



Creston & Area Investment Profile 2010

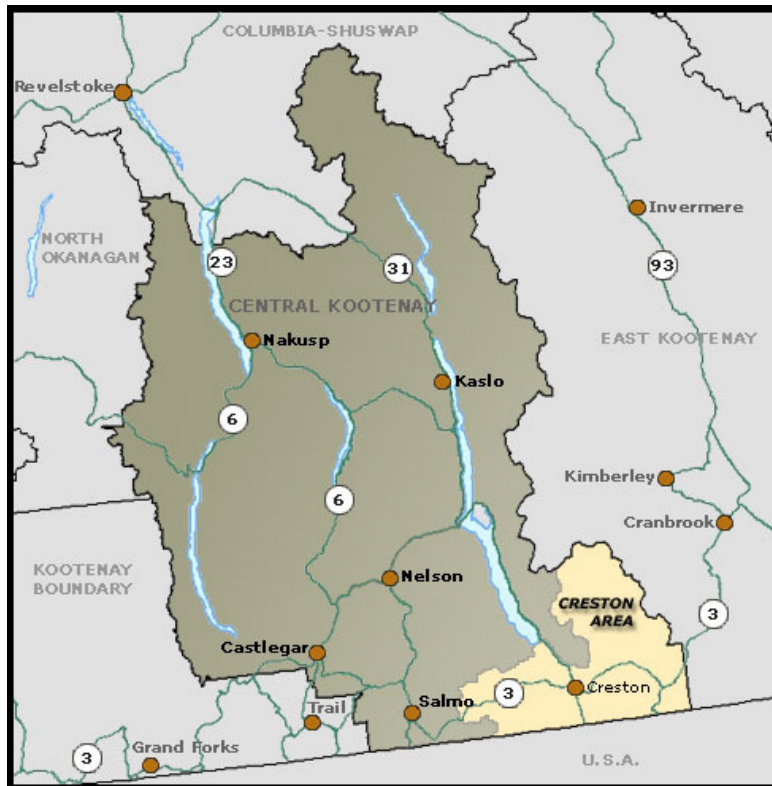
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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Creston area. We are confident that you will be impressed with the business and lifestyle opportunities that exist in our growing and vibrant region. *Invest Kootenay* is a joint-initiative of local governments, economic development organizations and Chambers of Commerce with the aim of attracting, retaining and expanding investment. The majority of statistics provided in this profile include the municipality of Creston and rural Electoral Areas B and C of the Central Kootenay Regional District, and the Creston Indian Reserve (Creston Band of the Ktunaxa) unless otherwise stated.



We invite you to come and discover the advantages of doing business in the Kootenay region – where opportunity meets lifestyle. For a customized investor package or to learn more about our Ambassador Program, please contact:

TOWN OF CRESTON
238-10th Avenue N., PO Box 1339, Creston, BC, V0B 1G0
Ph: (250) 428-2214 • Fax: (250) 428-9164
E-mail: info@creston.ca
www.creston.ca

Demographics

Population		
Age Group	Population	% Distribution
Under 18 years	2,270	21.0%
18 – 34 years	1,350	12.5%
35 – 54 years	2,695	24.9%
55 – 74 years	3,225	29.8%
75 years and over	1,265	11.7%
Total – Age Groups	10,810	100.0%
Median Age	49.3	

Household Income (2006)		
Number of Households in 2006	4,745	
Median Household Income in 2006	38,322	
Household Income Group	Number	% Distribution
Under - \$35,000 CDN	2,110	44.5%
\$35,000 CDN - \$49,000 CDN	940	19.8%
\$50,000 CND - \$79,999 CDN	935	19.7%
\$75,000 CND – Above	750	15.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census, 2006

Language Knowledge (age 15 to 64) – Ability to Hold a Conversation		
	Total Number	% of Total
English	8,845	99.5%
German	430	4.8%
French	380	4.3%
Spanish	105	1.2%
Dutch	90	1.0%
Czech	80	0.9%
Russian	75	0.8%
Polish	75	0.8%
Ukrainian	75	0.8%
Italian	65	0.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census, 2006

Housing

Average Housing Costs

Single Family Homes	\$199,253
Multi-Family Homes	\$139,769

Taxes and Charges on a Representative House

Residential Property Taxes and Charges	\$2,291
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Source: Ministry of Community Development, 2007/2008

