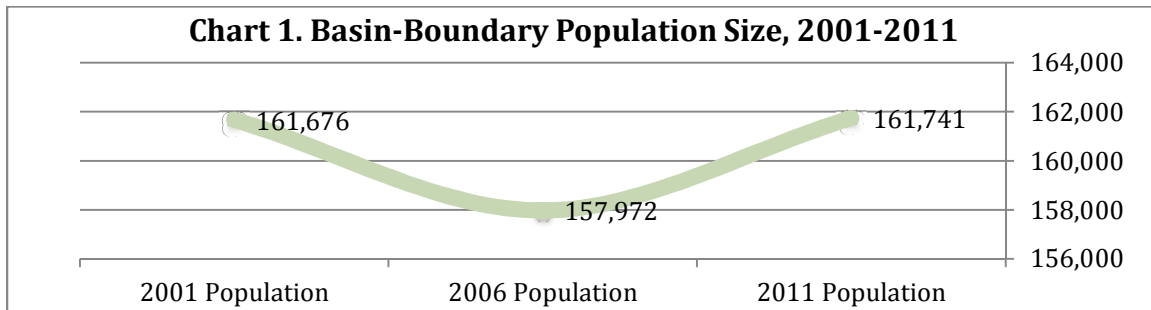
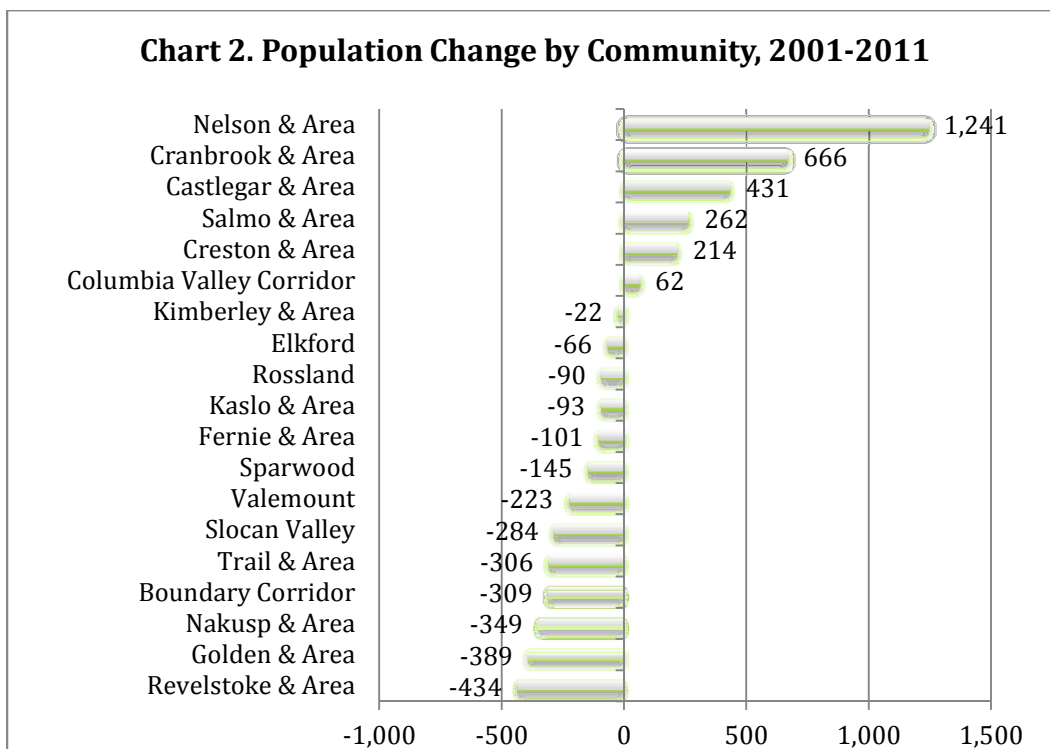


The Last 10 Years: Growth Corridors Stabilize Population in the Basin Boundary

As highlighted in Chart 1, data from Census 2011 reveals the population of the Columbia Basin Boundary Region¹ has returned to 2001 levels, rebounding from a decline in population of 3,704 as reported in the 2006 census.



As Chart 2 reveals, the communities that experienced the highest levels growth over the last 10 years were Nelson, Cranbrook, Castlegar, Salmo and Creston. The highest levels of population decline over the last 10 years occurred mainly in the northern part of the region, including Revelstoke, Golden, Nakusp and Valemount. The larger communities in the Kootenay Boundary Region District also experienced decline, including the Greater Trail Area, Rossland, and Grand Forks (in the Boundary Corridor). Nakusp and the Slovan Valley has also experienced significant decline over the last 10 years.



