

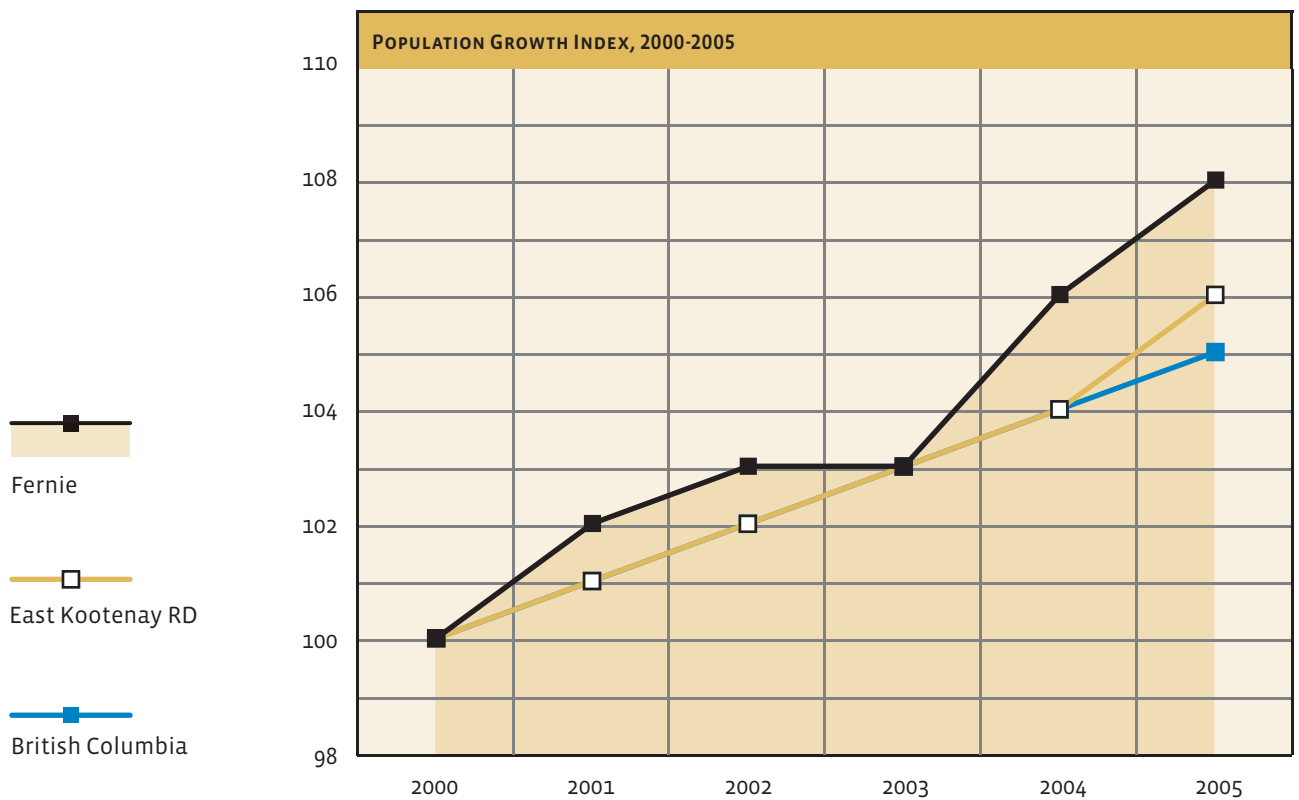
Demographics

POPULATION

Fernie has shown strong population growth in recent years, averaging a 1.6% increase per year. This is a faster rate of growth than the rest of the East Kootenay region and the British Columbia average.

POPULATION ESTIMATES, 2000-2005							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	GROWTH
Fernie	4,736	4,812	4,896	4,901	5,040	5,126	1.6%
East Kootenay RD	58,367	58,747	59,396	60,060	60,795	61,862	1.2%
British Columbia	4,039,198	4,078,447	4,115,413	4,152,289	4,196,383	4,254,522	1.0%

Source: BC Stats



LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE

In addition to English, a multitude of languages are spoken by Fernie residents, most notably French, Italian and German. Italian speakers are three times more common in Fernie than in the rest of British Columbia. It is expected that as Fernie's international tourist clientele continues to expand, more foreign language speakers will be drawn to the community for employment.



LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE, 2001				LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE, 2001			
	FERNIE		BC		FERNIE		BC
	#	%	%		#	%	%
Japanese	20	0.4%	0.8%	Polish	30	0.7%	0.5%
English	4,545	99.9%	97.3%	Punjabi	30	0.7%	3.7%
French	250	5.5%	7.0%	Ukrainian	25	0.5%	0.4%
Italian	150	3.3%	1.1%	Hungarian	25	0.5%	0.3%
German	75	1.6%	3.1%	Russian	20	0.4%	0.6%
Spanish	40	0.9%	2.0%	TOTAL	4,550	100.0%	100%

*Defined as the ability to hold a conversation.
Source: Statistics Canada Census

AGE GROUPS

Fernie's population by age is similar to the provincial average. There are slightly more young adults (age 15-24) and adults in the core working-age years (25-49). Fernie has slightly fewer children, as well as fewer adults aged 50 and over, compared to the rest of BC.

AGE GROUPS, 2001				
		FERNIE		BC
	#	%	%	%
0-14	760	16%		18%
15-24	675	15%		13%
25-49	1,860	40%		38%
50-64	740	16%		17%
65+	580	13%		14%
TOTAL	4,615	100%		100%

Source: Statistics Canada Census

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Average household size in Fernie is slightly smaller than the provincial average with 2.3 people per household compared to 2.5 in BC. The most significant difference in Fernie is the small number of very large households, with just 1% of households having 6 or more persons.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE, 2001			
		FERNIE	BC
	#	%	%
1 person	565	29%	27%
2 persons	680	35%	34%
3 persons	295	15%	15%
4-5 persons	375	19%	21%
6 or more persons	20	1%	4%
TOTAL	1,945	100%	100%
Average number of persons in private households		2.3	2.5

Source: Statistics Canada Census

