



## **British Columbia**

British Columbia is Canada's third largest province occupying almost a million square kilometres and where 50 million hectares is designated for productive forestry, 11 million hectares for protected areas such as Parks and Ecological Reserves and 1.8 million hectares of freshwater surfaces. The province is nearly four times bigger than Great Britain. The population of British Columbia is approximately 4.2 million people and the city of Vancouver accounts for 600,000 of that population. The average winter temperature is 3 degrees Celsius and the average summer temperature is 17. The province receives an average of 1239.5 mm of rainfall per year and 37.9 cm of snow per year.

British Columbia has the second-strongest economic growth rate in Canada. It has a strong economy with industries ranging from forestry, finance, insurance, and real estate to retail and wholesale trade, tourism, mining, fishing and farming. 14% of B.C.'s population over fifteen has a university degree.

Average yearly earnings in British Columbia are CDN \$42,778. The average weekly wage rate in April 2005 was \$ 822.67.

The capital of British Columbia is Victoria. Located near the south-eastern tip of Vancouver Island, Victoria has a population of approximately 335,000. It is the largest city on Vancouver Island. The city of Vancouver lies two hours northeast by ferry on the mainland of British Columbia. Vancouver is a major player in the film industry, tourism and an international port with strong gateway transportation infrastructure. The city is now the industrial, commercial, and financial heart of British Columbia, with trade and transportation as its basic functions. Its ice-free deepwater port, with extensive docks and grain-elevator facilities, handles freighters, a fishing fleet, and ferries (to Vancouver Island) and is connected to mainland Canada and the United States by four major railroads.

Health plan: The Ministry of Health Services provides health care through their Medical Services Plan (MSP). MSP insures medically required services provided by physicians and supplementary health care practitioners, laboratory services and diagnostic procedures. Every B.C. resident is required to enroll with the MSP program. Premiums are payable for MSP coverage and are based on family size and income. The monthly rates are: \$54 for one person, \$96 for a family of two, \$108 for a family of three or more.

New residents of British Columbia must wait three months to receive a provincial health card. You should apply for MSP coverage immediately after arriving in B.C., rather than at the end of the waiting period, to allow time for your application to be processed. Those arriving from outside Canada should contact a private insurance company for coverage during the waiting period.

**Driving:** A foreign worker with a valid work permit may obtain a driver's licence in British Columbia. You will need to obtain a British Columbia driver's licence within 90 days of moving there. To qualify for a driver's licence in British Columbia, you will need to pass a road signs test, a knowledge test, a vision screening and a road test. You will also need to meet the medical and application requirements. The knowledge test is \$15 and the licence is \$35-\$50 depending on the class. It must be renewed after two years.

**Cost of living in British Columbia:** The cost of living will naturally vary according to one's family size and one's income as well as the choices being made. However, while considering relocation to a country with a different monetary system, it is important to understand that it is not only how much the job pays but the actual buying power of the salary being earned that figures significantly. Will the annual income in Canada provide you with the same purchasing power as the salary that you earn in your country? Here, we provide you with an idea of what a range of costs could be.

**Sales taxes:** There is a 7% provincial sales tax in British Columbia. There is also a 6% federal tax called the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which is added to the price of items and services purchased in the province.

**Electricity:** British Columbia has not been deregulated. The energy service provider is BC Hydro.

**Telephone:** Local telephone services in British Columbia are provided by a number of providers. If you choose Bell, Canada's oldest local telephone service provider, the cost for a basic residential line ranges from \$20.00 to \$28.00 monthly, depending on your location. There is a connection charge of \$55.00 per line for residential customers. If jack work is required, additional charges will apply

**Housing:** The latest average price (May 2005) for a home in Vancouver is \$418, 757. In Victoria, the average price of a home in May 2005 was 445,983. Living expenses vary greatly between cities in British Columbia. A house that costs \$147,800 in Vernon, British Columbia would cost \$289,000 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The average rent for a two (2) bedroom apartment in Vancouver in 2004 was \$984.