Labour Force

Labour Force Participation Rate (15-64 years)

Male	55.1%
Female	46.7%
Total	51.0%

Civilian Labour Force

Unemployment Rate	7%
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Source: Statistics Canada, Census, 2006

Labour Force by Sector

Non-Agricultural Labour Force Reported by Place of Residence (2001)

	Total Number Employed	% of Total Employed Persons
Forestry & Logging	135	3.7%
Mining and Oil & Gas	95	2.6%
Construction	280	7.7%
Manufacturing	305	8.3%
Transportation, Warehousing & Public Utilities	200	5.5%
Wholesale Trade	45	1.2%
Retail Trade	380	10.4%
Services	1,785	48.8%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	225	6.1%
Government	140	3.8%
Total	3,660	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census, 2006

Labour Force by Occupation Reported by Place of Residence (2001)

	Total Number Employed	% of Total Employed Persons
Administrative / Clerical	420	10.4%
Executive	10	0.2%
Farming / Forestry	370	9.1%
Labourers / Handlers	690	17.0%
Machine Operators	335	8.3%
Management	265	6.5%
Precision Production	30	0.7%
Professional	150	3.7%
Protective Services	70	1.7%
Sales	285	7.0%
Services	1,075	26.5%
Technician	295	7.3%
Transportation and Public Utilities	60	1.5%
Total	4,055	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census, 2006

Workforce Education Attainment (25-64 Years of Age)

Less High School Diploma	960	21%
High School Diploma Only	1,085	24%
Apprenticeship / Trades Certificate / Diploma	845	19%
College / University Certificate / Diploma	1,220	27%
University Bachelors Degree	275	6%
University Medical / Dentistry / Optometry Degree	20	less than 1%
University Graduate Degree / Certificate	110	2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census, 2006

Top Employers

Sector	Company	# Employees
Health Care	Interior Health (East & West Kootenay)	5,000
Manufacturing/Forestry	Wynndel Box & Lumber	150
Education	School Dist. 8 (Nelson, Creston, Kootenay Lake)	700
Manufacturing	Columbia Brewery	143
Manufacturing/Forestry	JH Huscroft Ltd.	97
Retail	Overwaitea Foods	90
Government	Town of Creston	39

Source: Kootenay Business Magazine, 2008; UBCM website (<http://www.civicnet.bc.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp>), 2009

Economic Dependencies (After-Tax Incomes)

Public Sector	19%
Transfer Payments	26%
Forestry	8%
Other Non-Emp.	24%
Construction	6%
Tourism	4%
Other Basic	1%
Mining	5%
High Tech	0%
Agriculture	7%

Source: BC Stats Economic Dependencies, 2006

Transportation

Distance to Major Centres

Metro Area	Kilometres	Miles
Kelowna, BC	417	259
Vancouver, BC	737	458
Calgary, Alberta	495	308
Edmonton, Alberta	819	509
Portland, Oregon	795	421
Seattle, Washington	677	494

Closest Commercial Airports

Castlegar Airport

Website	www.castlegar.ca/devserv_air.htm
Hub Status	Regional
Distance from Community	122 km, 76 miles
No. of Runways	1
Runway Lengths	1,615 metres, 5329.5 ft
Carriers – Passenger	Air Canada Jazz, Highland Helicopters High Alpine Air Services, Inc.
Days Closed due to Weather in the Last 3 Years	6
Flights to Largest Cities Served	Weekly Non-stop flights
Calgary	7
Vancouver	19

Kelowna Airport

Website	www.kelownairport.com
Hub Status	International
Distance from Community	419 km, 260 miles
Hours of Operation	4:30 am – 11:30 pm
No. of Runways	1
Runway Lengths	2,225 meters, 7342.5 ft.
Carriers – Passenger	Air Canada, Horizon Air, WestJet Airlines, Regional1, Central Mountain Air
Carriers – Charter	Carson Air, Northwestern Air
Carriers – Air Cargo	Air Canada, Horizon Air, WestJet Airlines, Central MountainAir
Days Closed due to Weather in the Last 3 Years	0
Total Weekly Non-Stops to All Cities Served	224
Flights to Largest Cities Served	Weekly Non-stop Flights
Calgary	70
Edmonton	35
Seattle	28
Vancouver	84
Victoria	7

