

Metro Vancouver's Role

Every five years, the Census of Canada provides benchmark data that is instrumental in analyzing and evaluating local government planning policies and services. Representing member jurisdictions, Metro Vancouver takes a lead role in assembling, interpreting and distributing Census and related data, and in preparing analyses of Census data in relation to regional and sub-regional trends.

This bulletin is part of an analytical report series that focuses primarily on trends and issues related to *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future (Metro 2040)*, the regional growth strategy, along with other related local government policy topics.

2016 Census Data Results

The first release of 2016 Census data included population and dwelling counts for all areas. The data indicates that Metro Vancouver's population grew by 150,000 residents over the past five years, from 2,313,500 in 2011 to 2,463,000 in 2016, as shown in Table 1. In comparing the major metropolitan areas in Canada, Metro Vancouver remains third in national population total, but absolute population growth 2011–2016 was fourth behind the City of Toronto (345,000), City of Calgary (178,000) and City of Edmonton (162,000). This differs from the past three Census periods where Metro Vancouver's absolute growth was larger than Calgary and Edmonton.

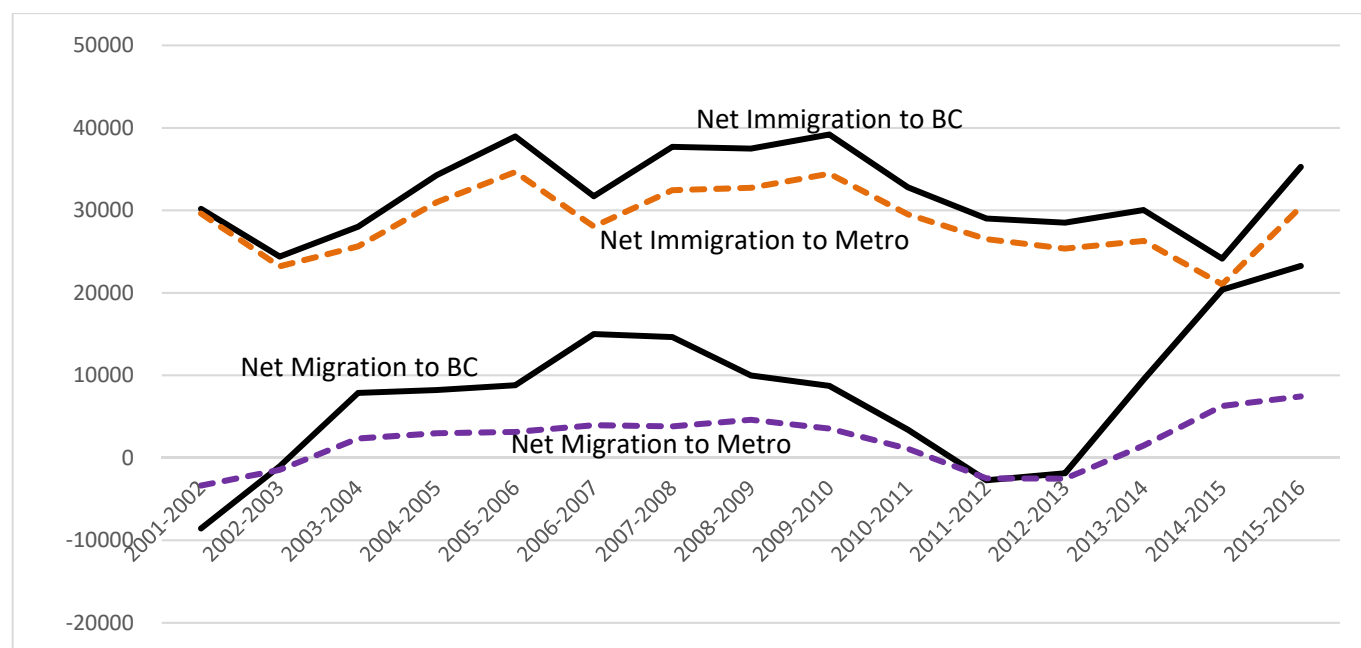
Table 1. Canada's Top Ten Census Metropolitan Areas by Population

| Census Metropolitan Area | Population 1996 | Population 2001 | Population 2006 | Population 2011 | Population 2016 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Toronto | 4,263,759 | 4,682,897 | 5,113,149 | 5,583,064 | 5,928,040 |
| Montréal | 3,326,447 | 3,426,350 | 3,635,556 | 3,824,221 | 4,098,927 |
| Vancouver | 1,831,665 | 1,986,965 | 2,116,581 | 2,313,328 | 2,463,431 |
| Calgary | 821,628 | 951,395 | 1,079,310 | 1,214,839 | 1,392,609 |
| Ottawa - Gatineau | 998,718 | 1,063,664 | 1,133,633 | 1,236,324 | 1,323,783 |
| Edmonton | 862,597 | 937,845 | 1,034,945 | 1,159,869 | 1,321,426 |
| Québec | 671,889 | 682,757 | 719,153 | 765,706 | 800,296 |
| Winnipeg | 667,093 | 671,274 | 694,668 | 730,018 | 778,489 |
| Hamilton | 624,360 | 662,401 | 692,911 | 721,053 | 747,545 |
| Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo | 382,940 | 414,284 | 451,235 | 477,160 | 523,894 |

