

2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #9 – MIGRATION & MOBILITY

Migration Results in Net Loss for the Region

According to 2001 Census mobility and migration data recently released by Statistics Canada, the Greater Vancouver Regional District (Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area) lost 20,500 more people than it gained between 1996 and 2001, the first net loss to migration in 30 years. The province of British Columbia experienced its first net loss to migration in 30 years, recording a net loss of 23,600 people to the rest of the country (note: migration does not include immigration. See Census Bulletin #6 for Immigration). This is a significant reversal from the previous census period, when the province experienced a record net migration of 150,000 people between 1991 and 1996. The pattern of moving west from eastern Canada continued, except that migrants chose Alberta instead of British Columbia as their destination between 1996 and 2001.

Figure 1. Internal Migration for Select Metropolitan Areas, 1996-2001

Census Metropolitan Area	In - migrants	Out - migrants	Net migrants
Toronto	213,745	258,285	(44,540)
Vancouver	120,880	141,410	(20,530)
Montreal	170,080	182,700	(12,620)
Edmonton	107,690	78,560	29,130
Calgary	139,420	82,410	57,010

Source: Statistics Canada

Mobility

The number of people in the region who have moved in the past 5 years continues to rise, even with a drop in the number of migrants in the past Census period (120,880 in-migrants between 1996-2001, as compared to 157,195 in-migrants between 1991-1996). In 2001, 970,840 people age 5 years or older reported having moved in the past 5 years. This represents 47.9 per cent of the population age 5 years or older in the region.

Figure 2. Mobility Patterns of Persons (5 years and over) to the GVRD, Between 1986 and 2001

1986-1991	1991-1996	Mobility Status	1996-2001
41.9%	43.7%	Proportion of GVRD Population That Moved	47.9%
58.1%	56.3%	Proportion of GVRD Population That Did Not Move	52.1%
44.0%	45.1%	Moved from within the GVRD	48.6%
30.0%	24.1%	Moved from within BC, but outside the GVRD	25.1%
12.0%	11.9%	Moved from within Canada, but outside BC	7.5%
14.0%	18.9%	Moved to the GVRD from another country	18.9%

Source: Statistics Canada

Greater Vancouver continues to have a Mobile Population

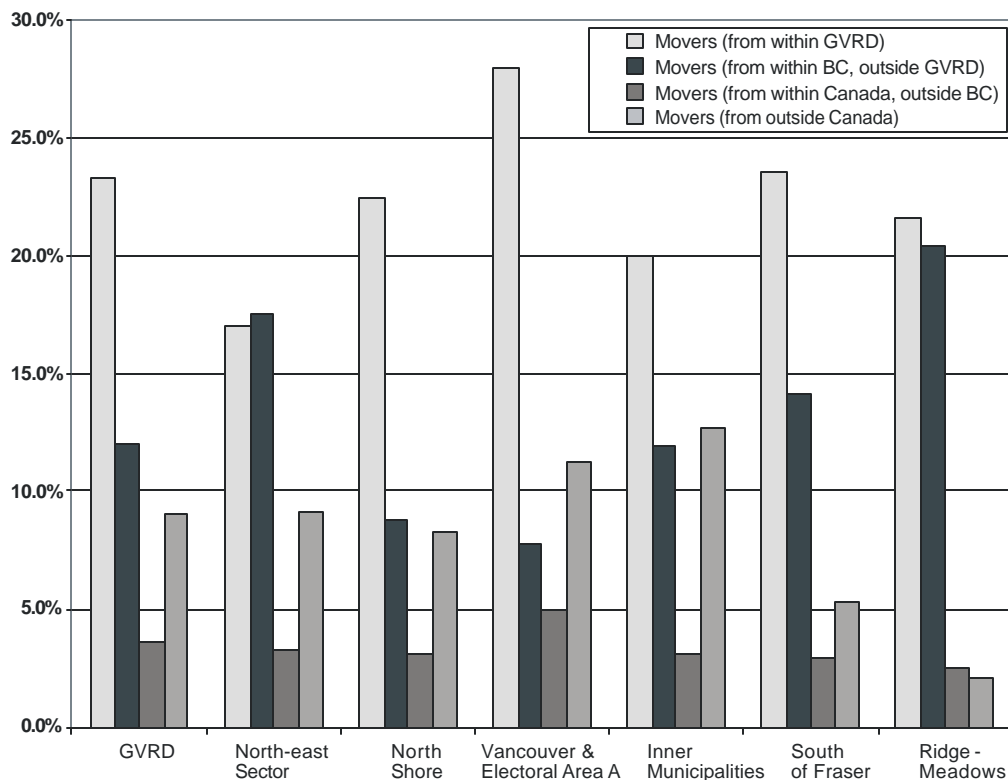
Nearly one-half (48.6 per cent) of the people who moved in the region between 1996-2001 came from within the GVRD, either moving within their municipality or from another municipality in the GVRD. This is an increase from the past two Census periods (44.0 per cent in 1986-91 Census period and 45.1 per cent in 1991-96 Census period). One-quarter (25.1 per cent) moved from elsewhere in the province to the GVRD, while the remaining movers came to the GVRD from elsewhere in Canada (7.5 per cent) or the rest of the world (18.9 per cent). The increase in mobility within the GVRD may be partly attributed to record low mortgage rates and the increase in home ownership as compared to households that rent their homes in the region.

