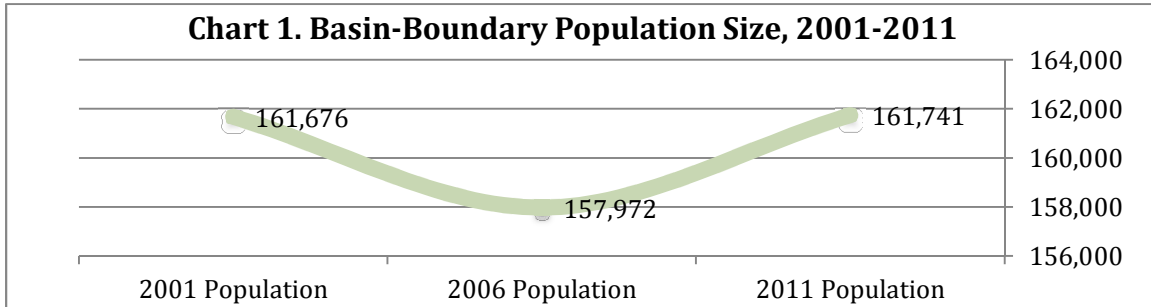
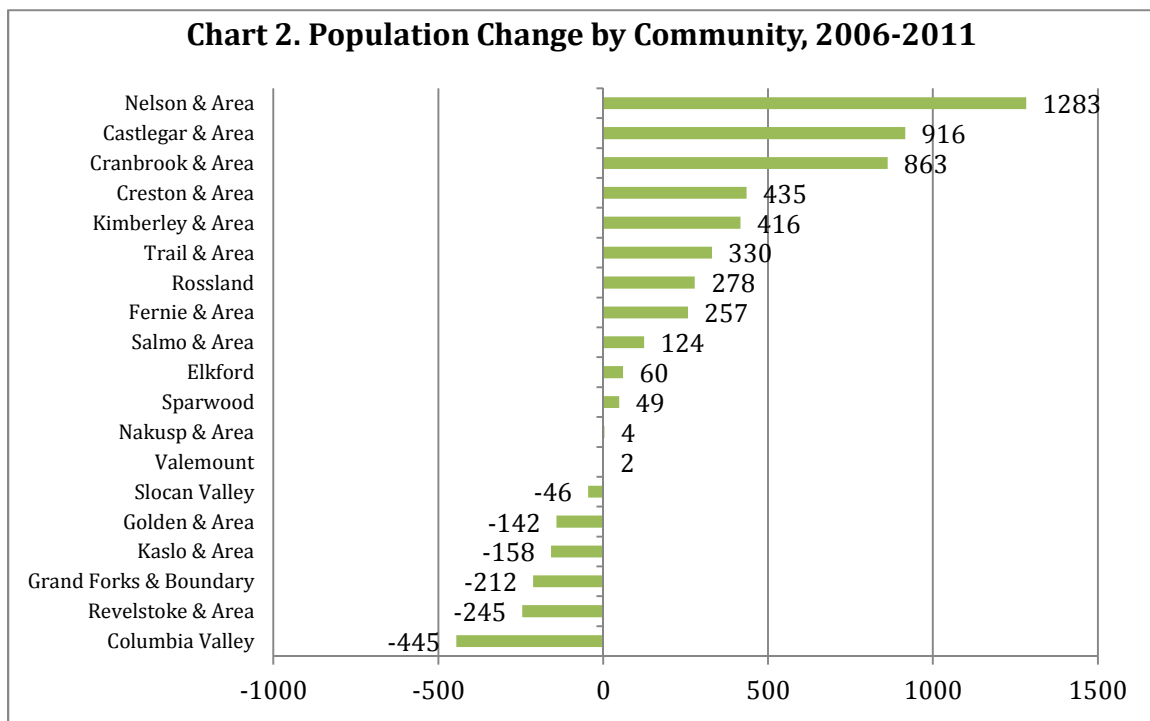


The Last 5 Years: Growth Corridors Fuel Population Rebound

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 between 2001 and 2006 as reported in the 2006 census.



As Chart 2 reveals, the areas that experienced the highest levels growth over the last 5 years were Nelson, Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Kimberley, Trail, Rossland, Fernie and Salmo. Similar to the 10 year trend, the highest levels of population decline over the last 5 years occurred mainly in the northern and western parts of the region, including the Columbia Valley, Revelstoke, the Boundary area, Kaslo and Golden.