Note: Other population figures provided by Metro Vancouver may include a Census undercount – estimated by Statistics Canada at 1.97% for 2011. Statistics Canada is expected to provide an estimate of the 2016 Census undercount in 2018.

The Census count of Metro Vancouver population growth was somewhat lower than previous Census periods. Detailed Census data on the components of growth will be available later in 2017 and in 2018. However, data from Immigration and Citizenship Canada indicates the lower growth appears primarily the result of a lower share of Canadian immigration settling in BC, as well as a lower share of the BC immigrants settling in Metro Vancouver. Figure 1 shows lower immigration levels to BC were partially offset by a higher net increase in population coming from other Canadian provinces through that period.

Figure 1. Immigrants and Domestic Migrants to BC, 2001-2016



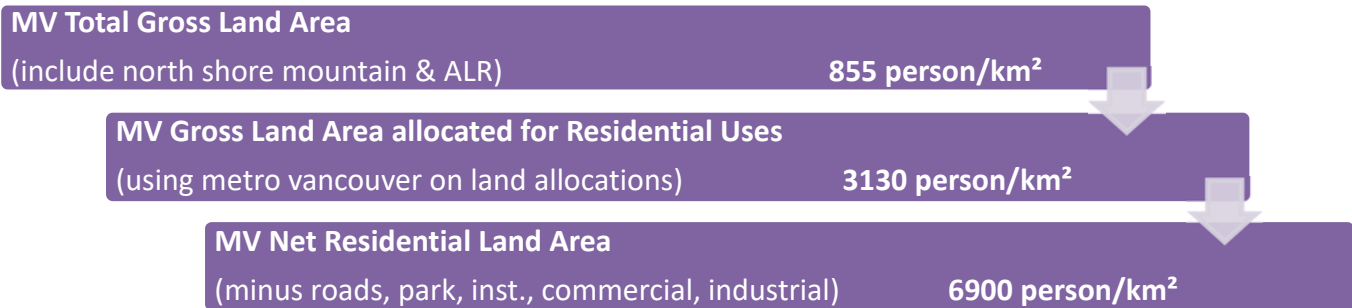
Source: British Columbia Regional District Migration Components, published by BC Stats, January 2017

Population in the Abbotsford-Mission area (roughly the Fraser Valley Regional District) increased by 10,300 from 170,200 in 2011 to 180,500 in 2016. This growth is consistent with the 2006-2011 Census period, suggesting that there has not been a significant shifting of population growth from Metro Vancouver to the Fraser Valley over the past five years.

Residential Density

The Census shows Metro Vancouver (MV), at 855 persons per km², to be the third in population density among Canada's major metropolitan areas. While generally comparable using Statistics Canada administrative boundaries, it should be noted that this density is a gross land area for Metro Vancouver which includes the north shore mountains and the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR). Using Metro Vancouver data on land use allocations, when including only gross land area allocated for residential uses (*Metro 2040*

General Urban and Rural designations - 787 km²) yields a population density of about 3,130 p/km², and using a net residential land area (minus roads /parks /institutional /commercial /industrial – 357 km²) yields a population density of about 6,900 p/km².



It should also be noted, although not included in the Census, that Metro Vancouver’s residential growth is approximately 80% through infill, intensification and redevelopment of existing urban areas, and 20% through the development of new urban neighbourhoods on undeveloped lands within the *Metro 2040* Urban Containment Boundary. The latest studies show growth in Toronto is about 55% intensification and Calgary about 25% intensification.

