

## Population Highlights ♦ Second Quarter 2011

The estimated population of British Columbia totalled 4,573,321 persons as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, for an increase of 0.96 percent over the preceding twelve months. The national population grew at a slightly faster rate (+1.04%) and compared to the other provinces BC had the sixth strongest growth rate. Among the provinces P.E.I. had the strongest growth rate at 1.72% followed by Alberta at 1.57%. Newfoundland and Labrador observed a 0.14% percent loss over the last twelve months.

### The Last Twelve Months: July 2010 to July 2011

BC's population grew by 43,647 persons over the twelve month period ending July 1, 2011. Migration is typically the largest contributor to BC's population growth and since July 1, 2010, about three-quarters of the population gain could be attributed to this component. The remaining 28% was due to natural increase (births minus deaths).

*Table 1: Components of BC Population Growth  
Jul 1, 2010 to Jul 1, 2011*

<b>Population July 1, 2010</b>	<b>4,529,674</b>
Interprovincial migration	+ 190
Add interprovincial arrivals	+ 55,224
Minus interprovincial departures	- 55,034
International migration	+ 31,231
Add immigrants	+ 38,552
Minus total net emigrants <sup>(1)</sup>	- 7,469
Add non-permanent residents	+ 148
Natural increase	+ 12,226
Add births	+ 43,745
Minus deaths	- 31,519
<b>Population July 1, 2011</b>	<b>4,573,321</b>

(1) Total net emigrants include emigrants, plus returning emigrants, minus the net change in temporary emigrants.

Source: Statistics Canada

### The Second Quarter of 2011

During the second quarter of 2011, the population grew by an estimated 12,281 persons (+0.27%). Net international migration (+9,525) accounted for the largest part of the growth followed by natural increase (births minus deaths) of 3,502. On an interprovincial basis, BC recorded a net loss of 746 persons to other provinces and territories in the second quarter. Over this period, 14,939 persons moved to BC while 15,685 persons left BC for other Canadian jurisdictions.

*Table 2: Components of BC Population Growth  
Apr 1, 2011 to Jul 1, 2011*

<b>Population April 1, 2011</b>	<b>4,561,040</b>
Interprovincial migration	- 746
Add interprovincial arrivals	+ 14,939
Minus interprovincial departures	- 15,685
International migration	+ 9,525
Add immigrants	+ 9,553
Minus total net emigrants <sup>(1)</sup>	- 1,008
Add non-permanent residents	+ 980
Natural increase	+ 3,502
Add births	+ 11,285
Minus deaths	- 7,783
<b>Population July 1, 2011</b>	<b>4,573,321</b>

(1) Total net emigrants include emigrants, plus returning emigrants, minus the net change in temporary emigrants.

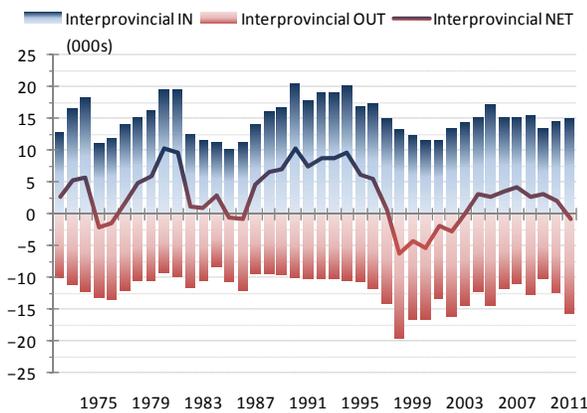
Source: Statistics Canada

### Second Quarter Interprovincial Migration

Historically, BC has had the greatest exchange of population with Alberta and this quarter was no different. During the second quarter of 2011, the net flow between BC and Alberta totalled -1,201 persons, with 6,500 people moving from Alberta to BC and 7,701 BC residents moving to

Alberta. On the other hand, BC recorded net gains from Ontario (+493), Manitoba (+110) and Saskatchewan (+54). During the second quarter, Alberta and Saskatchewan reported sizeable net gains due to interprovincial migration while Quebec and Ontario observed large net losses. Relatively speaking, however, Nova Scotia observed the largest net loss at 573 persons.

Figure 1: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Interprovincial Migration, BC



Source: Statistics Canada

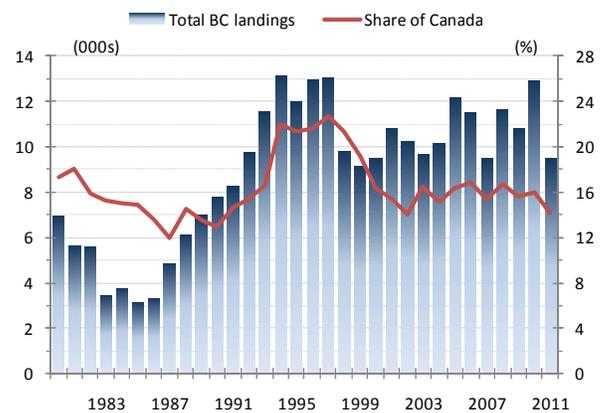
In the first half of 2011, BC experienced an estimated net loss of 844 persons with the majority occurring in the second quarter. Not since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has BC recorded consecutive net losses to other Canadian jurisdictions. However, compared to the late 1990's, the net outflow was relatively small.

