



2017 BC Race Participation Trends

The loss of some large events (Rock 'n' Roll Vancouver, CRS Spring Run-Off) and the cancellation of others due to snow, ice and forest fires (First Half, Kamloops Marathon), was largely responsible for a 7.4% decline in recorded finishers in road and trail races in BC in 2017, after hitting record numbers in 2016.

| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| No. of Events* | 303 | 295 | 309 | 302 |
| No. of Finishers | 168,568 | 164,539 | 172,249 | 159,575 |

* Many events include races at multiple distances

Notable, the market share of the 20 largest events has declined 5% over the last three years.

| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| No. of Finishers in the 20 Largest Events | 109,781 | 103,405 | 105,836 | 95,961 |
| Percentage of All Finishers | 65.13% | 62.85% | 61.44% | 60.14% |

Despite a decline in overall finishers, the popularity of shorter distances (5K) continues to grow. And although ultra-marathons make up less than 2% of all finishers, their participation grew 25% in 2017.

| Finishers / Races | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 5K | 19,860 / 114 | 21,922 / 120 | 23,882 / 134 | 25,645 / 139 |
| 8K | 7,814 / 26 | 8,095 / 24 | 8,421 / 22 | 7,036 / 22 |
| 10K | 68,474 / 127 | 65,717 / 121 | 69,043 / 133 | 62,730 / 134 |
| Half Marathon | 42,483 / 67 | 38,878 / 70 | 39,296 / 71 | 32,039 / 63 |
| Marathon | 6,481 / 16 | 5,570 / 16 | 5,968 / 15 | 5,769 / 17 |
| Ultra Marathon | 1,423 / 20 | 1,751 / 23 | 1,994 / 27 | 2,536 / 30 |
| Other | 22,033 / 149 | 22,495 / 148 | 23,677 / 153 | 23,820 / 151 |

The Vancouver Sun Run 10K remains the largest single race in Canada (32,586 finishers), and the Emperor's Challenge in Tumbler Ridge is BC's largest off-road race (711 finishers).

Women make up over 55% of participants overall. But men make up more than 55% of participants at the marathon distance and beyond.

The 30-39 age group makes up 29% of participants, followed by the 20-29 year olds (25%), and the 40-49 year olds (22%).

BC Athletics is the Provincial non-profit amateur sport organization for Track & Field, Road Running, Marathons/Ultras, Cross Country/Trail Running and Race Walking. A Branch member of Athletics Canada, BC Athletics is made up of individual members, member clubs and affiliated organizations. The purpose of the Association is to promote, encourage and develop the widest participation and the highest proficiency in the sport of Athletics.

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