***Average Cost For Standard Homes Summer 2004***

<b>City, Province</b>	<b>Executive</b>	<b>Bungalow</b>	<b>Townhouse</b>	<b>Condo</b>
Penticton, BC	\$330,000	\$230,000	\$159,000	\$140,000

Kelowna, BC	\$335,000	\$240,000	\$180,000	\$140,000
Victoria, BC	\$390,000	\$286,000	\$230,000	\$160,000
Surrey, BC	\$400,000	\$289,000	\$235,000	\$126,000
Richmond, BC	\$415,000	\$344,000	\$257,000	\$177,000
West Vancouver, BC	\$1,000,000	\$675,000	\$475,000	\$375,000
Calgary – NW, Alberta	\$285,000	\$223,000	\$173,900	\$143,000
Edmonton – Sherwood Park, Alberta	\$260,000	\$175,000	\$135,000	\$165,000
Regina, Saskatchewan	\$190,000	\$130,000	\$121,000	\$82,000
Winnipeg - St. James, Manitoba	\$228,000	\$155,000	\$87,750	\$73,000
Ottawa – Kanata, Ontario	\$425,000	\$265,000	\$198,000	\$151,000
Toronto – Markham, Ontario	\$435,000	\$350,000	\$240,000	\$260,000
Montreal - St. Laurent, Quebec	\$550,000	\$237,000	\$183,000	\$178,000

### **Where to stay until you find a home:**

Staying in a hotel in the heart of the city may be too expensive for some people, but the Downtown YMCA and YWCA have rooms with kitchens for low prices. In addition, there are apartment hotels that have rooms or suites with kitchens. Check the Yellow Pages in the telephone book under “Hotels” and “Motels”.

If you are not purchasing a home and are considering rental accommodation, there are a number of ways to find a rental home. Check classified ads in city and community newspapers, bulletin boards in shops, neighborhood agencies or local community centers. Check the Yellow Pages under “Rental Agencies”. Or go to a neighborhood you like and walk or drive around looking for “For Rent” signs posted in front of the building.

For low-cost housing information, check with B.C. Housing ([www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org)) at 4382 Kingsway (Tel: 604-433-2218). You may also look at the City of Vancouver’s non-market housing inventory through the Housing Centre’s webpage at: [www.vancouver.ca/housing](http://www.vancouver.ca/housing).

### **Renting: tenants and landlords**

The Province of British Columbia has rules and regulations about what landlords and renters must do. These rules and regulations are contained in BC's Residential Tenancy Act. Contact the BC Residential Tenancy Office in Burnaby (Tel: 604-660-3546) or their 24-hr Information Line at 604-660-1020. The Office also publishes a useful guide titled A Guide for Landlords & Tenants In British Columbia, which is also available on their website at: [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/rto/](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/rto/).

If you rent and have issues as a tenant, you can contact Tenants Rights Action Coalition (TRAC, Tel: 604-255-0546, hotline: 1-800-665-1185). They also have a handbook called the Tenant Survival Guide. The City's Tenant's Assistance Program (Tel: 604-873-7487) also provides information and assistance.

Property taxes: In Vancouver, the total property tax per person in 2004 was at \$734.00 for all single detached houses. In Victoria, the figure was \$1,660.00.

**i. Vancouver**

<http://vancouver.ca/>

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/>

Greater Vancouver	Total Population Estimate	2,132,824
Major Municipalities	Population Estimate 2004	
Vancouver	583,296	
Surrey	383,831	
Burnaby	202,966	
Richmond	172,714	
Coquitlam	121,463	

The City of Vancouver is an international centre for education and high technology, and its multicultural population has nurtured tremendous growth in international business and trade. Vancouver's geographic location gives the city a strategic advantage as an international gateway, and as a true multimodal transportation hub.

Vancouver's climate is unusually temperate by Canadian standards; after [Victoria](#), it is the second warmest major city in Canada during the winter. Precipitation varies from about 1,100 mm (43 inches) at Point Grey to 3,500 mm or more (137 inches) near the north Shore Mountains. Summer months are generally sunny and dry, with moderate temperatures. The daily maximum averages 22°C in July and August. Thunderstorms are rare, with about four to six per year. Rainfall is frequent in winter.