Calgary Airport

Website	www.calgaryairport.com
Hub Status	International
Distance from Community	495 km, 308 miles
Hours of Operation	24 hours
No. of Runways	3
Runway Lengths	3,863 m, 2438 m, 1890 m
Carriers – Passenger	29

Canadian Rockies International Airport

Website	www.flycanadianrockies.com
Hub Status	International
Distance from Community	107 km, 66 miles
Hours of Operation	24 hours / 7 days
No. of Runways	1
Runway Lengths	1,829 meters
Carriers - Passenger	Air Canada, Pacific Coastal, Delta
Carriers – Charter	Kootenay Airways
Days Closed due to Weather in the Last 3 Years	1
Total Weekly Non-Stops to All Cities Served	56

Flights to Largest Cities Served

Calgary
Vancouver

Weekly Non-stop Flights

35
21

Canadian Border Services Information	
Canadian Rockies Airport	(250)417-2223
Kingsgate (south of Yahk) 24 yrs.	(250) 424-5292
Eastport (US side)	(208) 267-3966
Rykerts (south of Creston) 8am – 12am Oct. 31-April 23 7am-11pm April 24-Oct 30	(250) 428-2575
Nelway (south of Salmo) 8am-12am	(250)357-9940
Port Hill (US side)	(208) 267-5309
Waneta (south of Fruitvale) 9am-5pm	(250) 367-9656
Paterson (south of Rossland) 24hrs. US side 8am-12am	(250) 362-7341
Cascade (south of Christina Lake) 8am-12am	(250)447-9418

Canadian Border Services Information (1-800-461-9999)

Taxation

Municipal Tax Rate (2008)

Business	7.4869
Light Industry	11.2303
Major Industry	0
Residential	3.7434
Utility	39.9801

*Dollars of tax per \$1,000 taxable value

Source: UBCM website (<http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/81.asp>), 2009

Development Cost Charges

Commercial: \$ per Square Meter	7.86
Industrial: \$ per Square Meter	6.12
Residential: \$ per Dwelling Unit	4364

Source: Ministry of Community Development, 2008

Corporate Income Tax / Franchise Tax

Federal	Small Business	Mfg	Non-Mrg
Rate (range)	11.0%	19.0%	19.0%
Formula (e.g. Sales, Property & Payroll)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Accelerated Depreciation Permitted	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provincial			
Rate (range)	3.5%	11.0%	11.0%
Formula (e.g. Sales, Property & Payroll)	Sales & Payroll	Sales & Payroll	Sales & Payroll
Accelerated Depreciation Permitted	No	No	No
Total Federal and Provincial Corporate Income Tax	14.5%	30.0%	30.0%

Personal Income Tax Rate (Range)

	Federal	Provincial (State)	Local
Capital Gains	7.5%-14.50%	2.53%-7.35%	N/A
Earned Income	15.00%-29.00%	5.06%-14.70%	N/A
Unearned Income (e.g. Dividend)	0.00%-14.55%	0.00%-3.92%	N/A

Sales / Use Tax Rate		
	Rate	Notes
Federal (Goods and Service Tax) -- GST	5.0%	GST on business inputs is fully recoverable
Local	N/A	British Columbia has no local sales tax
Provincial (State) Sales Tax -- PST	7.0%	Exemptions include: production machinery and equipment, direct materials, catalysts, reagents, software development equipment, construction labour
Total (Effective Combined Rate) Business	7.0%	GST on business inputs is fully recoverable

Telephone Subject to Sale / Use Tax		
Type	Rate	Notes
Local	7.0%	GST is fully recoverable
Long Distance In Province	7.0%	Toll free inbound service is tax-exempt. GST is fully recoverable.
Long Distance out of Province	7.0%	Toll free inbound service is tax-exempt. GST is fully recoverable.

Sales Tax Rate by Utility		
	Rate	Notes
Electric Power	7.0%	GST is fully recoverable
Natural Gas	7.0%	GST is fully recoverable
Fuel Oil	7.0%	GST is fully recoverable
Water	0%	
Sewer	0%	
Hazardous Waste	7.0%	GST is fully recoverable

Machinery & Equipment Subject to Sale / Use Tax		
Type	Rate	Notes
Production	0%	
Non-Production	7.0%	Equipment used directly in software development is tax-exempt. GST is fully recoverable.
Pollution Control	0%	GST is fully recoverable.
Office Furniture / Fixtures / Equipment	0%	GST is fully recoverable.