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 adjacent Regional District (RD) Area in the West Kootenay Corridor. Overall the population of the West Kootenay Corridor increased by 2,731 (4.2%) over the last 10 years. Similar to the 5 year trend, the Nelson and Castlegar Areas fueled this growth. The Cities of Trail and Rossland also experienced significant growth over the last 5 years.

Table 1. Population Growth and Decline in the West Kootenay Corridor, 2006-2011

Name	2011 Population	2006 Population	Change, 2006-2011	% Change, 2006-2011
Nelson	10,230	9,258	972	9.5%
Central Kootenay E	3,781	3,716	65	1.7%
Central Kootenay F	3,976	3,730	246	6.2%
Central Kootenay G	1,597	1,605	-8	-0.5%
Salmo	1,139	1,007	132	11.6%
Nelson & Area	20,723	19,316	1,407	6.8%
Castlegar	7,816	7,259	557	7.1%
Central Kootenay I	2,570	2,415	155	6.0%
Central Kootenay J	2,996	2,792	204	6.8%
Castlegar & Area	13,382	12,466	916	6.8%
Trail	7,681	7,237	444	5.8%
Fruitvale	2,016	1,952	64	3.2%
Montrose	1,030	1,012	18	1.7%
Warfield	1,700	1,729	-29	-1.7%
Rossland	3,556	3,278	278	7.8%
Kootenay Boundary A	1,845	1,989	-144	-7.8%
Kootenay Boundary B	1,395	1,418	-23	-1.6%
Trail & Rossland Area	19,223	18,615	608	3.2%
Nakusp	1,569	1,524	45	2.9%
Central Kootenay K	1,759	1,800	-41	-2.3%
Nakusp & Area	3,328	3,324	4	0.1%
New Denver	504	512	-8	-1.6%
Silverton	195	185	10	5.1%
Slocan	296	314	-18	-6.1%
Central Kootenay H	4,289	4,319	-30	-0.7%
Slocan Valley	5,284	5,330	-46	-0.9%
Kaslo	1,026	1,072	-46	-4.5%
Central Kootenay D	1,413	1,525	-112	-7.9%
Kaslo & Area	2,439	2,597	-158	-6.5%
West Kootenay Corridor	64,379	61,648	2,731	4.2%
Basin-Boundary Region	161,741	157,972	3,769	2.3%
British Columbia	4,400,057	4,113,487	286,570	6.5%

Also similar to the 10 year trend, the RDs adjacent to Nelson and Castlegar are growing right along with their neighbouring municipalities. RDCK Areas E, F, and G and the community of Salmo collectively increased by 435 supporting the growth of neighbouring Nelson (972 increase, 9.5%) for an overall increase 1,407 (6.8%). The RDs adjacent to Castlegar increased by 359 people supporting Castlegar's growth (557) for a collective increase of 916 (6.8%). Growth in the Trail and Rossland Area was concentrated in the municipalities of Trail and Rossland (722) with the smaller municipalities and RDs experiencing a population decline of 114 resulting in a collective increase of 608 (3.2%) in the Trail-Rossland Area. Other areas within the West Kootenay Corridor remained relatively stable over the last 5 years, with the exception of the Kaslo Area with a population decline of 158. The Nakusp Area remained stable with an increase of 4 people and the Slocan Valley lost a total of 46 people.

As highlighted in Table 2, the Cranbrook, Kimberley and Creston Corridor increased by 1,714 people over the last 5 years. The communities of Cranbrook, (990, 5.1%) Creston (480, 9.0%) and Kimberley (513, 7.7%) as well as RDCK Area C (88, 6.4%) fueled this population growth in the eastern part of the region while the other adjacent RD areas decreased (-394). There was a slight increase in the First Nations population in the region over the last 5 years (26, 0.04%). Unlike trends identified over 10 years, population decline in the RD areas did not significantly off set population gains in the larger communities. The Elk Valley has also emerged as a growth corridor over the last 5 years with an overall increase of 366 (2.9%), fueled by growth mainly in Fernie (231). The population of Valemount remained stable with an increase of 2.