Educational and cultural institutions within the metropolitan area of Vancouver include the University of British Columbia (1908; with a notable Museum of Anthropology on its campus), Simon Fraser University (1963), Institute of Technology, H.R. MacMillan Planetarium, the Centennial and Maritime museums, the Vancouver Art Gallery (1931), and BC Stadium (1983) for sporting events. Thousands of acres of land in the city are devoted to parks and good sporting facilities. Stanley Park (with its arboretum, gardens, aquarium, and zoo) occupies 1,000 acres (405 hectares) of the downtown peninsula at the harbour entrance.

In the *Metropolitan Outlook*, 2004 for western Canada, Vancouver is one of six cities with the fastest growing economies; the third largest city in Canada and also one of North America's fastest growing cities. Sophisticated and ethnically diverse, Vancouver

is consistently rated as one of the best places to live in the world and one the healthiest population in Canada.

**Vancouver's Neighbourhoods:** Vancouver is a city of neighborhoods, and neighborhoods are places people call home. Vancouverites appreciate and identify with their neighborhoods, each of which has its own distinct character. The following is a list of Vancouver's neighborhoods:



- 1. Arbutus Ridge
- 2. Downtown

- 9. Kerrisdale
- 10. Killarney

- 17. Shaughnessy
- 18. South Cambie

- |                               |                                |                         |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3. Downtown-Eastside          | 11. Kitsilano                  | 19. Strathcona          |
| 4. Dunbar-Southlands          | 12. Marpole                    | 20. Sunset              |
| 5. Fairview                   | 13. Mount Pleasant             | 21. Victoria-Fraserview |
| 6. Grandview-Woodland         | 14. Oakridge                   | 22. West End            |
| 7. Hastings-Sunrise           | 15. Renfrew-Collingwood        | 23. West Point Grey     |
| 8. Kensington - Cedar Cottage | 16. Riley Park-Little Mountain |                         |

**Homes in Vancouver:** Vancouver has a variety of housing, including single-family homes, apartments, condominiums, and townhouses. The downtown West End is mainly high-rise apartment buildings and condominiums, while much of the rest of the city is single-family homes mixed with low-rise, apartments, medium density condos and townhouse developments along major streets.

You may be considering the purchase of a house, a townhouse or a condominium. There are special newspapers that only have listings of homes for sale. You can also walk or drive around neighborhoods you like, looking for “For Sale” signs. Almost all houses are sold through real estate agents. A real estate agent can help you look for a home. The Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver can provide more information on home buying. Check their website at: [www.realtylink.org](http://www.realtylink.org).

**Education:** The Greater Vancouver Area has 12 school districts, most with a large number of schools and students. These range from 17 schools in a district to 127.

Number of School Districts:	12
(Example of A District: Central Vancouver School District: Vancouver	
Total Private and Public Schools	113
Public Elementary School Enrollment	31,976
Public Secondary School Enrollment	26,861
Public Student Teacher Ratio	17:1

Vancouver Community College is British Columbia's No. 1 college - and for more than 40 years we've helped students improve their lives, their job opportunities and their career prospects. VCC serves more than 26,000 students a year in first-year university, health, hospitality, business, English as a Second Language, adult basic education, career access, continuing studies, trades, computing, technology, music and more. Kindly visit the following website for more information:

<http://www.vcc.ca/>

British Columbia Institute of Technology -BCIT builds pathways for career success with full-time and part-time studies leading to certificates, diplomas and applied bachelor's degrees. Technological innovation demands higher levels of applied knowledge. BCIT is developing applied master's degrees for several disciplines. BCIT offers a unique blend of academic learning and real skills that ensures student success. Their programs “are developed with industry input and taught by quality instructors”.