Sales / Use Tax on Tangible Property

Type	Rate	Notes
Office Building Construction Materials	7.0%	GST is fully recoverable.
Industrial Building Construction Materials	7.0%	GST is fully recoverable.
Manufacturers' Raw Materials	0%	GST is fully recoverable.
Standard Software	7.0%	GST is fully recoverable.
Custom Software	7.0%	GST is fully recoverable.

Sales / Use Tax on Intangible Property

Type	Rate	Notes
Accounts Receivable	0%	
Capital Stock	0%	
Stock / Bond Transaction Fee	0%	

Source: InvestBC, 2009

Payroll Costs

Payroll Taxes		
Workers Compensation		Notes
Average Cost for All Industries per \$100 Payroll	C \$1.90	Rates set by employer's business activity. Applies up to maximum gross earnings of C \$62,400 per year.
Average Rate for Office Workers per \$100 Payroll	C \$0.30	There is no separate rating for office occupations in British Columbia – the applicable industry rating applies to all workers. Rates for Business Services range from \$0.08 - \$0.70 per \$100 of payroll (average \$0.30). Applies up to maximum gross earnings of C \$62,400 per year.
Maximum Weekly Benefit	C \$808.16	Maximum per employee set at 90% of average net earnings (after deductions for income taxes, Canada Pension Plan & Employment Insurance), up to a maximum wage of C\$62,400 per year.

Source: InvestBC, 2009

Unemployment Insurance (Employment Insurance)		
Taxable Base	Gross Payroll	Up to a gross per worker salary of C \$39,000 per year.
Percentage Rate (Employer Premium)		Maximum annual contribution per worker is C\$1,021.
Average Among Existing Employers	2.618%	Employees also contribute at a rate of 1.87% up to an annual maximum of C\$729.
Average Among New Employers	2.618%	Maximum annual contribution per worker is C\$1,065. Employees also contribute at a rate of 1.87% up to an annual maximum of C\$729.
Maximum Weekly Benefits	C \$413.00	

Source: InvestBC, 2009

Utilities

Water Supply

Name of Provider

Maximum Daily Capacity (mgd)	not available
Average Daily Demand (mgd)	5.30
Peak Daily Demand (mgd)	9.00

Source: Invest Kootenay Research, 2005

Sewer Treatment

Name of Provider

Average Daily Demand (mgd)	3.30
Maximum Daily Capacity (mgd)	4.55
Peak Daily Demand (mgd)	4.30

Source: Invest Kootenay Research, 2005

Electric Power

Name of Company	FortisBC
Communities Served	Castlegar, Creston, Grand Forks, Kelowna, Oliver, Osoyoos, Penticton, Summerland, Trail

Average Cost per kWh - \$CDN (2006)

Industrial Electricity Rates

Small – 28% Load Factor (300 kW & 120,000 kWh)	7.01 ¢
Medium – 56% Load Factor (1,000 kW & 400,000 kWh)	5.60 ¢
Large 1 – 56% Load Factor (4,000 kW & 1,600,000 kWh)	5.48 ¢
Large 2 – 85% Load Factor (50,000 kVA)	4.32 ¢

Natural Gas

Name of Provider	Terasen Gas 1-888-224-2710
Rate Territory	Columbia

Firm Contract Rates (2006)

Type of Customer	General Firm Service (Rate Schedule 5)
Basic Charge (per month)	C \$553.00

Administration Fee (per month)	N/A
	Per Thousand Cubic Feet (Mcf)
Demand Charge	C \$12.63
Delivery and Gas Charge	C \$7.97

Source: InvestBC, 2009

Landfill & Waste Management

Nearest Licensed Hazardous Waste Disposal Site	There are no hazardous waste disposal sites in British Columbia.
No. of Licensed Hazardous Waste Haulers Serving the Area	0

Source: Invest Kootenay Research, 2009

Telecommunications

Number of Local Service Providers ¹	6
Name of Provider	Telus, Shaw, Wynndel Internet Society, Uniserve, Kootenay Wireless, Xplornet
Address	See Yellow Pages

Service Characteristics of the Office

Switch Technology	Digital
Fiber Service Provided	No
10/100 Mbps LAN Service Available	Yes
Monitoring	Remotely
ISDN Available	Yes
ADSL Available	Yes
ADSL Available from this Switch	Yes
Central Office on Self-Healing Fiber Ring	Contact Suppliers
Dual Feed from Two Separate Switching Offices	Contact Suppliers
Multiple Route Diversity	Yes

Source: Invest Kootenay Research, 2009

¹ Note: For a more accurate assessment, each supplier should be contacted and a separate profile compiled. Those answers shown reflect the best available of at least one of the suppliers.

