humanitarian cases, and others. When text refers to the number in B.C., it is referring to the stock. Stock refers to the number of temporary residents present as of December 1st for the specific year.

Temporary Foreign Workers

In 2009, there were 69,000 temporary foreign workers in B.C., more than double the 31,000 in 2005. Almost two-thirds chose to work in Mainland-Southwest and one-third did not state the Region where they would work. Of the remaining 8%, most chose Thompson – Okanagan and Vancouver Island – Coast. Northeast, Thompson – Okanagan and Kootenay had the largest percentage increases from 2005 to 2009.

Table 3: Temporary Foreign Workers in B.C. by Development Region, 2005 and 2009

Development Region	2005	2009	% Change 2005 to 2009
Region not stated	26.8%	32.8%	169%
Northeast	0.3%	0.5%	304%
Nechako	0.1%	0.1%	48%
North Coast	0.2%	0.2%	66%
Cariboo	0.6%	0.5%	101%
Kootenay	0.9%	1.1%	180%
Thompson - Okanagan	2.1%	3.5%	260%
Vancouver Island - Coast	2.9%	2.0%	51%
Mainland - Southwest	66.1%	159.4%	98%
BC Total Number	31,419	69,105	120%

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

International Students

From 2005-2009, there has been a steady increase in the number of international students in B.C. Almost three-quarters chose to study in Mainland – Southwest and one-sixth did not state the region where they would study. Of the remaining 10%, most chose Thompson – Okanagan and Vancouver Island – Coast. North Coast, Cariboo and Thompson – Okanagan each had 30% increases from 2005 to 2009.

Table 4: International Students in B.C. by Development Region, 2005 and 2009

Development Region	2005	2009	% Change 2005 to 2009
Region not stated	15.0%	15.7%	21%
Northeast	0.2%	0.1%	-28%
Nechako	0.1%	0.0%	-53%
North Coast	0.2%	0.2%	30%
Cariboo	0.8%	0.9%	30%
Kootenay	0.6%	0.5%	-11%
Thompson - Okanagan	3.7%	4.1%	29%
Vancouver Island - Coast	6.2%	4.4%	-18%
Mainland - Southwest	73.2%	74.1%	18%
BC Total Number	47,778	69,105	16%

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Humanitarian Population

The humanitarian population in B.C. in 2005 was just over half the number present in 2000. The number increased in 2008 and 2009 with over 50% in Mainland – Southwest. Over 40% did not state the region and only 2% identified one of the other regions as an initial destination.

Table 5: Humanitarian Population in B.C. by Development Region, 2005 and 2009

Development Region	2005	2009	% Change 2005 to 2009
Region not stated	36.4%	43.8%	21%
Northeast	--	--	--
Nechako	--	--	--
North Coast	--	--	--
Cariboo	0.3%	--	--
Kootenay	0.2%	0.2%	--
Thompson - Okanagan	0.9%	1.0%	12%
Vancouver Island - Coast	0.7%	0.6%	-20%
Mainland - Southwest	61.3%	54.1%	-12%
BC Total Number	4,919	5,784	18%

-- numbers less than 10 have been suppressed

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

For more immigration and temporary resident reports and statistics, please visit:

www.welcomebc.ca/facts_and_trends

www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/menu-research-stats.asp

For more information on the Regional Immigration in B.C. Fact Sheet, contact:

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Table 6: 2009 New Immigrants and Temporary Residents by Development Region for B.C.

Development Region	New Immigrants		Temporary Residents (Stock)					
			Foreign Workers		International Students		Refugee Claimants	
Region not stated	30	0.1%	22,647	32.8%	8,693	15.7%	2,536	43.8%
Northeast	59	0.1%	339	0.5%	66	0.1%	<10	0.1%
Nechako	147	0.4%	46	0.1%	14	0.0%	<10	0.1%
North Coast	104	0.3%	116	0.2%	100	0.2%	<10	0.1%
Cariboo	277	0.7%	369	0.5%	508	0.9%	<10	0.1%
Kootenay	462	1.1%	785	1.1%	268	0.5%	11	0.2%
Thompson - Okanagan	1344	3.2%	2,385	3.5%	2,289	4.1%	59	1.0%
Vancouver Island - Coast	2383	5.8%	1,386	2.0%	2,428	4.4%	32	0.6%
Mainland - Southwest	36,634	88.4%	41,032	59.4%	41,142	74.1%	3,129	54.1%
BC Total	41,440	100.0%	69,105	100.0%	55,508	100.0%	5,784	100.0%

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada