

The Sunshine Coast Organization Reporting on the Economy

This is a PDF version of the SCORE website

[score.scrd.bc.ca](http://score.scrd.bc.ca)

Winter 2003

# SCORE

## Introduction

Welcome to the SCORE website. On this site you will find the most current and informative data available, pertaining to the economy of British Columbia's Sunshine Coast. New data will be incorporated on the site as it becomes available. Check back periodically for new information.

Most information that is displayed on the site is available for download on the [Data](#) page.



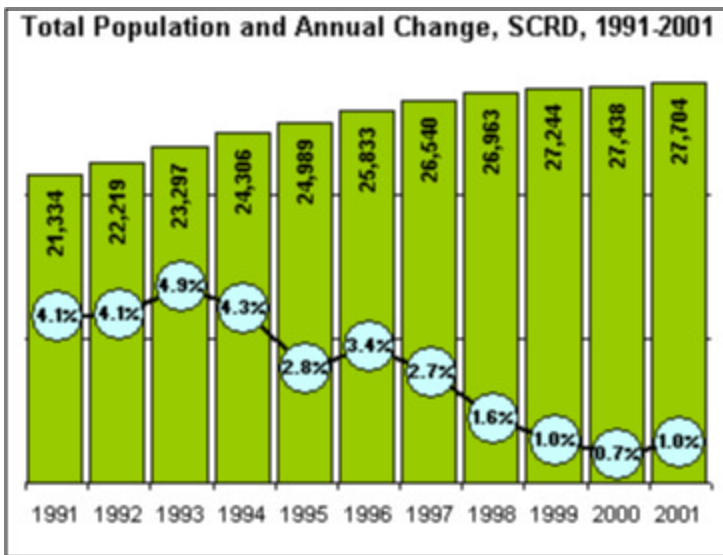
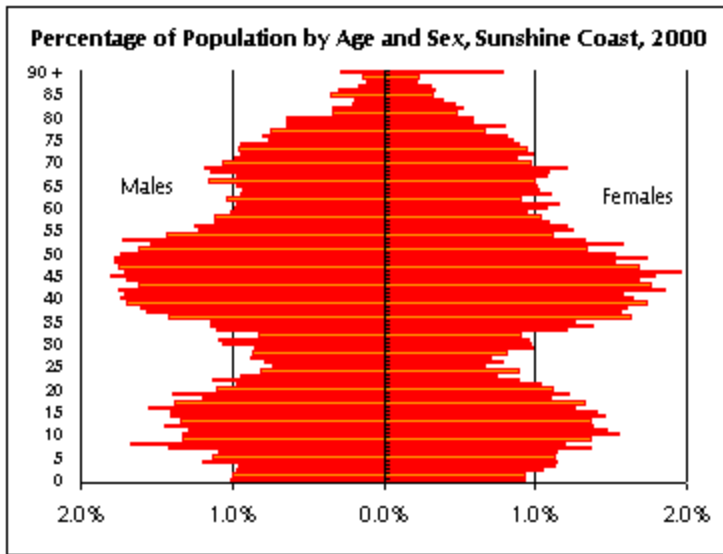
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## Population

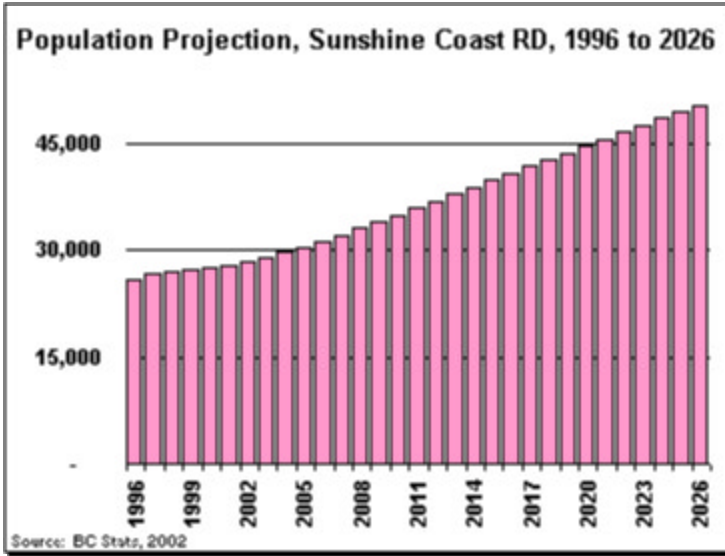
The most recent Statistics Canada and BC Stats data are included below.

### *Sunshine Coast Regional District*

- Total census population in 2001: **25,599**
- Total census population in 1996: **24,914**
- Change 1996-2001: **2.7%**
- Estimated Population over age 65 in 2001: **4,820 (18.8%)**



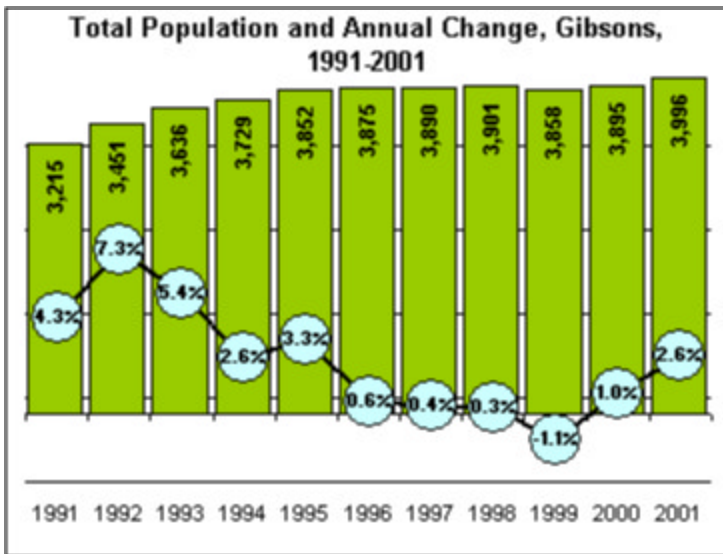
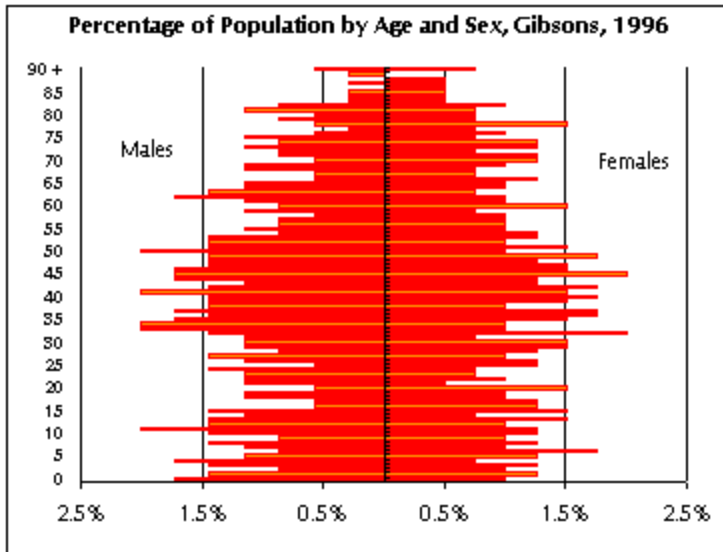
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## Gibsons

