

# Special Analysis: BC Resident International Trip Purpose

May 2016

With the rising value of the US dollar over the last two years, there has been a noticeable drop in the number of BC residents travelling to the US. Overnight trips to the US by British Columbians were down 10% in 2015 compared to 2014, and same-day trips to the US were down 25%. At the same time, trips to overseas countries by BC residents have grown —up 11% in 2015 compared to the previous year. These statistics lead to questions regarding the reasons why British Columbians choose to travel internationally.

The data for this analysis comes from Statistics Canada's 'International Travel Survey' of Canadians returning through BC customs entry points. Year to date (YTD) data for the first three-quarters of 2014 and 2015 are compared below:

- When compared to the total number of people entering Canada through BC's border points, BC residents account for 84% of overnight re-entries (from US and Overseas destinations) — a figure that remained consistent in 2014 and 2015. BC residents also account for 99% of same day re-entries into the province.

- In the first three-quarters of 2014, business trips represented 8% of overnight re-entries from the US, rising to 10% in 2015; this is a net increase of 13,000 business trips. However, while the number of leisure trips to the US dropped by 209,000, the proportion of leisure trips, to the US, remained constant at 66% in 2015.
- In the first three-quarters of 2014, 12% of BC resident re-entries from overseas destinations were for business purposes rising to 26% in 2015, a net increase of 167,900 trips. At the same time leisure trips to overseas destinations went from 59% in 2014 down to 50% in 2015, a net decrease of 39,500 trips.

	Re-entries from <u>US</u> trips				Re-entries from <u>Overseas</u> trips	
	2014 YTD Same Day	2015 YTD Same Day	2014 YTD Overnight	2015 YTD Overnight	2014 YTD Overnight	2015 YTD Overnight
All Canadians Re-entering in BC	7,553,700	5,694,100	4,012,500	3,621,800	1,260,600	1,403,800
BC Resident % of BC Re-entries	99%	99%	83%	83%	83%	83%
BC Resident Re-entering in BC	7,485,000	5,647,200	3,338,400	2,990,400	1,050,700	1,163,300
Year-over-year % change	-	-25%	-	-10%	-	11%
Tip Purpose of BC Residents Re-entering in BC						
Business/Convention /Employment	2%	2%	8%	10%	12%	26%
Visiting Friends And Relatives	3%	3%	15%	14%	21%	18%
Pleasure/Holiday /Shopping	66%	67%	66%	66%	59%	50%
Other	30%	29%	11%	10%	7%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Statistics Canada