Kindly visit the following website for more information:

<http://www.bcit.ca/>

### **Registering for schools**

For information about schools for your children or courses for adult education, call the Vancouver School Board at 604-713-5000. The VSB web site is [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca). The District Reception and Placement Centre at 2530 East 43rd Ave (Tel: 604-713-5999) evaluates new students for placement in classes.

Other Colleges and Universities in Vancouver:

- Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design  
Tel: 604-844-3800  
[www.eciad.bc.ca](http://www.eciad.bc.ca)
- Langara College  
Tel: 604-323-5686  
[www.langara.bc.ca](http://www.langara.bc.ca)
- Simon Fraser University  
Harbour Centre: Tel: 604-291-5000  
[www.sfu.ca](http://www.sfu.ca)
- University of British Columbia  
Tel: 604-822-2211  
[www.ubc.ca](http://www.ubc.ca)

**Climate:** Weather is a big topic in Vancouver and if people associate one thing with the city, it is usually rain. It does rain in Vancouver, but you'll see from the information below that it doesn't really rain all that much. And Vancouver makes up for the rain with more than 16 hours of daylight every day.

Vancouver is surrounded by water on three sides and overlooked by the Coast Range - mountains that rise abruptly to more than 1,500 m. Its climate is one of the mildest in Canada. Temperatures average 3°C in January and 18°C in July. Vancouver's average annual precipitation is 1,219 mm. Most rainfall occurs in winter

Average Daily Temperature	High	Low	Average
January	6.1°C	0.5°C	3.3°C
July	21.7°C	13.2°C	17°C

Average Annual Rainfall	1,239.50 mm
Average Annual Snowfall	37.90 cm

## **Quality of Life**

### Culture and Recreation

Religion	Number of Institutions
Number of Catholic Churches	85
Number of Protestant Churches	769
Number of Synagogues	13
Number of Other Religious Institutions	124

**Special events and festivals:** On July 1st, Canada's birthday, there are special events in neighborhoods all over Vancouver. Read your local newspapers or talk to staff at your local community centre to find out how and where to participate in these events.

Vancouver has lots of arts festivals and community celebrations throughout the year. Some events include:

- Black History Month (Feb)
- Asian Heritage Month (May)
- Vancouver Int'l Children's Festival (June)
- Aboriginal Art and Cultural Celebration (June)
- Vancouver Jazz Festival (June)
- Dragon Boat Festival (June)
- Vancouver Folk Music Festival (July)
- Vancouver Chamber Music Festival (July/August)
- Powell Street Festival (August)
- Gay Pride Parade & Festival (August)
- Vancouver Fringe Festival (September)
- Vancouver Int'l Film Festival (October)
- Vancouver Writers and Readers Festival (October)

All these events bring people together from around Greater Vancouver to enjoy the arts and culture of many different communities. Watch for posters and look in different newspapers and media to find out about these events.

#### No. of Cultural Places & Amenities

Number of Dance Companies	29
Number of Museums	56
Number of Opera Companies	1
Number of Symphony Companies	7
Number of Theatre Companies	27

#### Health

Description	Number
Number of hospitals	41
Number of teaching hospitals	8
Number of hospital beds	10078
Number of physicians	4936
Number of dentists	1703
Ratio of Physicians per 1000	2.3 : 1000
Ratio of Dentists per 1000	0.8 : 1000

**Emergency Services 9-1-1:** If you have an emergency, there are three kinds of help you can ask for: Police, Fire and Ambulance.

You can ask for any of these three services by calling one telephone number: 9-1-1. Calling 9-1-1 will bring help to you or those who need help very fast.

Make sure that everyone in the family, including children, knows how and when to dial 9-1-1. Write your address by the phone, so that your family can say it fast in an emergency.

When you dial 9-1-1, you will be asked whether you want Police, Fire or Ambulance. Tell the operator which service you need, and give your name and address. Try to give as much information to the operator as you can. If you don't speak English, tell the operator in English what language you speak. The operator will find an interpreter to come on line to help with interpretation. It may take a short while. Stay on the line while the operator tries to connect you with an interpreter.