Quality of Life

Climate			
Average Daily Temperature (Celsius)	High	Low	Average
January	0.1	-5.5	-2.7
July	26.5	12.1	19.3
Average Annual Rainfall	486.30mm		
Average Annual Snowfall	144.80cm		
Weather Station Elevation	597.40		
Weather Station Name	Creston		

Source: Environment Canada, 2005

Culture and Recreation	
Top Annual Events	Date(s)
Creston Valley Garden Conference	April
Creston Valley Blossom Festival	May Long Weekend
Lower Kootenai Band Yaqaan Nuki Powwow	May Long Weekend
Demo Derby	May Long Weekend
Saturday market	June through September
Creston Valley & East Shore Art Walk	June through September
Goad Style Bike Jam	July
Creston Valley Fest	July
Creston Valley Fall Fair	Weekend following long weekend in September
6 th Annual Blue Heron Half Marathon & 10K Run	September

Source: Invest Kootenay Research, 2009

Recreation

Creston offers a wide range of recreational opportunities. Included are: a professional 18-hole golf course, a par 3 golf course, a 5-pin bowling alley with 8 lanes and automatic scoring, 2 fitness centres, several tennis courts, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, a four hundred seat auditorium, a modern, air-conditioned Recreational Complex, a 6-sheet curling rink, and a 25 metre outdoor swimming pool and a wading pool. The Complex is situated on 17 acres in the heart of Creston and offers many active-living programs as well as a Spring Trade Show and Fall Fair. Creston is also the home of the (Junior 'B') Thundercats hockey team.

Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy Creston's scenic hiking, biking and naturalist trails or paths. Near Summit Creek Recreation Area, hikers can explore part of the original Dewdney Trail. Directly from Creston, excellent fishing and boating adventures await you on Duck Lake, or within 1.5 hour drive on Kootenay Lake. Several municipal parks in Creston provide for perfect picnic fun and playgrounds for families with children. During the winter, popular sports include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. In the Valley, you can enjoy plenty of "offtrack" winter adventure. The Summit Creek Park and the Wildlife Management Centre Area offer flat and gentle slopes suitable to beginner & intermediate abilities. Other challenges are available at any one of the choice spots within a 2-hr. radius of Creston.

Education

College of the Rockies

Website: www.cotr.bc.ca

Main Campus: Cranbrook Area

Other Campuses: Cranbrook(main campus), Creston, Fernie, Golden, Invermere, Kimberley

Enrolment	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Domestic Students	9,140	10,067	10,960	12,023
International Students	174	163	153	169
Total Student Headcount	9,314	10,230	11,113	12,192

Source: BC Ministry of Advanced Education, 2009

Enrollment by Program	Full Time	Part Time	Total
Adult Basic Education	-	-	1,015
Adult Special Education	-	-	16
Applied and Professional	-	-	8,217
Arts and Science	-	-	-
English Language Training	-	-	131
Other	-	-	-

Source: Ministry of Advanced Education - Post-Secondary Central Data Warehouse Standards Report (June 2004), 2005.

Kootenay Lake School District 8

Website: www.sd8.bc.ca

Located in the southern interior of British Columbia, Canada, School District No. 8's area covers approximately 15,000 square kilometers and includes the communities of: Yahk, Kitchener, Wynndel, Canyon, Erickson, Boswell, Crawford Bay, Kootenay Bay, Riondel, and Creston on the east side of Kootenay Lake; and Kaslo, Meadow Creek, Johnson's Landing, Argenta, Ainsworth, Slocan, Winlaw, South Slocan, Crescent Valley, Slocan Park, Taghum, Blewett, Ymir, Balfour, Harrop, Procter, Salmo, and Nelson on the west side of Kootenay Lake.