Total census population in 2001: **3,906**  
Total census population in 1996: **3,732**  
Change 1996-2001: **4.7%**  
Population over age 65 in 2001: **810 (20.7%)**



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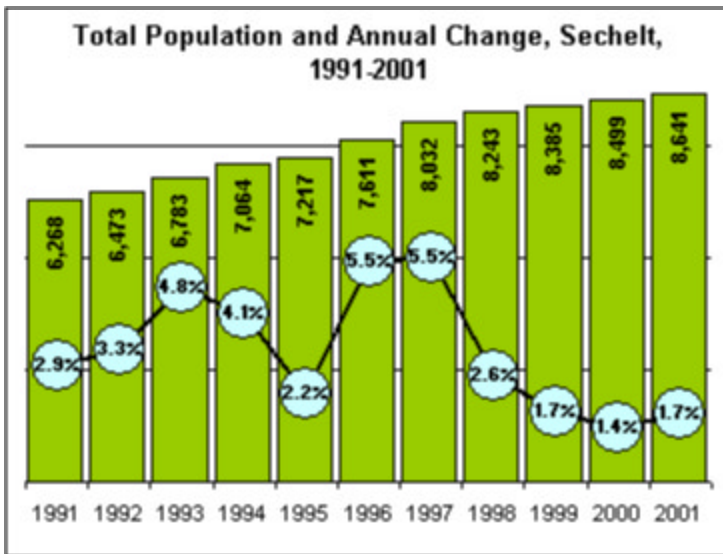
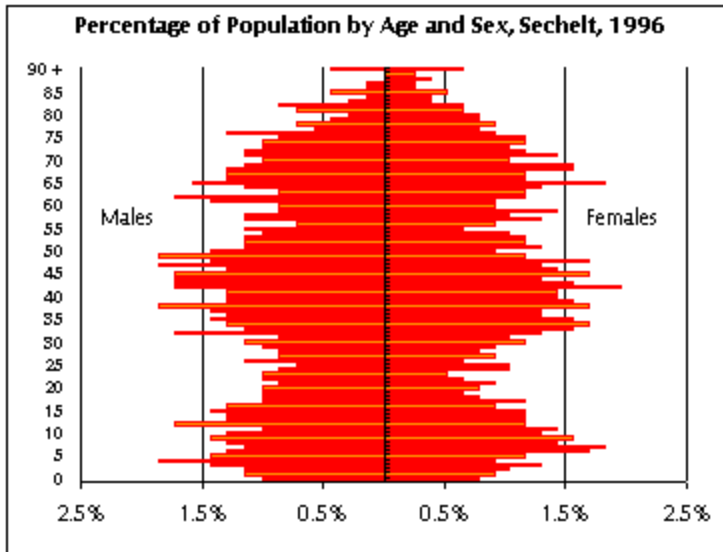
## Sechelt

Total census population in 2001: **7,775**

Total census population in 1996: **7,343**

Change 1996-2001: **5.9%**

Population over age 65 in 2001: **1,780** (22.9%)



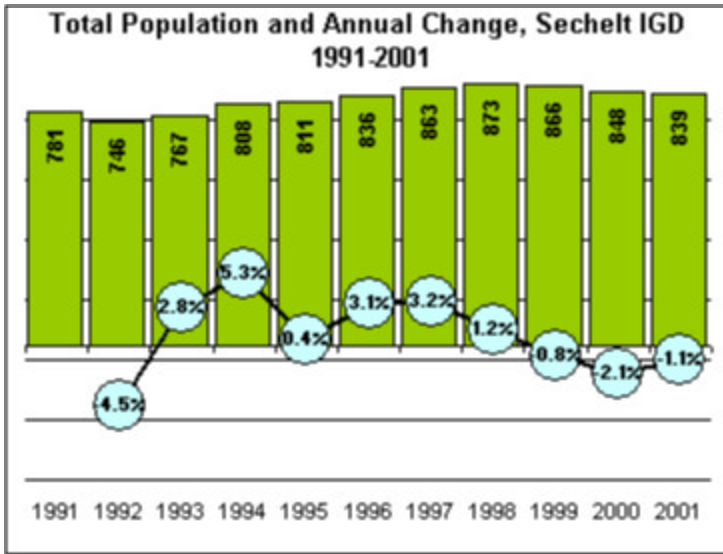
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## Sechelt Indian Government District

Total census population in 2001: **831**

Total census population in 1996: **769**

Change 1996-2001: **8.1%**



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## Census Electoral Areas\*

### Electoral Area 'A'

2001 Population: **2,374**

1996 Population: **2,581**

The population in Electoral Area A decreased by **8 percent** between 1996 and 2001.

<b>Electoral Area A</b>			
<b>2001 Census Population by Age and Sex</b>			
Age Group	Total	Males	Females
Age 0-4	75	35	40
Age 5-14	235	125	115
Age 15-19	145	85	60
Age 20-24	60	25	30
Age 25-44	465	225	245
Age 45-54	430	215	210
Age 55-64	400	205	195
Age 65-74	380	205	170
Age 75-84	160	85	75
Age 85 and over	25	15	10

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## Electoral Area 'B'

2001 Population: **2,353**

1996 Population: **2,316**

The population in Electoral Area B increased by **1.6 percent** between 1996 and 2001.

<b>Electoral Area B 2001 Census Population by Age and Sex</b>			
Age Group	Total	Males	Females
Age 0-4	95	50	45
Age 5-14	335	200	140
Age 15-19	130	65	65
Age 20-24	40	25	20
Age 25-44	570	250	315
Age 45-54	410	210	200
Age 55-64	315	150	165
Age 65-74	285	140	145
Age 75-84	140	75	65
Age 85 and over	30	20	10

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## Electoral Area 'D'

2001 Population: **3,090**

1996 Population: **2,866**

The population in Electoral Area D increased by **7.8 percent** between 1996 and 2001.

<b>Electoral Area D 2001 Census Population by Age and Sex</b>			
Age Group	Total	Males	Females
Age 0-4	115	75	80
Age 5-14	510	250	260
Age 15-19	225	120	105
Age 20-24	105	50	55
Age 25-44	815	380	440
Age 45-54	640	325	315
Age 55-64	310	165	140
Age 65-74	165	90	75
Age 75-84	130	60	65
Age 85 and over	40	10	30

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## Electoral Area 'E'

2001 Population: **3,311**

1996 Population: **3,367**

The population in Electoral Area E declined by **1.7 percent** between 1996 and 2001.