Figure 3. Comparison of Mobility Status by Sub-region in the GVRD, 1996-2001

	GVRD	North-east Sector	North Shore	Vancouver & Electoral Area A	Inner Municipalities	South of Fraser	Ridge-Meadows
Non-movers 1996-2001	970,840	93,850	93,105	251,015	203,505	287,805	38,495
Movers 1996-2001	891,135	82,990	69,440	272,025	184,860	245,005	33,680
Percentage that are Movers	47.9%	46.9%	42.7%	52.0%	47.6%	46.0%	46.7%

Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 4. Comparison of Source of Mobility by Sub-region in the GVRD, 1996-2001



Source: Statistics Canada

Note: Inner Municipalities: Burnaby, New Westminster, and Richmond
 North East Sector: Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore, and Belcarra

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According to the 2001 Census migration, the sub-regions did not show a lot of variation from one to another with respect to the percentage of the population that had recently moved. The North Shore has a less mobile population than the rest of the region, with only 42.7 per cent of the population having moved between 1996 and 2001. Most of the those people who had moved in the past 5 years reported that they had moved from within the Greater Vancouver region (22.5 per cent, as compared to 8.8 per cent from elsewhere in BC and 8.3 per cent from outside Canada).

Vancouver & Electoral Area A (including UEL/UBC) has the highest percentage of people who have moved in the past 5 years (52.0 per cent). While most (28.0 per cent) moved from within the GVRD, there were many migrants that had moved from outside of Canada in the past 5 years (11.3 per cent).

The South of Fraser sub-region (Surrey, Langley Township, Langley District, White Rock, Delta) reported that most of the those people who had moved in the past 5 years came from within the Greater Vancouver region (23.5 per cent, as compared to 14.2 per cent from elsewhere in BC and 5.3 per cent from outside of Canada).

Movers from within the GVRD preferred to settle in Vancouver & Electoral Area A (146,215 people) and South of Fraser (125,440 people). Movers from within BC but outside the GVRD show a preference to settle South of Fraser (75,555 people) and the Inner Municipalities (46,215 people). Movers from outside Canada preferred Vancouver & Electoral Area A (58,960 people) and the Inner Municipalities (49,065 people).

The only age group that showed an increase in net migration was the 15 to 29 year olds. This age group often moves to large metropolitan centres to pursue education and employment opportunities. Vancouver is similar to most other large metropolitan centres with respect to migration of 15 to 29 year olds.