## **ii. Victoria**

<http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/>

Greater Victoria	Total Population Estimate	331,491
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### Major Municipalities Population Estimate 2004

Saanich	109,639
Victoria	77,538
Langford	20,901
Oak Bay	18,357
Esquimalt	17,038
Central Saanich	16,451

Victoria is the capital city of the province. It is on Vancouver Island. The B.C. government meets in Victoria. Victoria, BC is one of the premier travel destinations in the World. ... Victoria sits on the south tip of Vancouver Island off the west coast of British Columbia, Canada. It is a city of 300,000 with a breathtaking inner harbour area. Victoria is well known for its Heritage homes either as Bed and Breakfasts or rental homes and suites. Much of Victoria's downtown area has been restored to original facades. The streets are safe, clean and well lit at night. Victoria is not just for adults as many venues and accommodations welcome children and many are pet friendly.

Vancouver Island has a population of over 750,000 and stretches southeast to northwest along the western coast of British Columbia. The rugged west coast is cut deeply by fjords lined between high mountains with many communities located along the shores of protected bays. The eastern plain is rich with timber, farmlands, fishing streams, villages, and modern cities. Vancouver Island accommodations, BC Outdoor Adventure and indoor activities are available to suit families, honeymooners, day trippers, couples, singles, boaters, or seniors looking for winter long stays in our mild climate.

In Victoria a detached single family house (detached) sells for an average of \$349,728. A Townhouse (attached) is an average of \$267,067 and a Condominium (apartment) is \$182,675.

The average rental rates for a two (2) bedroom apartment are \$750 per month. The rate to rent an executive style 3000 sq. ft house is an average of \$1500 per month.

**Climate:** Located in sub-Mediterranean zone, Victorians enjoy some of the most moderate weather in all of Canada. Victoria boasts an average of 2,183 hours of sunshine yearly, and an eight month frost free season. Victoria's equable climate has also added to its reputation as the "City of Gardens". With its mild temperatures and plentiful sunshine Victoria boasts gardens that are home to many plant species rarely found elsewhere in Canada. Several species of palms, eucalyptus, and certain varieties of bananas can be seen growing throughout the area's gardens. Due to its Mediterranean-type climate, south-eastern Vancouver Island is also home to many rare

native plants found nowhere else in Canada .Victoria experiences a mild, rainy winter and very dry summers

Average Daily Temperature	High	Low	Average
January	6.5°C	0.3°C	3.4°C
July	21.9°C	10.8°C	16.4°C

Average Annual Rainfall 812.80 mm

Average Annual Snowfall 46.90 cm

**Extreme Weather Protocol:** Coordinated by the City of Victoria, the "Extreme Weather Protocol" is a collaborative community-based program involving housing providers and social service agencies in Victoria aimed at increasing shelter capacity during the wet, winter months. About 10 shelter and social service agencies in Victoria participate in the program and ensure that if extreme weather conditions are forecasted and "stage one" beds are full, organizations communicate with each other and implement the next stages of the protocol. Conditions are checked again part-way through the week.

This initiative was first introduced after a severe cold snap in January 2004 when the City's Silver Threads building was used as a short-term emergency shelter. Previously called the Cold Weather Protocol, the new name better reflects the variety of acute weather conditions that may trigger the increase in shelter beds, including wind, rain, and snow or freezing temperatures.

Additional information and current statistics can be found on the Extreme Weather Protocol webpage at [www.coolaid.org](http://www.coolaid.org).