<b>Electoral Area E 2001 Census Population by Age and Sex</b>			
Age Group	Total	Males	Females
Age 0-4	165	80	80
Age 5-14	525	275	260
Age 15-19	255	130	105
Age 20-24	130	75	55
Age 25-44	850	400	440
Age 45-54	655	335	320
Age 55-64	330	165	160
Age 65-74	255	115	145
Age 75-84	125	60	65
Age 85 and over	25	5	15

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## Electoral Area 'F'

2001 Population: **1,971**

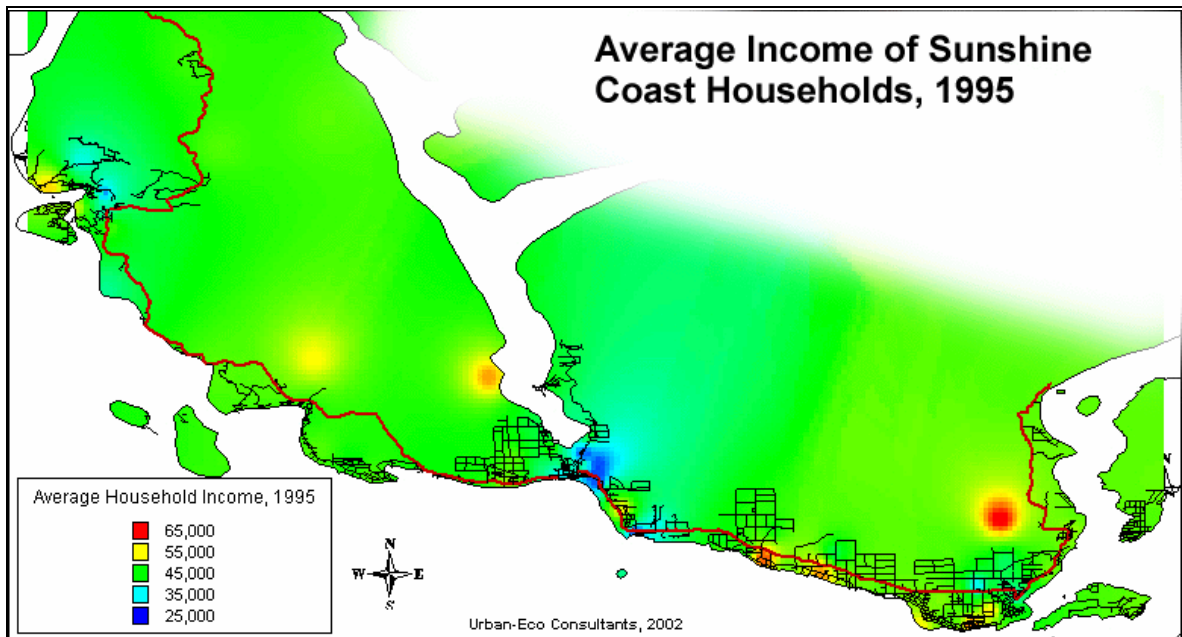
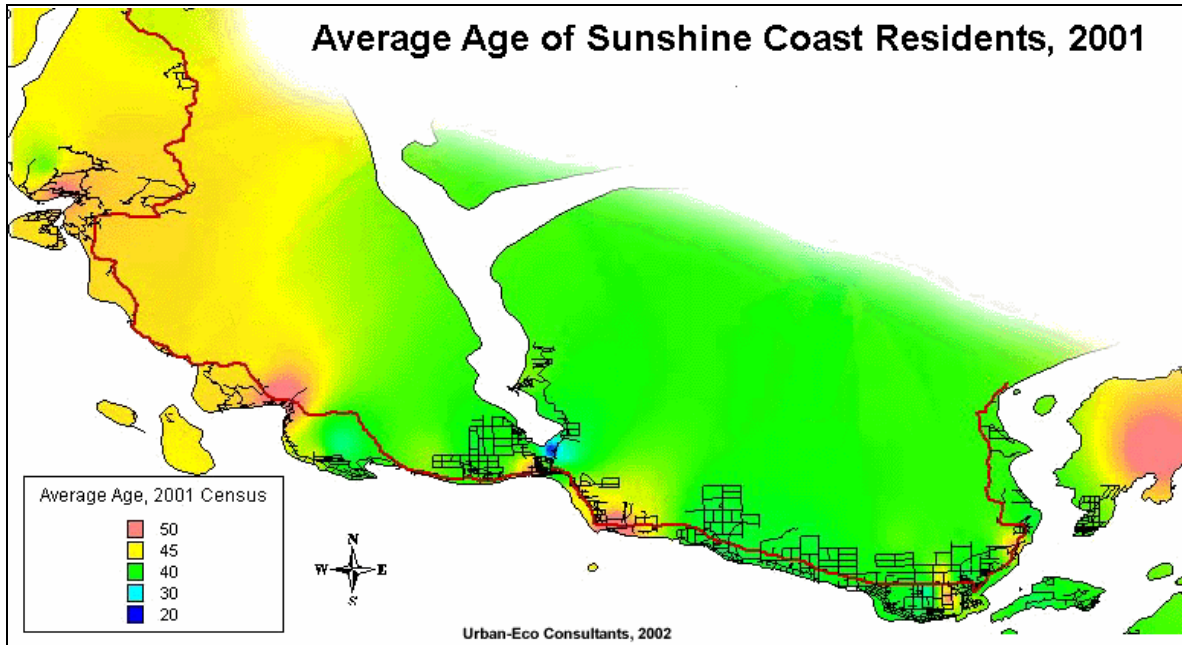
1996 Population: **1,945**

The population in Electoral Area F increased by **1.3 percent** between 1996 and 2001.

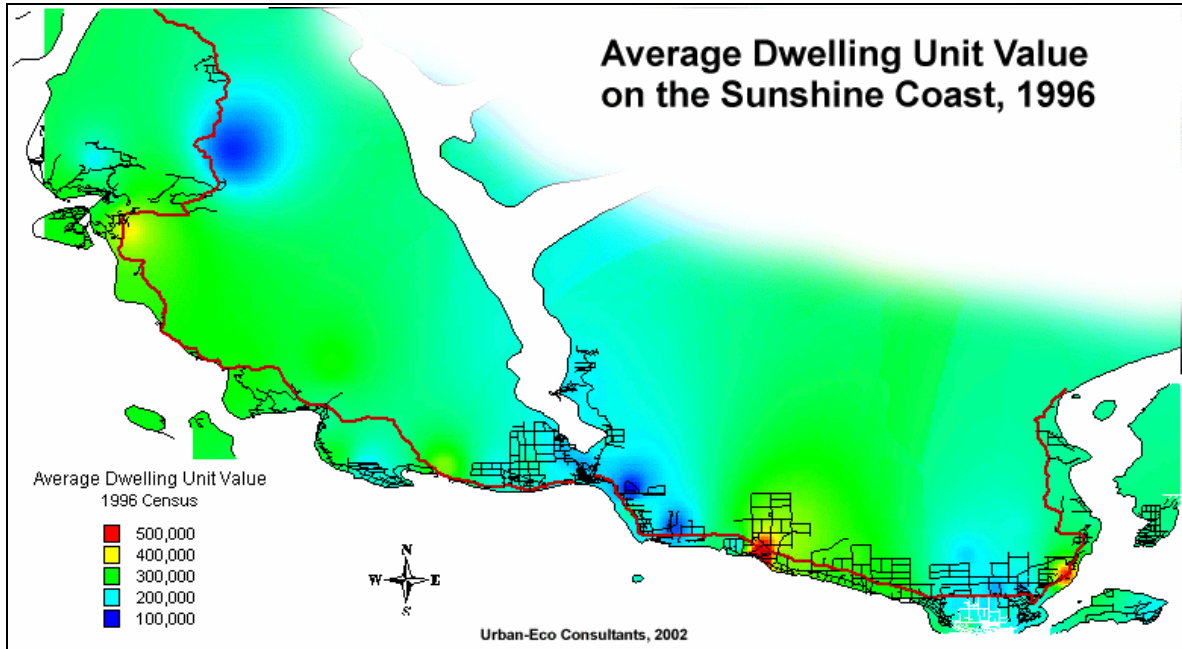
<b>Electoral Area F</b>			
<b>2001 Census Population by Age and Sex</b>			
Age Group	Total	Males	Females
Age 0-4	100	45	55
Age 5-14	255	120	135
Age 15-19	125	60	60
Age 20-24	60	40	20
Age 25-44	505	240	265
Age 45-54	360	190	175
Age 55-64	270	125	140
Age 65-74	195	100	95
Age 75-84	90	50	45
Age 85 and over	15	10	10