Figure 5. Internal Migration for Census Metropolitan Areas by Age Groups, 1996-2001

Census Metropolitan Area	Ages 5 - 14			Ages 15 - 29			Ages 30 - 44		
	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net Migration	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net Migration	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net Migration
Vancouver	12,770	20,210	-7,440	44,975	32,560	12,415	36,660	50,590	-13,930
Toronto	24,845	39,155	-14,310	83,575	56,015	27,560	66,775	86,965	-20,190
Montreal	18,205	25,955	-7,750	71,835	44,435	27,400	46,675	57,830	-11,155
Edmonton	16,090	11,900	4,190	39,890	23,855	16,035	31,610	25,685	5,925
Calgary	17,610	12,785	4,825	54,035	21,935	32,100	43,220	27,790	15,430

Census Metropolitan Area	Ages 45 - 64			Ages 65 +			All ages		
	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net Migration	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net Migration	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net Migration
Vancouver	19,290	28,510	-9,220	7,170	9,600	-2,430	120,880	141,410	-20,530
Toronto	28,525	53,655	-25,130	10,060	22,530	-12,470	213,745	258,285	-44,540
Montreal	24,915	41,850	-16,935	8,455	12,550	-4,095	170,080	182,700	-12,620
Edmonton	15,455	13,645	1,810	4,695	3,465	1,230	107,690	78,560	29,130
Calgary	19,755	15,645	4,110	4,825	4,280	545	139,420	82,410	57,010

Note: These figures are for internal migration only. They do not include people who were outside of Canada in 1996 and entered Canada between 1996 and 2001.

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Figure 6. Five-Year Mobility Status of Population for GVRD, 1996 – 2001

	GVRD	Anmore	Belcarra	Bowen Island	Burnaby	Coquitlam
Total Population, age 5 and older	1,861,975	1,245	645	2,810	181,975	105,395
Non-movers 1996-2001	970,840	670	325	1,460	95,100	55,200
Movers 1996-2001	891,135	570	320	1,350	86,870	50,195
Movers (from within GVRD)	432,825	95	85	350	33,850	17,680
Movers (from within BC, outside GVRD)	223,410	390	225	695	22,490	16,630
Movers (from within Canada, outside BC)	66,785	15	10	200	5,650	3,635
Movers (from outside Canada)	168,120	75	-	105	24,885	12,250

	Delta	Greater Vancouver Subd. A	Langley City	Langley Township	Lions Bay	Maple Ridge
Total Population, age 5 and older	90,840	7,285	21,985	81,125	1,325	58,415
Non-movers 1996-2001	57,675	1,880	10,490	46,680	860	30,955
Movers 1996-2001	33,165	5,410	11,500	34,445	460	27,455
Movers (from within GVRD)	15,175	1,625	4,925	15,215	195	13,430
Movers (from within BC, outside GVRD)	12,300	970	5,010	14,745	185	11,370
Movers (from within Canada, outside BC)	2,195	520	700	2,315	15	1,530
Movers (from outside Canada)	3,495	2,300	860	2,160	70	1,130

	New Westminster	North Vancouver City	North Vancouver District	Pitt Meadows	Port Coquitlam	Port Moody
Total Population, age 5 and older	50,965	41,675	77,310	13,770	47,370	22,185
Non-movers 1996-2001	23,500	18,675	47,805	7,540	26,140	11,515
Movers 1996-2001	27,465	23,005	29,505	6,225	21,230	10,675
Movers (from within GVRD)	10,610	11,975	16,520	2,190	9,080	3,090
Movers (from within BC, outside GVRD)	11,710	5,200	5,010	3,345	8,545	5,265
Movers (from within Canada, outside BC)	1,705	1,640	1,930	280	1,380	730
Movers (from outside Canada)	3,440	4,185	6,045	410	2,230	1,590

	Richmond	Surrey	Vancouver	West Vancouver	White Rock	All Indian Reserves
Total Population, age 5 and older	155,435	322,125	515,750	39,425	16,735	5,830
Non-movers 1996-2001	84,905	164,715	249,135	24,305	8,245	2,810
Movers 1996-2001	70,525	157,405	266,615	15,120	8,490	3,010
Movers (from within GVRD)	33,035	87,005	144,590	7,460	3,120	1,475
Movers (from within BC, outside GVRD)	12,015	39,440	39,815	3,155	4,060	795
Movers (from within Canada, outside BC)	4,740	9,650	25,555	1,350	870	165
Movers (from outside Canada)	20,740	21,310	56,660	3,160	445	580