Population Growth among Metro Vancouver Jurisdictions

Within Metro Vancouver, the distribution of residential growth over the past five years was generally consistent with past trends, with some variation among the region’s largest cities. Table 2 shows the Census counts for municipalities from 2006 to 2016. Figure 2 summarizes the subregional shares of Metro Vancouver population growth 2011 to 2016:

Figure 2. Metro Vancouver Population Growth from 2011-2016 by Subregional Shares

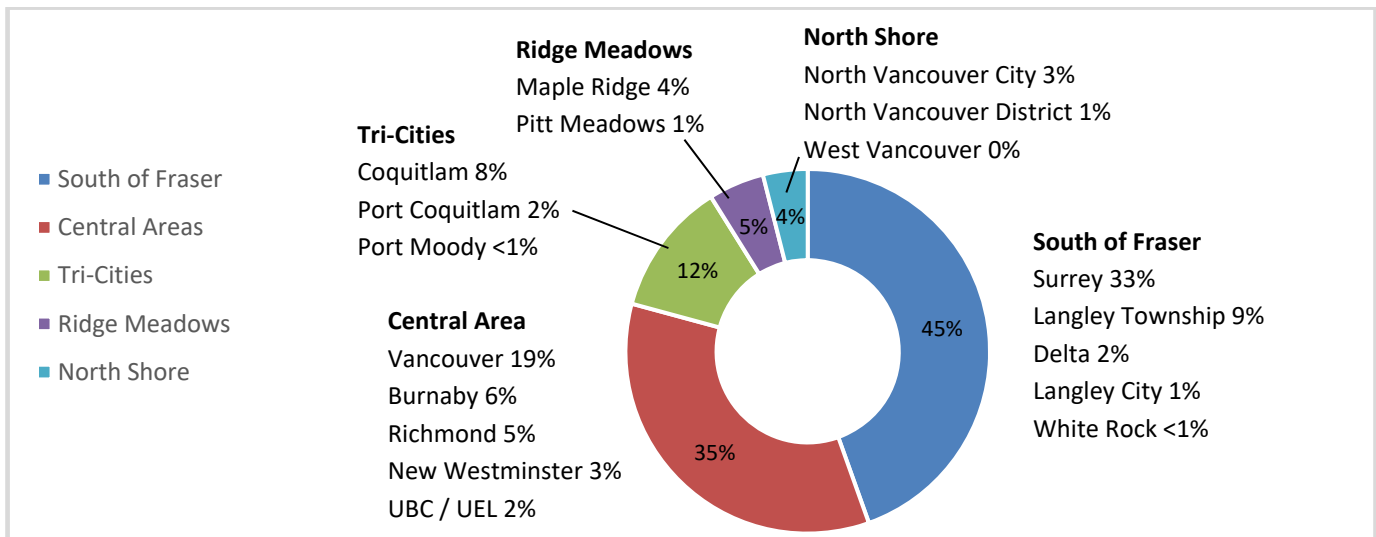


Table 2. Population in Metro Vancouver Municipalities

| Area | Population 2006 | Population 2011 | Population 2016 | % of Metro Total 2016 | % of Metro Growth 2011-2016 | % of Metro Growth 2006-2011 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Metro Vancouver | 2,116,581 | 2,313,328 | 2,463,431 | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Vancouver | 578,041 | 603,502 | 631,486 | 26% | 19% | 13% |
| Surrey | 394,976 | 468,251 | 517,887 | 21% | 33% | 37% |
| Burnaby | 202,799 | 223,218 | 232,755 | 9% | 6% | 10% |
| Richmond | 174,461 | 190,473 | 198,309 | 8% | 5% | 8% |
| Coquitlam | 114,565 | 126,804 | 139,284 | 6% | 8% | 6% |
| Langley Township | 93,726 | 104,177 | 117,285 | 5% | 9% | 5% |
| Delta | 96,723 | 99,863 | 102,238 | 4% | 2% | 2% |
| North Vancouver District | 82,562 | 84,412 | 85,935 | 3% | 1% | 1% |
| Maple Ridge | 68,949 | 76,052 | 82,256 | 3% | 4% | 4% |
| New Westminster | 58,549 | 65,976 | 70,996 | 3% | 3% | 4% |
| Port Coquitlam | 52,687 | 55,958 | 58,612 | 2% | 2% | 2% |
| North Vancouver City | 45,165 | 48,196 | 52,898 | 2% | 3% | 2% |
| West Vancouver | 42,131 | 42,694 | 42,473 | 2% | 0% | 0% |
| Port Moody | 27,512 | 33,011 | 33,551 | 1% | 0% | 3% |
| Langley City | 23,606 | 25,081 | 25,888 | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| White Rock | 18,755 | 19,339 | 19,952 | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| Pitt Meadows | 15,623 | 17,736 | 18,573 | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Greater Vancouver A | 11,050 | 12,988 | 16,133 | 1% | 2% | 1% |
| Bowen Island | 3,362 | 3,402 | 3,680 | 0.1% | 0% | 0% |
| Anmore | 1,785 | 2,092 | 2,210 | 0.1% | 0% | 0% |
| Lions Bay | 1,328 | 1,318 | 1,334 | 0.1% | 0% | 0% |
| Tsawwassen First Nation | 675 | 720 | 816 | 0.0% | 0% | 0% |
| Belcarra | 676 | 644 | 643 | 0.0% | 0% | 0% |