\* Statistics Canada boundaries for the Electoral Areas may have changed between 1996 and 2001. The 2001 data listed above represents census counts, whereas the 1996 population totals are estimates based on the new boundaries. In some cases, the columns in the tables will not total properly due to random rounding.

## Maps and GIS



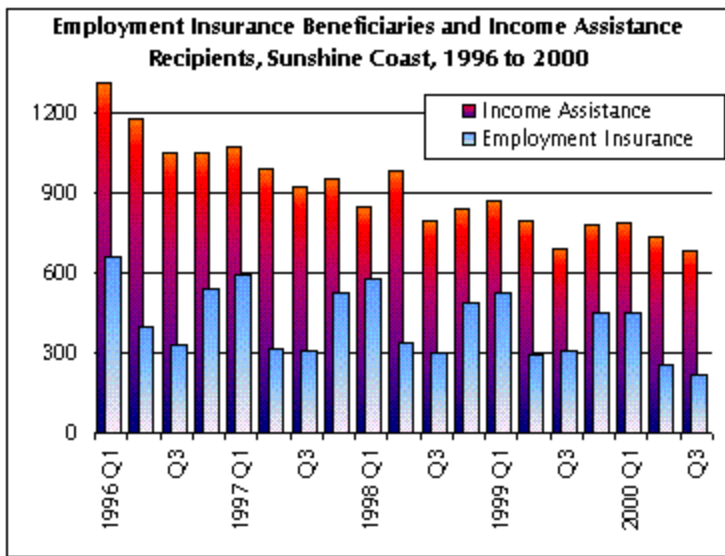
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## Labour Force

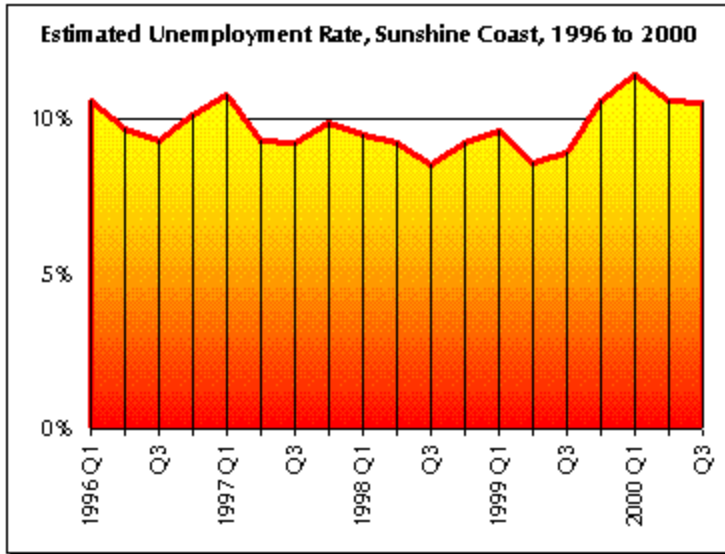
### *Sunshine Coast Regional District*

Over the last 5 years, according to data from Human Resources and Development Canada, the numbers of Employment Insurance and Income Assistance recipients on the Sunshine Coast have been steadily dropping. Whereas there were **1,178** IA recipients in the second quarter of 1996, the second quarter of 2000 only had **740** (**37 percent** decline). A similar drop has been seen in the EI recipients, dropping by **37 percent** from **399** in second quarter 1996 to **251** in second quarter 2000.



The unemployment rate on the Sunshine Coast increased between 1999 and 2000, rising from **8.6 percent** in second quarter 1999 to **10.6 percent** a year later. Over the course of the last 5 years, the unemployment rate dropped from 1996 to 1998/99 before increasing in 2000. Although the unemployment rate has been above 10 percent several times on the Sunshine Coast in the last 5 years, it peaked at **11.4 percent** as recently as the first quarter of 2000.

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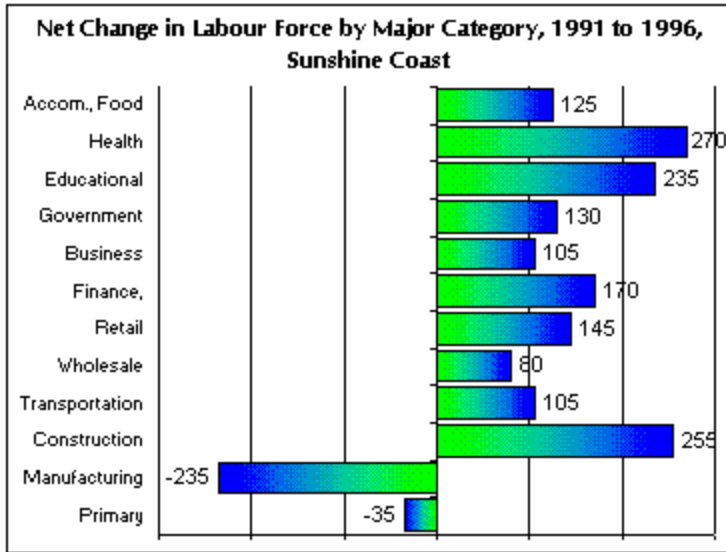


Estimated Unemployment Rate

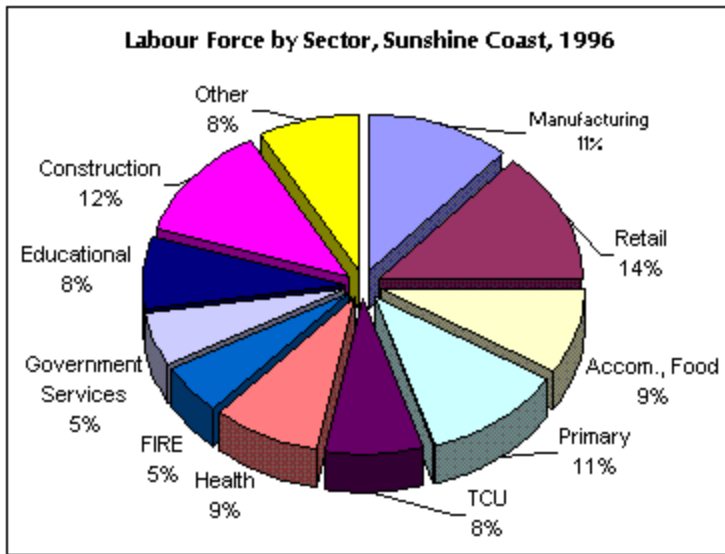
1996 Q1	10.6%
Q2	9.7%
Q3	9.3%
Q4	10.1%
1997 Q1	10.8%
Q2	9.3%
Q3	9.2%
Q4	9.9%
1998 Q1	9.5%
Q2	9.2%
Q3	8.5%
Q4	9.2%
1999 Q1	9.6%
Q2	8.6%
Q3	8.9%
Q4	10.6%
2000 Q1	11.4%
Q2	10.6%
Q3	10.5%