As can be seen in Figure 1 (above), interprovincial migration can be quite volatile and is dependent on a number of factors such as the labour market conditions and/or the age structure of the population to name two. In addition, estimating interprovincial migration isn't an easy task. Statistics Canada relies mainly on annual tax data and the Child Tax Benefit to estimate flows between jurisdictions. However, these data provide incomplete information (in most cases) and invariably the agency must find other ways of filling in the gaps.

## Second Quarter International Migration

During the second quarter of 2011 9,553 international immigrants arrived in BC, representing 14.2% of the total 67,506 newcomers to Canada. BC, after Ontario and Quebec, has been the third most popular province of destination for immigrants arriving in recent years. During the last decade, the number of immigrants settling in BC has been relatively stable at about 35,000 to 45,000 persons per year. A majority of these newcomers settled in the Greater Vancouver area.

Figure 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter International Immigration, BC



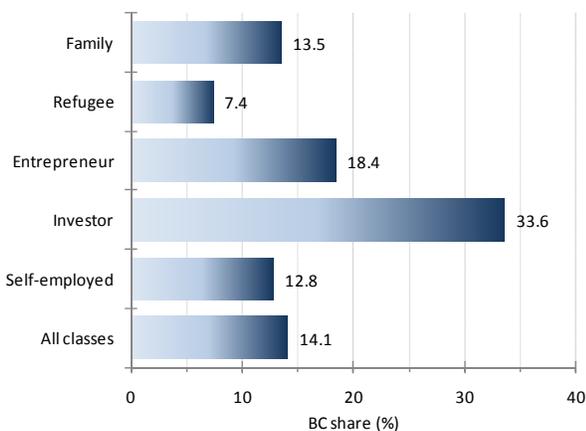
Source: Statistics Canada

Under the current federal immigration policy, immigrants are admitted to the country under various program classes or categories. Reunification of family members/relatives and filling domestic labour shortages are two of the top priorities of Canadian immigration. This has been reflected by the higher proportions of immigrants admitted under the family and economic categories.

Of all the international immigrants arriving in the second quarter of 2011, 27.1% were in the family class, 47.7% were in the independent skilled worker class, 10.7% were in the business class, and only 5.0% were in the refugee class. When compared to other provinces/territories, BC tends to attract a relatively high share of immigrants in the economic class and a smaller

proportion in the refugee class. During this period, BC absorbed 31.7% of all immigrants admitted to Canada under the investor, entrepreneur or self-employed classes but only 7.4% in the refugee class.

Figure 3: BC Immigration by Class, 2nd Quarter 2011



Source: Statistics Canada

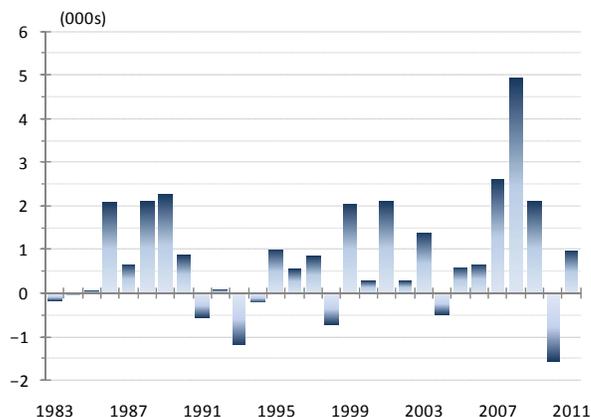
Over the past two decades the majority of immigrants to BC have come from Asia. Of the Asian regions, China is still the leading source country of immigrants to BC and Canada, accounting for 19.1% of all landings in BC during the second quarter. Over the last ten years, China, the Philippines, India, South Korea, Taiwan, Iran, USA and England have consistently been the top source countries. More often than not, the top five source countries combined are responsible for between 55 to 65 per cent of all immigrants landed in the province.

### Non-permanent Residents

Non permanent residents (NPRs) are mainly students and temporary workers but may also be persons holding a minister’s permit or refugee claimants. In addition, family members of the principle document holder are also considered members of the NPR population.

The number of NPRs tends to fluctuate over time due to the temporary nature of the population and seasonality factors. During the second quarter of 2011, the number of NPRs increased by 980 individuals. This accounted for 8% of the total population growth in BC during the second quarter of 2011.

Figure 4: 2nd Quarter Net Change in NPRs, BC



Source: Statistics Canada