Average Class Size	Kindergarten	Grade 1-3	Grade 4-7	Grade 8-12
Kootenay Lake School District 8	15.3	19.6	24.3	21.8
Province of British Columbia	17.4	20.4	25.8	24.4

School Name	Kindergarten	Grade 1 - 3	Grade 4 - 7	Grade 8 - 12
A.I. Collinson Elementary	11.0	14.3	15.1	
*Adam Robertson Elementary	19.0	20.7	28.0	

Blewett Elementary School	12.0	16.7	15.0	
Brent Kennedy Elementary	16.0	23.0	25.0	
*Canyon/Lister Elementary	11.0	16.5	25.0	
Crawford Bay Elem-Secondary	21.0	16.5	13.0	11.6
Erickson Elementary	22.0	23.0	23.5	
Gordon Sargent Primary School	20.0	19.5		
Hume Elementary School	15.0	19.0	28.0	
J V Humphries Elem-Secondary	17.0	22.5	23.3	21.2
Jewett Elementary	14.0	10.5		
L V Rogers Secondary				23.6
Mount Sentinel Secondary			27.8	21.2
*Prince Charles Secondary				22.3
Redfish Elementary School	9.0	23.4	24.3	
Rosemont Elementary School	13.0	20.7	25.7	
Salmo Elementary School	18.0	21.7	28.3	
Salmo Secondary			17.4	16.3
South Nelson Elementary	22.0	20.4	21.1	
Trafalgar Middle School			25.9	24.1
W.E. Graham Community School	16.0	14.7	10.9	11.8
Winlaw Elementary School	9.0	24.0	23.3	
Wynndel Elementary	9.0	9.0	9.0	
Yahk Elementary	11.0	9.8	8.0	

Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2009

* schools located in Creston

Number of Students	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total	6,250	6,014	5,721	5,359	5,393
Female	3,048	2,907	2,852	2,631	2,641
Male	3,202	3,107	2,869	2,728	2,752
Kindergarten	333	328	330	318	323
Grade 1	331	344	329	331	305
Grade 2	356	331	337	321	335
Grade 3	364	370	324	344	319
Grade 4	388	369	349	320	355
Grade 5	428	403	352	350	327
Grade 6	440	413	402	366	382
Grade 7	482	448	425	411	407
Grade 8	546	531	474	433	449
Grade 9	540	557	526	470	438
Grade 10	600	556	587	551	537
Grade 11	631	609	585	565	560
Grade 12	696	670	618	524	633
Secondary Ungraded	115	85	83	55	23
School-age	6,055	5,860	5,598	5,312	5,306
Adult	195	154	123	47	87
Aboriginal	599	619	607	577	617
English as a Second	46	51	60	78	62

Language					
French Immersion	280	289	288	292	300
Non-Resident	35	32	44	45	57

Number of Students in Programs	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Aboriginal Students in Aboriginal Programs	357	419	452	481	499
Female	172	203	229	237	233
Male	185	216	223	244	266
Career Preparation Program	179	180	309	126	183
Career Technical Program	-	-	-	9	31
Co-operative Education Program	-	-	-	-	-
Continuing Education Program	-	29	11	3	4
Distributed Learning Program*	693	678	637	436	492
Secondary School Apprenticeship Program	-	-	1	2	6
English as a Second Language Program	46	51	60	78	62
Female	21	23	34	45	34
Male	25	28	26	33	28
French Programs	2,561	2,453	2,127	2,189	2,195
Female	1,305	1,226	1,087	1,111	1,104
Male	1,256	1,227	1,040	1,078	1,091
Core French	2,281	2,164	1,839	1,903	1,896
French Immersion	280	289	288	292	300
Programme Francophone	-	-	-	-	-
Home School Registration	3	5	-	5	-
Female	Msk	3	-	1	-
Male	Msk	2	-	4	-

Number of Public Schools	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total	28	29	29	28	28
Elementary	16	16	16	16	17
Elementary Junior	1	1	-	-	1
Secondary	7	9	8	7	6
Elementary Secondary	-	-	-	-	-
Junior Secondary	-	-	-	-	-
Middle School	1	1	1	1	1
Secondary	3	2	4	3	3
Senior Secondary	-	-	-	1	-

Number of Teachers	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Female (Count)	238	226	233	210	223
Male (Count)	137	123	125	113	110
Female (FTE)	200.1	187.9	187.9	180.5	192.3
Male (FTE)	130.5	116.1	115.1	107.6	104.9

Number of Principals, Vice-Principals and other District Administrative Staff	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total (Count)	36	38	39	38	43
Total (FTE)	35.8	37.8	37.0	37.8	41.3