Labour Force patterns change in the Sunshine Coast have changed over time. Between the most recent census periods, the labour force grew by **1,670** people. The major changes occurred in Health Services (increase of 270), construction (255 more), education (235 more), and manufacturing (loss of 235 people).

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In 1996, the single largest sector of the labour force of the Sunshine Coast was in **Retail Trade**. **14 percent** of the 1996 labour force was in this sector, followed by **construction (12 percent)**, and **manufacturing and primary industries (each with 11 percent)**.

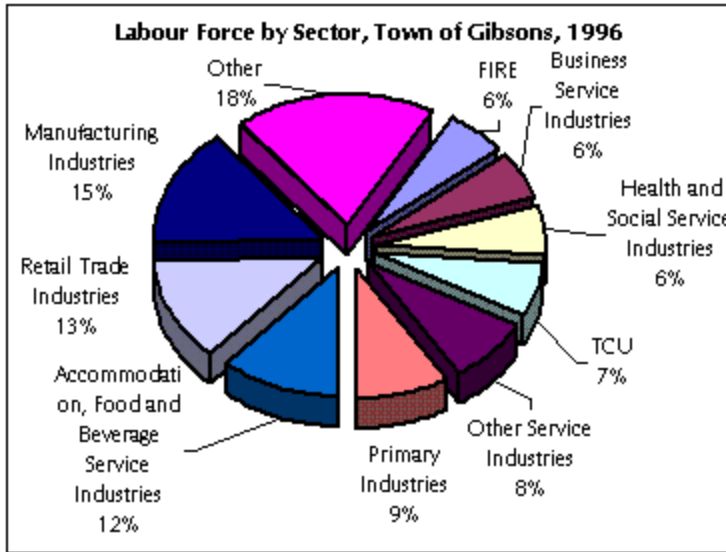


TCU= Transportation, Communications, and Utilities  
 FIRE=Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

## Gibsons

According to the 1996 census, the major labour force activity in the Town of Gibsons was **manufacturing**, with **15 percent** of the labour force. **Retail Trade** industries was the second largest labour force sector, with **13 percent** of the people, followed by **Accommodation, food and beverage services** with **12 percent**.

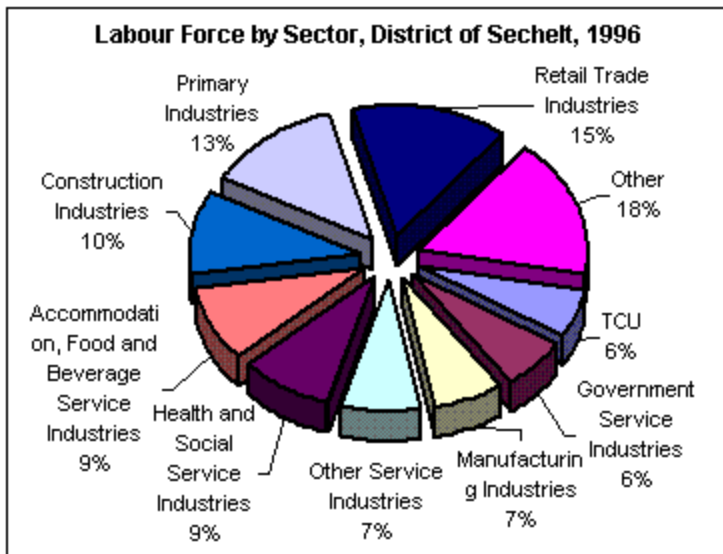
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TCU= Transportation, Communications, and Utilities  
 FIRE=Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

## Sechelt

The 1996 census showed that the largest sector of the economy in terms of labour force participation in Sechelt was **retail trade**, with **15 percent** of workers. Other sectors of the economy with large participation were **primary industries (13 percent)**, and **construction (10 percent)**.



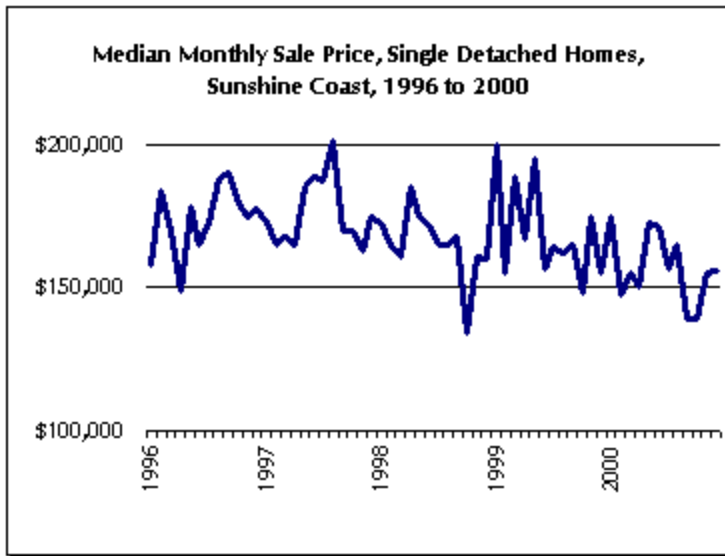
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## Real Estate

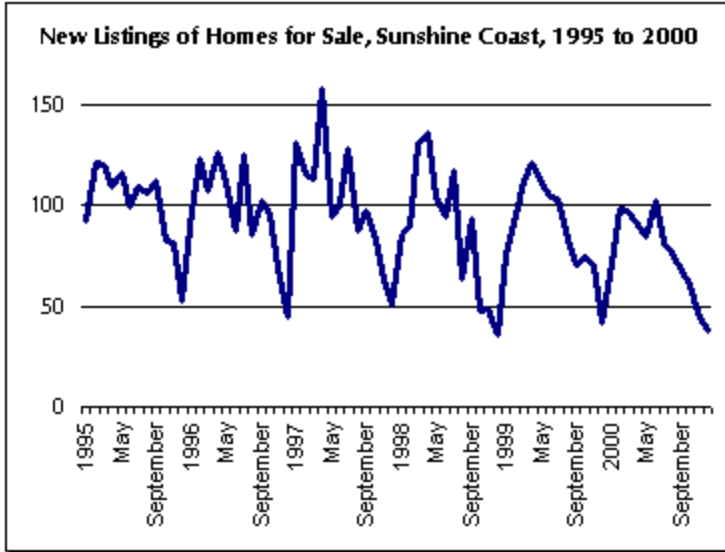
Current information on real estate prices and sales will be uploaded as it becomes available.