Table 2. Population Growth Corridors in the East Basin Boundary Region, 2006-2011

Name	2011 Population	2006 Population	Change, 2006-2011	% Change, 2006-2011
Cranbrook	19,319	18,329	990	5.1%
East Kootenay B	1,746	1,819	-73	-4.2%
East Kootenay C	5,713	5,804	-91	-1.6%
East Kootenay First Nations	590	553	37	6.3%
Cranbrook & Area	27,368	26,505	863	3.2%
Creston	5,306	4,826	480	9.0%
Central Kootenay A	2,030	2,041	-11	-0.5%
Central Kootenay B	4,464	4,575	-111	-2.5%
Central Kootenay C	1,372	1,284	88	6.4%
Central Kootenay First Nations	113	124	-11	-9.7%
Creston & Area	13,285	12,850	435	3.3%
Kimberley	6,652	6,139	513	7.7%
East Kootenay E	1,634	1,731	-97	-5.9%
Kimberley & Area	8,286	7,870	416	5.0%
Cranbrook, Kimberley & Creston Corridor	48,939	47,225	1,714	3.5%
Elkford	2,523	2,463	60	2.4%
Fernie	4,448	4,217	231	5.2%
East Kootenay A	1,899	1,873	26	1.4%
Sparwood	3,667	3,618	49	1.3%
Elk Valley Corridor	12,537	12,171	366	2.9%
Valemount	1,020	1,018	2	0.2%
Basin-Boundary Region	161,741	157,972	3,769	2.3%
British Columbia	4,400,057	4,113,487	286,570	6.5%

As detailed in Table 3, a few corridors experienced a decrease in population over the last 5 years. The Columbia Valley Corridor (-587, -3.8%), followed by the Revelstoke Area (-245, -3.2%), and the Boundary Corridor (-212, -1.8%). The bulk of population decline in the Columbia Valley occurred in the Golden and RDEK Areas F and G. The Boundary Corridor also experienced a mix of growth and decline over the last 5 years with Greenwood, Midway and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) Area D collectively increasing by 147 while Grand Forks and RDEK Areas C and E collectively decreased by -359 (the majority of which occurred in Area E). 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 in 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, 2006-2011

Name	2011 Population	2006 Population	Change, 2006-2011	% Change, 2006-2011
Golden	3,701	3,811	-110	-3.0%
Columbia-Shuswap A	3,065	3,097	-32	-1.0%
Golden & Area	6,766	6,908	-142	-2.1%
Canal Flats	715	700	15	2.1%
Invermere	2,955	3,002	-47	-1.6%
Radium Hot Springs	777	735	42	5.4%
East Kootenay F	2,635	2,939	-304	-11.5%
East Kootenay G	1,412	1,563	-151	-10.7%
Columbia Valley Corridor	15,260	8,939	-587	-3.8%
Revelstoke	7,139	7,230	-91	-1.3%
Columbia-Shuswap B	552	706	-154	-27.9%
Revelstoke & Area	7,691	7,936	-245	-3.2%
Grand Forks	3,985	4,036	-51	-1.3%
Greenwood	708	625	83	11.7%
Midway	674	621	53	7.9%
Kootenay Boundary C	1,391	1,435	-44	-3.2%
Kootenay Boundary D	3,187	3,176	11	0.3%
Kootenay Boundary E	1,970	2,234	-264	-13.4%
Boundary Corridor	11,915	12,127	-212	-1.8%
Basin-Boundary Region	161,741	157,972	3,769	2.3%
British Columbia	4,400,057	4,113,487	286,570	6.5%

An analysis of population change over the last five years reveals some continued and emerging patterns of growth alongside continued pockets of rural decline in the Basin Boundary Region. Strong population growth in Nelson, Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Kimberley, Trail, Rossland and the Elk Valley helped the Basin Boundary Region to rebound from population decline experienced between 2001-2006. The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDKC) experienced strong growth (increase of 2,558) fueled by significant population increases in the Nelson (1,283), Castlegar (916), and Creston (435) areas. The Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) also experienced strong growth (increase of 1,200) fueled by increases in Cranbrook (863), Kimberley (416), and the Elk Valley (109) areas. The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDBK) experienced minimal growth overall (increase of 396), with population increases in Rossland (278) and Trail (330) offsetting population decline in the Boundary corridor.