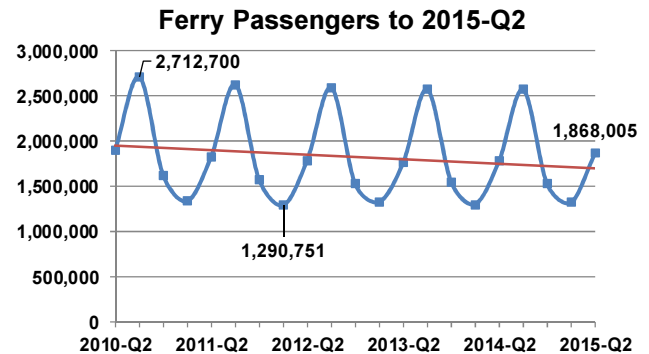


Ferry Passengers (Updated October 2015)

Ferry passenger volumes into and out of the ICET region were up significantly (+3.4%) in the first half of 2015 compared to the previous year. Of the four main routes that link the ICET region to the rest of BC, three of them had increased passenger volumes, particularly the Tsawwassen-Duke Point (Nanaimo) route, which was up by 6.9%.

Looking only at the 2nd quarter of the year from April to June, regional passenger counts were up by 4.7% compared to 2014. This recent growth is reversing a longer-term downward trend in ferry traffic, shown by the red trend line in the chart to the right.



Lower gas prices are encouraging more vehicle trips, while the lower Canadian dollar is both attracting more American visitors and keeping Canadian tourists at home. American overnight trips to BC were up 10.3% in the first half of the year while other international trips were also up 8.3%.

Other regional tourism indicators are also showing improvement in 2015. Hotel occupancy rates are up 12 percentage points in Campbell River (heavily influenced by business travel associated with major project construction in the area), 6 percentage points in Parksville/Qualicum and 3 percentage points in Nanaimo. As for vehicle traffic, the highway count at the Highway 4 junction to Ucluelet and Tofino was up 15% in the first half of the year.

Ferry Passengers between ICET Region and Rest of BC

Ferry Route	Two-Way Passenger Count						Change, 2014-Q2 to 2015-Q2	Year to Date After 2 Quarters		
	2010-Q2	2011-Q2	2012-Q2	2013-Q2	2014-Q2	2015-Q2		2014	2015	Change
Nanaimo – West Vancouver	874,572	843,390	819,521	810,311	817,297	841,427	+3.0%	1,408,005	1,432,738	+1.8%
Sunshine Coast - West Vancouver	659,304	636,971	626,934	619,810	628,874	661,306	+5.2%	1,098,099	1,139,052	+3.7%
Port Hardy - Prince Rupert	10,061	8,905	8,150	8,195	8,331	8,122	-2.5%	13,347	12,773	-4.3%
Nanaimo - Tsawwassen	355,754	341,436	331,314	322,953	329,573	357,150	+8.4%	566,157	604,968	+6.9%
Port Hardy - Bella Coola	1,087	828	1,202	987	0	0	-	0	0	-
ICET Region	1,900,778	1,831,530	1,787,121	1,762,256	1,784,075	1,868,005	+4.7%	3,085,608	3,189,531	+3.4%

Source: BC Ferries