In the last 5 years, the median selling price for single detached homes on the Sunshine Coast has dropped slightly. The five-month moving average of sale prices dropped from approximately **\$175,000** in May of 1995 to under **\$152,000** by December of 2000.

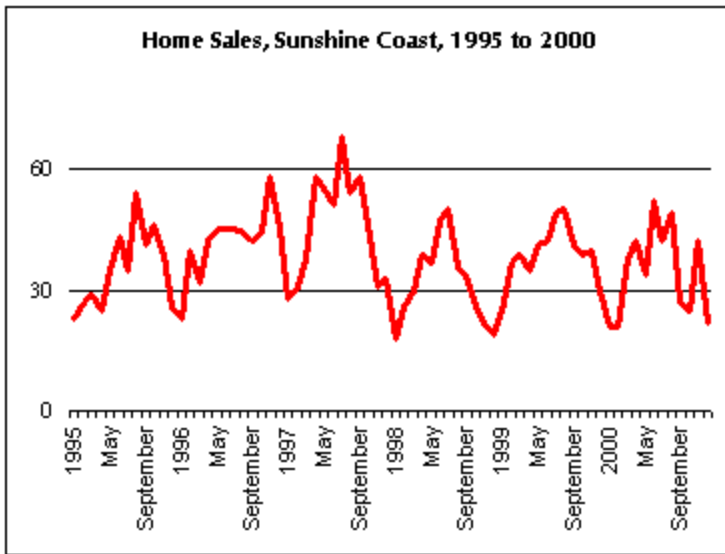


The number of Multiple Listing Service listings of homes for sale is highly seasonal, with the most new listings occurring in May and June, and the fewest in January. On the Sunshine Coast, the number of new listings has been dropping steadily since 1997.

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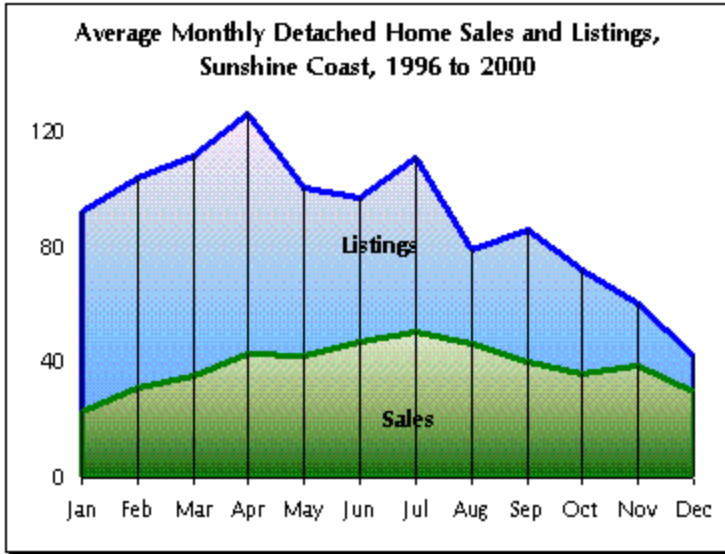
The number of home sales has also been dropping gradually, (allowing for seasonal fluctuations). On an annual basis, the number of home sales reached its lowest point in 5 years in 1998, with **384**.



Year	Sales	New Listings
1995	423	1,200
1996	505	1,173
1997	551	1,221
1998	384	1,045
1999	468	1,064
2000	415	915

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On a yearly basis, the sales and listing activity on the Sunshine Coast follows seasonal patterns. Listing activity is the highest in April, with increases in activity in July and September as well. Most of the detached home sales in the area occur in the summer months, averaging **51** in July, with January seeing the fewest home sales, averaging approximately **23** sales in January over the last 5 years.



The ratio of listings to sales generally increases throughout the year, from a low in January to peak in December. On average between 1996 and 2000, the sales to listing ratio ranged from **25 percent** in January to **70 percent** in December.

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## Businesses

This page contains a list of the types and numbers of businesses operating in the Sunshine Coast as a whole, Gibsons, and Sechelt. The data are from the CanPhone 2001 CD database.

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### *Sunshine Coast Regional District*

Special Trade Contractors	139
Specialty Retail	127
Business Services	83
Health Services	81
Educational Services	79
Restaurants & Cafes	75
Engineering & Management Services	66
Personal Services	57
General Building Contractors	56
Membership Organizations	52
Wholesale Trade- Durable Goods	52
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	50
Auto Repair, Services, & Parking	45
Executive, Legislative, & General	44
Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	42
Food Stores	40
Building Materials & Gardening Supplies	36
Amusement & Recreation Services	35
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	32
Motion Pictures*	31

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## **Gibsons**

Specialty Retail	47
Special Trade Contractors	38
Restaurants & Cafes	34
Engineering & Management Services	25
Health Services	24
Educational Services	23
Business Services	21
Membership Organizations	19
Personal Services	19
Wholesale Trade- Durable Goods	19
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	17
Auto Repair, Services, & Parking	14
General Building Contractors	14
Food Stores	13
Water Transportation	13
Amusement & Recreation Services	12
Apparel & Accessory Stores	12
Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	12
Building Materials & Gardening Supplies	11
Insurance Agents, Brokers, & Service	11

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## **Sechelt**

Specialty Retail	63
Special Trade Contractors	61
Health Services	50
Business Services	44
Educational Services	38
Restaurants & Cafes	33
Executive, Legislative, & General	32
Membership Organizations	29
Engineering & Management Services	28
Personal Services	27
General Building Contractors	26
Auto Repair, Services, & Parking	24
Wholesale Trade- Durable Goods	23
Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	21
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	19
Building Materials & Gardening Supplies	18
Food Stores	17
Motion Pictures*	17
Amusement & Recreation Services	16
Apparel & Accessory Stores	16

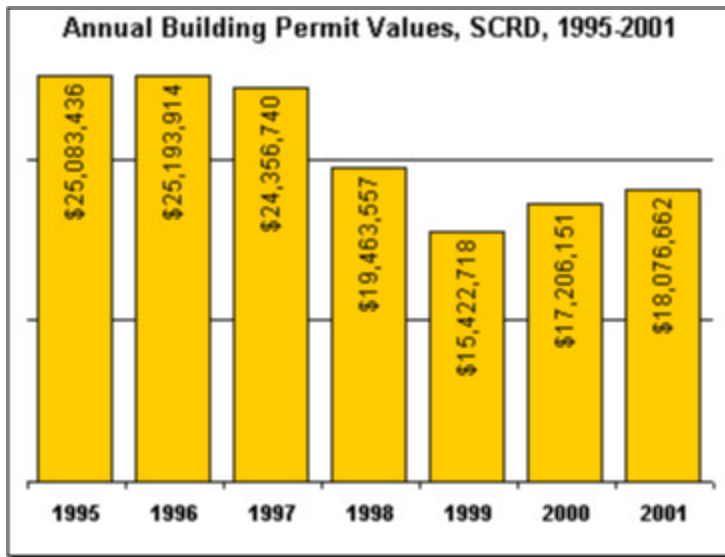
\*Motion Pictures are defined as movie rental stores, cinemas, etc.