## Quality of Life

Culture and Recreation

### Shopping Centers

Number of Regional Enclosed Malls 7

### Top Annual Events

	Date(s)
Classic Boat Festival	Sept 1-3
Folk Festival	June 30 - July 8
Symphony Splash	Aug-05
Terrivic Dixieland Jazz Party	April 18-22
Victoria Harbour Festival	May 19-28

### **No. of Cultural Places & Amenities**

Number of Dance Companies	6
Number of Museums	13
Number of Opera Companies	1
Number of Symphony Companies	2
Number of Theatre Companies	7

### **Recreational Outlets (Within a 2 Hour Drive)      Activity**

Butchart Gardens	Gardens & Fireworks
Butterfly Gardens	Attraction
Dureydarroch Castle	Museum
Galloping Goose Trail	Hiking & Biking Trails
Kayaking, canoeing, biking, hiking	Eco-tourism
Royal British Columbia Museum	Museum
Royal London Wax Museum	Museum
Whale Watching	Nature sightseeing

### **Health**

Description	Number
Number of hospitals	9
Number of teaching hospitals	0
Number of hospital beds	2193
Number of physicians	888
Number of dentists	188
Ratio of Physicians per 1000	2.7 : 1000
Ratio of Dentists per 1000	0.6 : 1000

**The Victoria Police Department:** The Victoria Police Department proudly serves the communities of Victoria and Esquimalt. The Township of Esquimalt is a colorful and progressive community. It is the Pacific coast home of Canada's Navy and is well known for its beautiful parks and seaside walkways.

In addition to being the oldest police department west of the Great Lakes, Victoria possesses a reputation as one of Canada's most innovative and modern police agencies. Their 221 police officers benefit from strong community support and involvement, and they recognize the crucial role our 75 civilian staff and volunteers play in assisting them in maintaining public safety.

**City of Victoria Average Household Expenditures – 2002**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2002 Household</b>	<b>% Share</b>
Food	\$6,446	11.20%
Shelter	\$12,452	21.70%
Household Operation	\$2,571	4.50%
Household Furnishings/Equipment	\$1,703	3%
Clothing	\$2,161	3.80%
Transportation	\$6,403	11.20%
Health Care	\$1,673	2.90%
Personal Care	\$747	1.30%
Recreation	\$3,847	6.70%
Reading & Other Printed Material	\$309	0.50%
Education	\$1,054	1.80%
Tobacco & Alcoholic Beverages	\$1,291	2.20%
Computer Equipment & Supplies	\$459	0.80%
Games of Chance	\$137	0.20%
Miscellaneous	\$926	1.60%
Total Current Consumption	\$41,719	72.70%
Personal Taxes	\$9,426	16.40%
Personal Insurance/Pension	\$3,650	6.40%
Gifts and Contributions	\$2,625	4.60%
Total Family Expenditure	\$57,419	100%

### **iii. Kelowna, British Columbia**

<http://www.city.kelowna.bc.ca/>

Municipality	2004 Population Estimate
Kelowna	105,621
Lake Country	10,064
Peachland	5,077
Rural Areas	41,793

Kelowna is the largest city in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley, which is located in the south central region of the province. Vancouver is less than four hours to the west, and Calgary is about seven hours to the east through the picturesque Rocky Mountains. The Washington State border is one to one and a half hours to the south.

Kelowna has become the main marketing and distribution centre of the Okanagan Valley, with a flourishing tree fruit industry and a growing light industrial sector that competes on a world scale. Best known for forestry and the manufacture of boats, plastics, fibreglass, body armour and oil field equipment, Kelowna also has a growing high technology sector that includes aerospace development and service.

The average household income in Kelowna in 2001 was \$52,696.00. Sewer rates are \$14.20 per month plus an annual parcel tax of \$50.00. The minimum charge for electricity rates vary according to rate code but a B.C. resident is charged at a rate of .06280 cents per kilowatt hour.

#### **Housing: Buying and Renting Sources**

<http://www.okanaganvalleyhomes.com/>

<http://www.welcometorentals.com/>

The Welcome to Network Rental Housing Guide was designed to provide tenants with the maximum amount of information for available rental properties in the BC community while minimizing the time required to finding suitable housing. Using The Welcome to Network Rental Housing Guide and Rent BC to promote your rental properties is fast, easy and best of all FREE for a full month with your first listing.