Number of Educators	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total (Count)	411	387	397	361	376
Total (FTE)	366.4	341.8	340.0	325.9	338.5
Average Educator Age	46.5	47.1	47.4	47.1	47.0

Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2009

Independent Schools in Creston

Yaqan Nukiy School
 Facility Type: Standard
 Grade Range: Elementary (K-7)
 Phone: 250-428-4428
 Principal: Mr. Wayne Alsop
 Address: 904 Simon Rd., Creston, BC, V0B 1G2

Health

The Creston Local Health Area (LHA) is one of 31 LHAs within Interior Health and one of 6 located in the East Kootenay Health Service Area (EKHSA).

Population and Demographics

The population (12,694) of the Creston LHA is the third largest of the 6 LHAs located within the East Kootenay Health Service Area (KBHSA). Creston has had the highest median age among the 6 EKHSA Local Health Areas for the past 10 years. The Creston LHA has the third highest proportion of residents aged 65 and older in comparison with other IH Local Health Areas.

The population of the Creston LHA is projected to decrease by 1.0% over the period from 2009 to 2014 while the Interior Health growth rate is projected to increase by 4.4% over the same period. Over the next 5 years, the youth population (less than 20) is projected to decrease by 9.1%. The 45 – 64 age group is also expected to experience a decline and the remaining age groups are projected to increase in population, with the largest growth projected for the 65+ age group.

Health Status

Health Status indicators focus on a range of measures such as health conditions, human function, wellbeing, and death. Creston's life expectancy at birth of 81.7 years is higher than that for the EKHSA (81.1), IH (80.0), and British Columbia (80.9). Low birth weight infants (< 2,500 grams) have increased risks of morbidity and premature death. The Creston rate of low birth weight infants is 54.4 per 1,000 live births, which is higher than the EKHSA (43.0) and Interior Health (53.8) rates, but lower than the British Columbia (54.7) rate. The Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR) is the ratio of the number of deaths occurring to residents of a geographic area (e.g. Creston LHA) to the expected number of deaths in that area based on provincial age-specific mortality rates. An SMR less than 1 indicates fewer observed deaths than expected while an SMR greater than 1 indicates more deaths than expected. The SMR (all causes of death) for Creston is 0.93 which means there were fewer deaths than expected, given provincial rates. Diseases of the Circulatory System were the leading cause of death in the Creston LHA and accounted for 38.2% of the total deaths in the LHA.

Non-Medical Determinants of Health

Non-medical determinants of health describe behaviours, living and working conditions, personal resources, and environmental factors that have the potential to influence human health.

Median Share of Income - This indicator shows the percentage of the total personal income that was earned by households below the median household income. Median share of income is a measure of income inequality with a value of 50% representing no inequality because the lowest half of income earners is earning half of the total income. As the median share of income decreases, there is an increase in income inequality. Research has shown that income inequality is a predictor of health status and a major contributor to health inequities. The Creston LHA residents had a higher median share of income than Interior Health and British Columbia, but slightly lower than the East Kootenay HSA.

Housing affordability – The percentage of households (renters, owners, and total) spending 30% or more of total household income on shelter expenses. Shelter expenses include payments for electricity, oil, gas, coal, wood or other fuels, water and other municipal services, monthly mortgage payments, property taxes, condominium fees and rent. As a general rule, households are considered to have affordability problems if more than 30% of household income is spent on

housing costs. At that level of spending, it is likely that inadequate funds will be available for other necessities such as food, clothing, and transportation. Housing affordability problems affect renters more than owners. Band housing on Indian reserves was not included in the calculation of housing affordability. A smaller percentage of Creston LHA residents spent 30% or more on shelter expenses than residents of IH and BC, but had higher rate than the East Kootenay HSA.

High School Graduation – The percentage of population aged 25 to 29 who have a high school graduation certificate. It is a measure of educational attainment and socio-economic status. The Creston LHA had a lower proportion of residents who graduated high school than the East Kootenay HSA, but a higher proportion than Interior Health and British Columbia.

Unemployment (youth and adult) - Labour force aged 15 and over (and for youths, aged 15 to 24 years) who did not have a job during the reference period. This indicator is a traditional measure of the economy. Unemployed people tend to experience more health problems. The Creston unemployment rate is higher than British Columbia, but lower than the East Kootenay HSA and Interior Health.