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## Building Permits

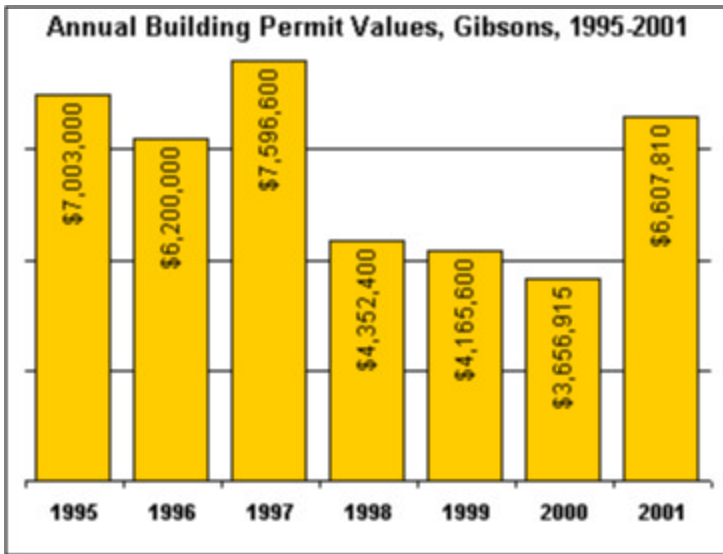
Information in this section is based on municipal building permit totals. The following data were supplied by the individual governments.

### *Sunshine Coast Regional District*

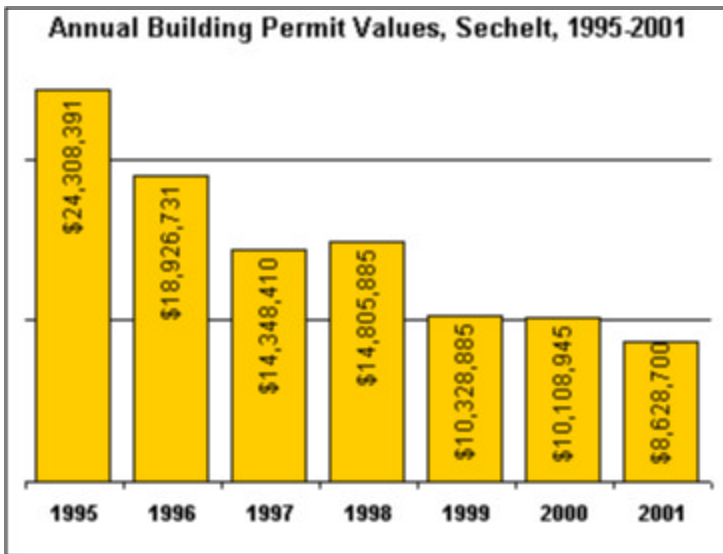


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## Gibsons



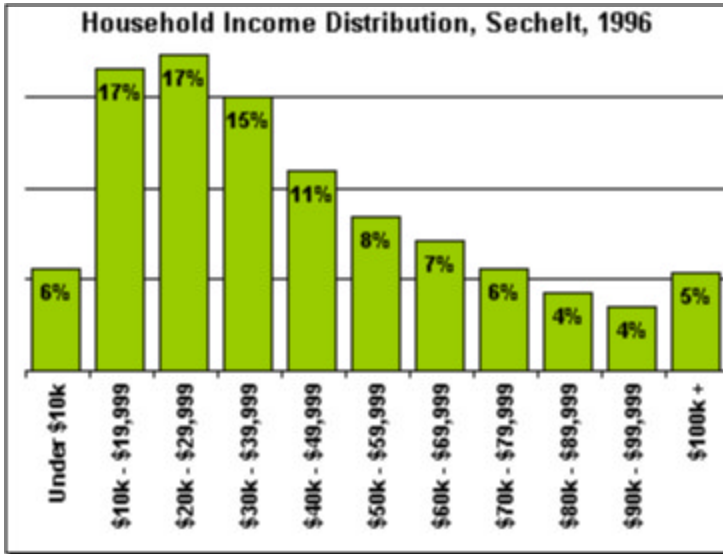
## Sechelt



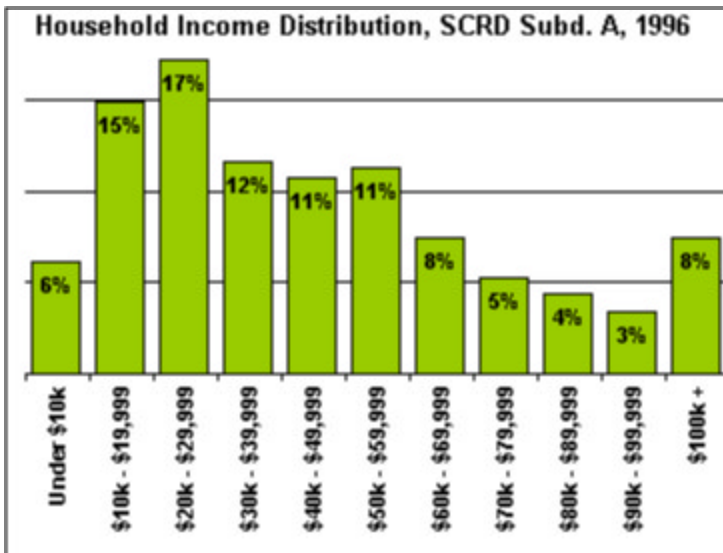
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## Household Income

