

Census Divisions in PNCIMA

Statistics Canada disseminates census data by standard geographic areas. These areas are either administrative (e.g. provinces, territories, municipalities) or statistical (e.g. census divisions, census sub-divisions, census tracts).¹ A census division is a group of neighbouring municipalities joined together for the purposes of regional planning and managing common services.² In BC census divisions are equivalent to regional districts. A census sub-division is a municipality or an area treated as a municipal equivalent.³

When the coastal watersheds feeding into PNCIMA are considered, five of the 30 Statistics Canada census divisions in BC are at least partially within PNCIMA: Kitimat-Stikine, Skeena-Queen Charlotte, Central Coastal, Mount Waddington and Strathcona (formerly Comox-Strathcona). The tables below display trends in the population data for the period 2000 to 2009. PNCIMA populations were calculated by identifying the cities, towns, villages and district municipalities of each census division that fall within PNCIMA. The total population of unincorporated areas within census divisions were included in PNCIMA as there was no way to distinguish which exact portions fall within PNCIMA. This affected calculations for Strathcona and Kitimat-Stikine census divisions and thus may represent an over-estimation of population in these census divisions.

Population Figures in PNCIMA

The most populous census divisions in PNCIMA are Strathcona and Kitimat-Stikine. All census divisions show gradual population declines between 2000 and 2009 with the exception

of Strathcona, which has experienced a gradual increase since 2003 and Kitimat-Stikine, which has shown a slight increase since 2007. The overall population in PNCIMA has shown a gradual decrease between 2000 and 2007. This trend is reversed in 2008. In contrast, the BC population has shown a steady increase over the period. These trends translate into a decrease in the percentage of the BC population comprised from PNCIMA (see tables).

The accompanying map displays PNCIMA population data captured from 2006 federal census data at the subdivision level. There were 218 census subdivisions in PNCIMA as of 2006.³ The population distribution within PNCIMA varies significantly throughout the area, and although there are large areas on the map containing no data (according to the 2006 census), small communities are known to exist in these areas. The majority of the population in PNCIMA is around Prince Rupert, Kitimat and Campbell River.

The most populous census divisions in PNCIMA are Strathcona and Kitimat-Stikine

1 BC Census Divisions metadata published by Statistics Canada in 1996, obtained on January 13, 2009.
 2 Statistics Canada. 2003. Reference maps: census division. geodot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ReferenceMaps/n_cd_e.cfm
 3 Statistics Canada. Census subdivision. www12.statcan.ca/English/census01/Products/Reference/dict/geo012.htm (Accessed April 2010).
 4 Population estimates published by BC Stats http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estpop.asp (Accessed December 2010).
 5 Populations were calculated as being equivalent to the population of each regional district plus total regional district unincorporated areas, with the exception of Comox-Strathcona, where the regional district unincorporated area was calculated to be 31.2% of the total based on the total Strathcona regional district unincorporated area.
 6 Population estimates published by BC Stats http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/BCPop.asp (Accessed December 2010).
 7 Calculated by selecting all cities, towns, villages, district municipalities within the boundaries of the watersheds that drain into PNCIMA plus total regional district unincorporated areas; likely an overestimate.

Population for the portion of five census divisions within PNCIMA for the period 2000-2009.^{4,5}

Census Division	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Kitimat-Stikine	42239	41520	40628	40061	39705	38900	38307	37838	38612	38936
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	22801	22213	21589	20971	20710	20224	19980	19755	19621	19438
Central Coastal	3924	3871	3764	3598	3447	3373	3220	3169	3119	3118
Mount Waddington	13721	13572	13170	12760	12774	12264	11962	11914	11954	12042
Strathcona	40291	40056	39842	39671	39695	40157	40741	41139	41810	42222

Population within PNCIMA in comparison to BC, including trends for the period 2000-2009.^{6,7}

Population Figures					
Year	PNCIMA		BC		Portion of BC
	Total population	Annual Change (%)	Total population	Annual Change (%)	Population in PNCIMA (%)
2000	122,976	N/A	4,039,230	N/A	3.04%
2001	121,232	-1.42%	4,076,264	0.92%	2.97%
2002	118,993	-1.85%	4,098,178	0.54%	2.90%
2003	117,061	-1.62%	4,122,396	0.59%	2.84%
2004	116,331	-0.62%	4,155,170	0.80%	2.80%
2005	114,918	-1.21%	4,196,788	1.00%	2.74%
2006	114,210	-0.69%	4,243,580	1.11%	2.69%
2007	113,815	-0.27%	4,309,453	1.55%	2.64%
2008	115,117	1.14%	4,383,845	1.73%	2.63%
2009	115,756	0.56%	4,455,207	1.63%	2.60%