Leisure-Time Physical Activity - This indicator identifies the proportion of the population over the age of 12 who were classified as active or moderately active based on responses to questions about the frequency, duration and intensity of their leisure-time physical activity. Regular physical activity reduces the risk of developing chronic diseases, helps to control weight and promotes psychological well-being. Studies have shown that an increase in physical activity would reduce healthcare expenditures.

Healthy Eating - This indicator shows the proportion of the population over the age of 12 who eat the daily recommended level of fruits and vegetables. 30% of cancer and diabetes cases and 20% of cardiovascular disease can be attributed to poor nutrition. Illness resulting from poor nutrition is estimated to cost the province over \$800 million per year. Hospital costs for major diet-related diseases alone exceed \$80 million per year in British Columbia.

Overweight/Obesity - This indicator identifies the proportion of population over the age of 18, excluding pregnant females, classified as overweight or obese based on self-reported height and weight (Body Mass Index). Obesity is a major risk factor for many chronic illnesses, including cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes and some types of cancer.

Tobacco Use - This shows the proportion of population over the age of 15 who are daily or occasional smokers. Cigarette smoking is the primary risk factor for the top three causes of death in Canada: diseases of the circulatory system, cancers and respiratory diseases. Preventing and reducing tobacco use can also have immediate impacts on hospital admissions for many diseases, such as asthma and hypertension.

East Kootenay HSA residents have a higher percentage of population who are physically active in their leisure time, and a higher percentage of people who eat healthy when compared to Interior Health and BC. However, the EK HSA has a higher rate of tobacco use than Interior Health and BC residents. East Kootenay HSA residents report higher rates of obesity than British Columbia, but lower than in Interior Health.

Health Service Performance

Accessibility is a key measure of health care services provided in any jurisdiction. Interior Health's network of health care facilities provides for the provision of basic acute care services in rural communities, while centralizing specialized services in nearby urban centres. Residents from the Creston LHA receive urgent and acute care services at the Creston Valley Hospital in Creston while those requiring specialized services travel to the East Kootenay Regional Hospital in Cranbrook. Over half (58.7%) of Creston inpatients received treatment at the Creston Valley

Hospital (CVH). Another 20.7% received treatment at East Kootenay Regional Hospital (EKRH). Overall, almost 80% of Creston LHA inpatient cases were treated at hospitals within the East Kootenay Health Service Area (EKHSA).

Community and Health System Characteristics

The availability of residential care beds and assisted living units in the Creston LHA is higher than the equivalent rate for IH as a whole. Utilization measures indicate that Creston LHA residents use the available assisted living and residential care at rates exceeding those for IH as a whole.

Indicators	Creston LHA	East Kootenay HSA	Interior Health
Residential Care Beds per 1,000 Population 75+ (2008)	84.0	83.0	81.4
Assisted Living Units per 1,000 Population 75+ (2008)	16.1	16.7	14.9
Home Support Clients per 1,000 Population 65+ (2008)	28.5	34.1	29.4
Residential Care Days per 1,000 Population 75+ (2008)	31,196	28,328	27,728
Assisted Living Days per 1,000 Population 75+ (2008)	5,850	5,872	5,042
Home Support Hours per 1,000 Population 65+ (2008)	7,418	13,864	11,188

Source: Creston Local Health Area Profile, 2009

Directory of Creston Health Services

Creston' hospital is equipped for minor surgery, maternity and outpatient requirements. The Creston Valley meets the needs of the area with a full range of health and wellness professionals.

Creston Valley Hospital

312 15th Ave N, Creston, BC
Phone: (250) 428-2286

Creston Health Unit

Bag 3000 - 312 15th Avenue North
Creston, BC V0B 1G0
Phone: (250) 428-3873
Fax: (250) 428-3880
<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-services.aspx?id=438>

Creston Alcohol & Drug Service

Bag 3000, 138 10th Ave. N., Creston, BC V0B 1G0
Phone: 428-3553
<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-services.aspx?id=5046>

Creston Mental Health Centre

Bag 3000 - 312 15th Ave N
Creston, BC V0B 1G0
Phone: 428-8734
<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-services.aspx?id=410>

Mental Health Youth

<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-services.aspx?id=5052>

Creston Public Health Inspection

Bag 3000 - 312 15th Avenue North

Creston, BC V0B 1G0

Phone: (250) 428-3873

Fax: (250) 428-3880