¹ Columbia Basin Boundary Region includes the Columbia Basin Trust catchment area in addition to the Boundary area.

Table 1 below provides detailed data for each community and Regional District (RD) Area in the West Kootenay Corridor. The population of this corridor increased by 812 (1.3%) over the last 10 years. Strong growth in the Nelson Area, Castlegar Area and the City of Trail offset decline in the rest of the Corridor.

Table 1. Population Growth and Decline in the West Kootenay Corridor, 2001-2011

Name	2011 Population	2001 Population	Change, 2001-2011	% Change, 2001-2011
Nelson	10,230	9,318	912	8.9%
Central Kootenay E	3,781	3,521	260	6.9%
Central Kootenay F	3,976	3,907	69	1.7%
Central Kootenay G	1,597	1,354	243	15.2%
Salmo	1,139	1,120	19	1.7%
Nelson & Area	20,723	19,220	1,503	7.3%
Castlegar	7,816	7,585	231	3.0%
Central Kootenay I	2,570	2,436	134	5.2%
Central Kootenay J	2,996	2,930	66	2.2%
Castlegar & Area	13,382	12,951	431	3.2%
Kaslo	1,026	1,032	-6	-0.6%
Central Kootenay D	1,413	1,500	-87	-6.2%
Kaslo & Area	2,439	2,532	-93	-3.8%
New Denver	504	538	-34	-6.7%
Silverton	195	222	-27	-13.8%
Slocan	296	336	-40	-13.5%
Central Kootenay H	4,289	4,472	-183	-4.3%
Slocan Valley	5,284	5,568	-284	-5.4%
Nakusp	1,569	1,698	-129	-8.2%
Central Kootenay K	1,759	1,979	-220	-12.5%
Nakusp & Area	3,328	3,677	-349	-10.5%
Trail	7,681	7,575	106	1.4%
Fruitvale	2,016	2,025	-9	-0.4%
Montrose	1,030	1,067	-37	-3.6%
Warfield	1,700	1,739	-39	-2.3%
Rossland	3,556	3,646	-90	-2.5%
Kootenay Boundary A	1,845	1,984	-139	-7.5%
Kootenay Boundary B	1,395	1,583	-188	-13.5%
Trail & Rossland Area	19,223	19,619	-396	-2.1%
West Kootenay Corridor	64,379	63,567	812	1.3%
Basin-Boundary Region	161,741	161,676	65	0.0%
British Columbia	4,400,057	3,907,738	492,319	11.2%

It is interesting to note the Regional District (RD) Areas adjacent to Nelson and Castlegar are growing right along with their neighbouring communities. The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Areas I and J increased by 200 people in the last 10 years paralleling the growth of the neighbouring larger community of Castlegar (231 increase, 3.0%). RDCK Areas E, F, and G and the community of Salmo collectively increased by 591 paralleling the growth of neighbouring Nelson (912 increase, 8.9%). While the City of Trail grew by 106 people (1.4%) over 10 years, population declines in the adjacent

communities of Rossland (-90), Warfield (-39), Montrose (-37) and Fruitvale (-9) and RD Areas A (-139) and B (-188) off set this growth for an overall decrease of -396 (-2.1%) in the Greater Trail and Rossland Area.

Table 2 below provides detailed data for the Cranbrook-Kimberley-Creston growth corridor in the south-eastern part of the Basin Boundary region. This corridor increased by 858 people over the last 10 years. The communities of Cranbrook, (802, 4.2%) Creston (511, 9.6%) and Kimberley (168, 2.5%) as well as RDCK Area C (85, 6.2%) fueled population growth while the majority of adjacent RD areas decreased. There was also a slight decrease in the First Nations population in the region over the last 10 years (-13, 0.01%). It is interesting to note that population declines in RDs adjacent to Creston cut this area's population growth by more than half while population decline in Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) Area E offset Kimberley's growth completely. Population decline in RD Areas adjacent to Cranbrook only minimally offset this community's growth by 132 people.