**Climate:** Kelowna and the Central Okanagan are known for their hot summers and mild winters. The temperature is best described as being of the mild continental type. The summers are warm with hot days but cool and sometimes cold nights. Winters, occasionally cold, are much milder than areas north and east of the Valley. In Kelowna and the Central Okanagan, mean maximum temperatures vary from about 0 degrees C in January to 27.9 degrees C in July. Thus about one third of mid-summer are tropical in nature (maximum temperature greater than 30 degrees C) and thaws occur at valley bottom on about half of the days in January.

The Okanagan is characterized by cool humid air and cloudy skies in winter and by dry air with bright skies in summer. The mean annual hours of bright sunshine in Kelowna and the Central Okanagan are just under 2000 hours.

Average Daily Temperature	High	Low	Average
January	-0.2°C	-7.4°C	-3.8°C
July	27.6°C	10.5°C	19.1°C

Average Annual Rainfall 280.70 mm

Average Annual Snowfall 105.50 cm

**Quality of Life:** Relatively undiscovered, Kelowna is never too crowded despite playing host to visitors the world over. The Kelowna International Airport, the 10th busiest in Canada, easily connects to major North American cities. With daily flights, it's just a 60-minute flight from Calgary or Vancouver and 70 minutes from Seattle. Daily direct flights to Toronto are also available. A variety of accommodations offer choices ranging from lakeside resorts to cozy B & B's.

Kelowna has miles of beautiful parkland, and several sandy beaches which provide wonderful opportunities for boating, swimming, water-skiing, windsurfing and fishing. As well, you can hit the links at one of our many golf courses nine months out of the year. In cooler months, our snow-capped mountains and pine filled forests are a haven for skiers, boarders, snowmobiler's and outdoor adventurers of all types and levels.

Orchards and vineyards thrive within a 10-minute drive from the downtown core and provide seasonal delights year round. You can pluck ripe cherries or juicy peaches from trees, or spend a delightful day sampling the award-winning wares of our internationally acclaimed wineries. The spring, summer and Fall Wine Festivals offer hundreds of activities focused on wine making, tasting and touring.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Number of Institutions</b>
Number of Catholic Churches	10
Number of Protestant Churches	87
Number of Synagogues	1
Number of Other Religious Institutions	19

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tourismkelowna.com/>

<b>Top Annual Events</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
Boat Show and Parade	July 22nd and 23rd
Canada Day Festival	July 1st weekend
Fall Okanagan Wine Festival	September 29th - October 8th
Fat Cat Children's Festival	July 30th
Mardi Gras Street Festival	July 22nd

### **No. of Cultural Places & Amenities**

Number of Dance Companies	0
Number of Museums	4
Number of Opera Companies	0
Number of Symphony Companies	1
Number of Theatre Companies	1

### **Recreational Outlets (Within a 2 Hour Drive) Activity**

Bear Creek Provincial Park	Camping, boat launch, kayaking, swimming, hiking
Big White Ski Hill	Ski Resort Boat launch, mtn. biking, bird watching,
Kalamalka Provincial Park	kayaking, fishing, swimming
Lake Okanagan	Lake activities Regional Park; bird watching,
Mission Creek Green Way	hiking, horseback riding, mtn. Biking
Okanagan Lake Provincial Park	Camping, kayaking, boat launch,

Shuswap Lake	swimming, fishing
Silver Star Ski Resort	Camping, fishing Ski Resort

## Health

Description	Number
Number of hospitals	1
Number of teaching hospitals	0
Number of hospital beds	731
Number of physicians	92
Number of dentists	64
Ratio of Physicians per 1000	0.6 : 1000
Ratio of Dentists per 1000	0.4 : 1000

## Average Cost of Living

### Kelowna

#### Average Expenditure per Household (\$)

Total expenditure (\$)	48,858
Total Current Consumption	34,238
Food	5781
Shelter	8818
Household Operation	2280
Household Furnishings	1303
Clothing	2011
Transportation	6089
Health Care	1030
Personal Care	811
Recreation	2698
Reading Materials	260
Education	480
Tobacco and Alcohol	1212
Miscellaneous expenditures	1465
Personal Taxes	10,199
Personal insurance/pensions	2459