### Sechelt

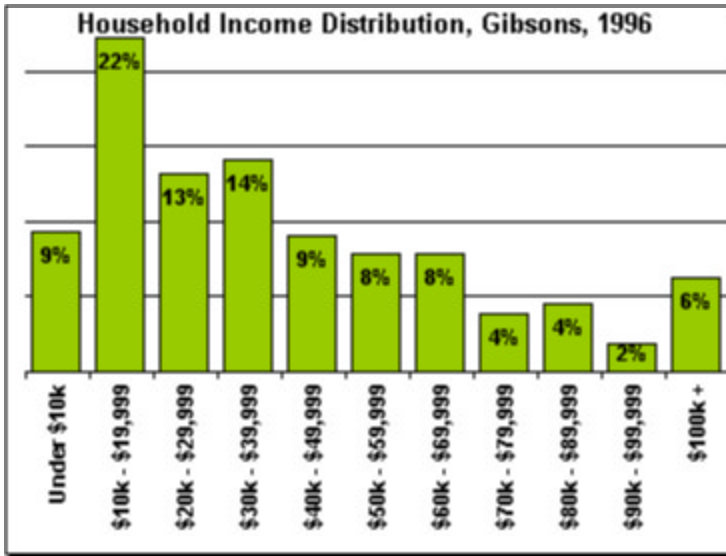


### SCRD Subdivision A



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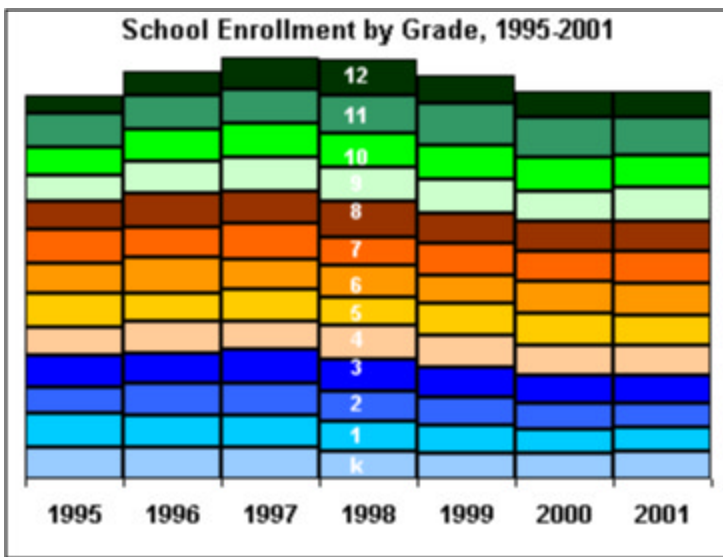
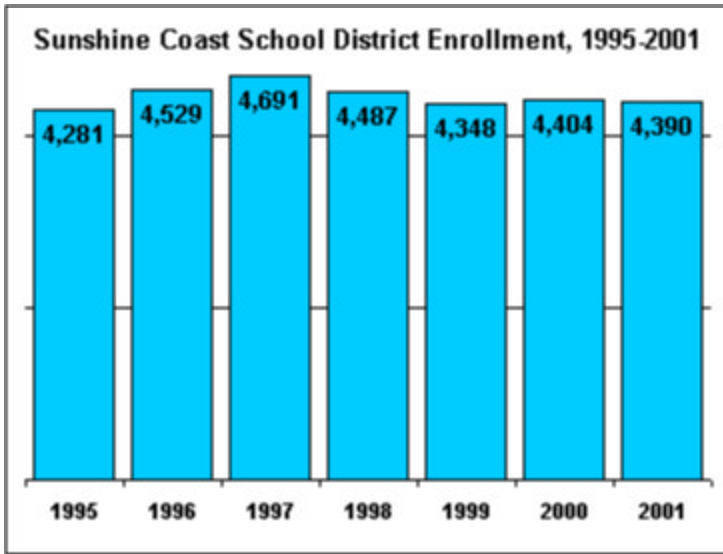
## Gibsons



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## School Enrolment

Enrolment numbers in School District 46 (Sunshine Coast) reached a recent high of **4,691** in 1997. Since then, the enrolment total has been steady in the range of **4,350 to 4,400**.



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## Schools

### Junior & Senior Secondary Schools

Chatelech Secondary  
Sunshine Coast Alternate  
Elphinstone  
Pender Harbour Secondary

### Elementary Schools

Cedar Grove  
Davis Bay  
Gibsons  
Halfmoon Bay  
Langdale  
Madeira Park  
Roberts Creek  
Sechelt  
West Sechelt

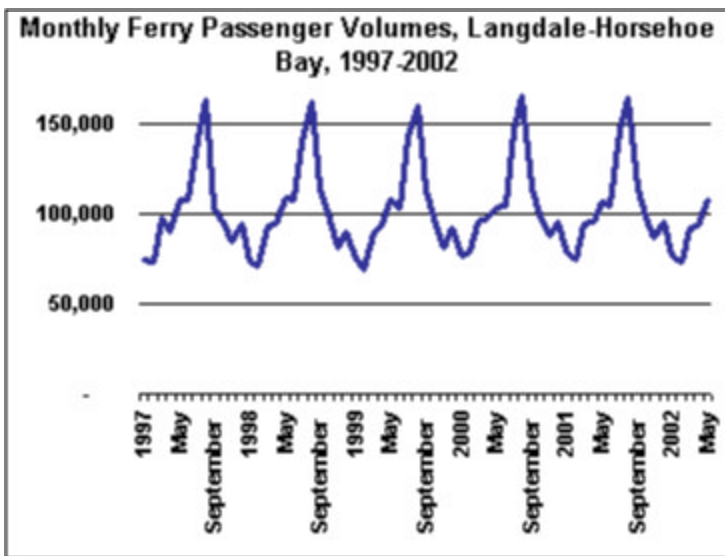
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## Ferry Data

All data used for the following analyses are available on the data page.

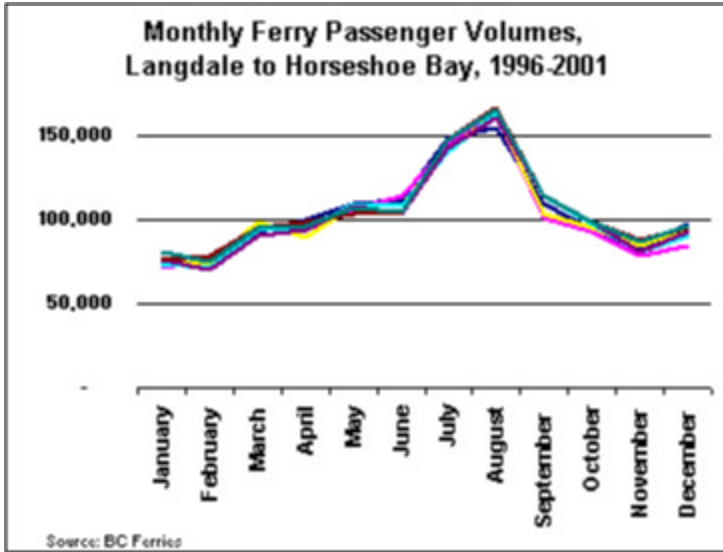
### *Ferry Travel*

The monthly ferry travel data for Langdale departures shows a very regular pattern to ferry travel volumes. Each year, the peak month for travel has been August, and the annual low has traditionally been in February. The highest August passenger total in the last 6 years was recorded in 1997, when **163,407** passengers departed Langdale for Horseshoe Bay.



Year	Passengers	Vehicles
1995	1,245,097	510,561
1996	1,221,153	499,831
1997	1,236,936	517,121
1998	1,237,116	510,785
1999	1,230,060	512,522
2000	1,268,229	522,396
2001	1,267,274	534,566

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Based on February weekday volumes on the morning routes leaving Langdale, it is estimated that there are in the range of **650** people regularly commuting from the Sunshine Coast to Greater Vancouver for work. This value was calculated by assuming a certain proportion of passengers departing Langdale on the 6:20 am, 8:20 am and 10:20 am ferries are traveling to the Lower Mainland to work. Taking the 2000 February ferry volumes, 90 percent of the 6:20 am, 40 percent of the 8:20 am and 10 percent of the 10:20 am average weekday volumes are assumed to be commuter traffic.

In February of 2000, the ferry used most by commuters (the 6:20 am Langdale departure) ranged from an average of **438** people on Wednesdays to **566** on Mondays. The 8:20 am departure, also used by commuters to some degree, averaged from **478** to **676** passengers on weekdays during the month.

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