Table 2. Population Growth Corridors in the East Basin Boundary Region, 2001-2011

Name	2011 Population	2001 Population	Change, 2001-2011	% Change, 2001-2011
Cranbrook	19,319	18,517	802	4.2%
East Kootenay B	1,746	1,838	-92	-5.3%
East Kootenay C	5,713	5,753	-40	-0.7%
East Kootenay First Nations	590	594	-4	-0.7%
Cranbrook & Area	27,368	26,702	666	2.4%
Creston	5,306	4,795	511	9.6%
Central Kootenay A	2,030	2,125	-95	-4.7%
Central Kootenay B	4,464	4,742	-278	-6.2%
Central Kootenay C	1,372	1,287	85	6.2%
Central Kootenay First Nations	113	122	-9	-8.0%
Creston & Area	13,285	13,071	214	1.6%
Kimberley	6,652	6,484	168	2.5%
East Kootenay E	1,634	1,824	-190	-11.6%
Kimberley & Area	8,286	8,308	-22	-0.3%
Cranbrook-Kimberley-Creston Corridor	48,939	48,081	858	1.8%
Basin-Boundary Region	161,741	161,676	65	0.0%
British Columbia	4,400,057	3,907,738	492,319	11.2%

As detailed in Table 3, a number of corridors (and the more isolated non-corridor communities of Revelstoke and Valemount²) experienced a decrease in population over the last 10 years. The Revelstoke Area experienced the largest population decrease (-434, -5.6%), followed by the Columbia Valley Corridor (-327, -2.1%), the Elk Valley Corridor (-312, -2.5%), the Boundary Corridor (-309, -2.6%), and Valemount (-223, -21.9%).

Upon further examination of the population changes within corridors, some tensions are apparent with respect to growth alongside decline. For example, in the Columbia Valley the communities of Invermere, Radium Hot Springs and RDEK Area F experienced a combined increase of 291 but population decline occurring mainly in the Golden Area (-389), RDEK Area G (-223) and Canal Flats (-39) greatly offset any gains for a net decrease of -327 (-2.1%). In the Elk Valley region, the population increase in RDEK Area A

² Due to geographic constraints the Revelstoke Area and Village of Valemount have not been included in a corridor.

(62) was offset by a collective decline of -374 in Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie for a net decrease of -312 (-2.5%). The Boundary Corridor also experienced a mix of growth and decline over the last 10 years with Greenwood and Midway collectively increasing by 78 and Grand Forks and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) Areas C, D and E collectively decreasing by -387 for a net decrease of -309 (-2.6%). It is interesting to note that 2011 Census data reveals the Columbia Valley has a high percentage of second homes (56% of total dwellings) concentrated mainly Radium Hot Springs (71%) and RDEK Area F (70%). The Boundary Corridor also has a high percentage of second homes (41%) concentrated mainly in RDKB Area E (75%) and RDKB Area C (59%). This suggests a high number of second homeowners live at least part of the year in the region; these 'non-usual residents' are not included in the region's Census count.

Table 3. Population Decline Corridors in the Basin Boundary Region, 2001-2011

Name	2011 Population	2001 Population	Change, 2001-2011	% Change, 2001-2011
Revelstoke	7,139	7,500	-361	-5.1%
Columbia-Shuswap B	552	625	-73	-13.2%
Revelstoke & Area	7,691	8,125	-434	-5.6%
Golden	3,701	4,020	-319	-8.6%
Columbia-Shuswap A	3,065	3,135	-70	-2.3%
Golden & Area	6,766	7,155	-389	-5.7%
Canal Flats	715	754	-39	-5.5%
Invermere	2,955	2,858	97	3.3%
Radium Hot Springs	777	583	194	25.0%
East Kootenay F	2,635	2,602	33	1.3%
East Kootenay G	1,412	1,635	-223	-15.8%
Columbia Valley Corridor	15,260	15,587	-327	-2.1%
Elkford	2,523	2,589	-66	-2.6%
Fernie	4,448	4,611	-163	-3.7%
East Kootenay A	1,899	1,837	62	3.3%
Sparwood	3,667	3,812	-145	-4.0%
Elk Valley Corridor	12,537	12,849	-312	-2.5%
Grand Forks	3,985	4,054	-69	-1.7%
Greenwood	708	666	42	5.9%
Midway	674	638	36	5.3%
Kootenay Boundary C	1,391	1,456	-65	-4.7%
Kootenay Boundary D	3,187	3,241	-54	-1.7%
Kootenay Boundary E	1,970	2,169	-199	-10.1%
Boundary Corridor	11,915	12,224	-309	-2.6%
Valemount	1,020	1,243	-223	-21.9%
Basin-Boundary Region	161,741	161,676	65	0.0%
British Columbia	4,400,057	3,907,738	492,319	11.2%

Population trends in the region over the last 10 years not only reveal decline in the northern (Revelstoke, Golden & Valemount) and western (Boundary) parts of the region, data also reveals the population declined in the majority of RD Areas and increased in the larger centres. Simply put, people appear to be leaving the more rural areas and either moving into the region's larger, more southern communities (Nelson, Castlegar, Trail, Creston, Cranbrook) and / or moving out of the region. The larger communities are attracting residents from the RD areas and / or residents from outside of the region. Future Census data will help to clarify patterns related to inter and intra migration as well as immigration.