*iv. Kamloops, British Columbia*  
<http://www.city.kamloops.bc.ca/>

Municipality	2004 Population Estimate
Kamloops	81,699
Logan Lake	2,314
Rural Areas	7,726

Kamloops is the transportation hub of B.C. southern interior. The city lies at the crossroads of B.C.'s four major highways and Canada's two main railways. Forestry, mining, ranching, and crop farming are the principal industries, and ginseng is becoming an increasingly valuable crop. Manufactures include cement, wood products, pressed metal, food, and electrical equipment. According to a Cost of Living Study done through the American Chamber of Commerce, Kamloops ranks as one of the lowest cost cities to live in, consistently placing in the top ten out of over 300 communities throughout North America.

This city is open for business and investor confidence is high. Several large residential development projects are in the works, a new waterfront hotel/conference centre project is in the planning stages and 366 new businesses have started-up since January 2005. A report by the federal Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade shows that, at 17%, Kamloops has the highest foreign-direct investment of any community in Western Canada. This optimistic business climate is reflected in the City's positive growth with the city's GDP projected to increase by 3.8% in 2005.

Kamloops is also a fabulous place to live. The city is the 2004 National Champion in its category in the prestigious Communities in Bloom competition. A new, state of the art, water filtration Plant opened in February 2005, making Kamloops water amongst the best in the country. Skiing, golfing, fishing, boating, hiking and much more are just minutes away.

The median household income in 2001 was \$46,337. Real property tax rate per \$1000 of assessed property for residential property is 1.44296.

**Education:** School District #73 (Kamloops/Thompson) includes Kamloops and the communities of Barriere, Clearwater, Vavenby, Blue River, Chase, Logan Lake, Savona and Westwold. School enrollment in Kamloops has been slowly decreasing over the past five years. This pattern is part of a province-wide trend.

As of 2004, 15,423 students were enrolled in the District. Several types of learning environments, including a storefront school and a virtual school, support the needs of students.

Number of School Districts: 1

School District: Kamloops/Thompson

Total Private and Public Schools	52
Public Elementary School Enrollment	8,627
Public Secondary School Enrollment	7,067
Public Student Teacher Ratio	18:1

**Climate:** The Kamloops region has diverse vegetation ranging from semi-arid desert plateaus to lush river valleys. The climate in the summer is usually hot and dry, while in the winter, snow falls at the higher elevations and mild temperatures prevail in the low lying areas.

Kamloops experiences all four seasons allowing for unlimited outdoor recreation opportunities. From skiing to golfing, fishing to hiking, Kamloops has a perfect climate for year round adventure seekers.

Average Daily Temperature	High	Low	Average
January	-0.8°C	-7.6°C	-4.2°C
July	28.3°C	13.7°C	21 °C

Average Annual Rainfall	198.10 mm
Average Annual Snowfall	86.20 cm

## Quality of Life

Culture and Recreation

Shopping Centers

Number of Regional Enclosed Malls 4

Religion	Number of Institutions
Number of Catholic Churches	7
Number of Protestant Churches	37
Number of Synagogues	0
Number of Other Religious Institutions	9

<b>Top Annual Events</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
Art in the Park/ Folkfest	July 1
Hot Night in the City	August 18
Kamloopa Powwow	August 18-20
Kamloops Airshow	July
River Family Funfest	July 23
Sun Peaks Blossom Festival	Not Available
Wildlights	December

### **No. of Cultural Places & Amenities**

Number of Dance Companies	0
Number of Museums	3
Number of Opera Companies	0
Number of Symphony Companies	1
Number of Theatre Companies	2

### **Recreational Outlets (Within a 2 Hour Drive) Activity**

Golf Courses	Golf
Kamloops Waterslides	Water park
Mike Wiegler Mountain	Skiing
Sun Peaks	Skiing
Wildlife Park	Various

### **Health**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Number</b>
Number of hospitals	2
Number of hospital beds	463
Number of physicians	156
Number of dentists	47
Ratio of Physicians per 1000	1.7 : 1000
Ratio of Dentists per 1000	0.5 : 1000