

Fastest Growing Industries: Health Care

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



Contents

1. Overview of the Health Care Industry	2
2. Occupations in the Health Care Sector	5
3. Hiring Forecast by Region	7
4. Finding Jobs.....	8
5. Additional Resources.....	10

1. Overview of the Health Care Industry

Introduction

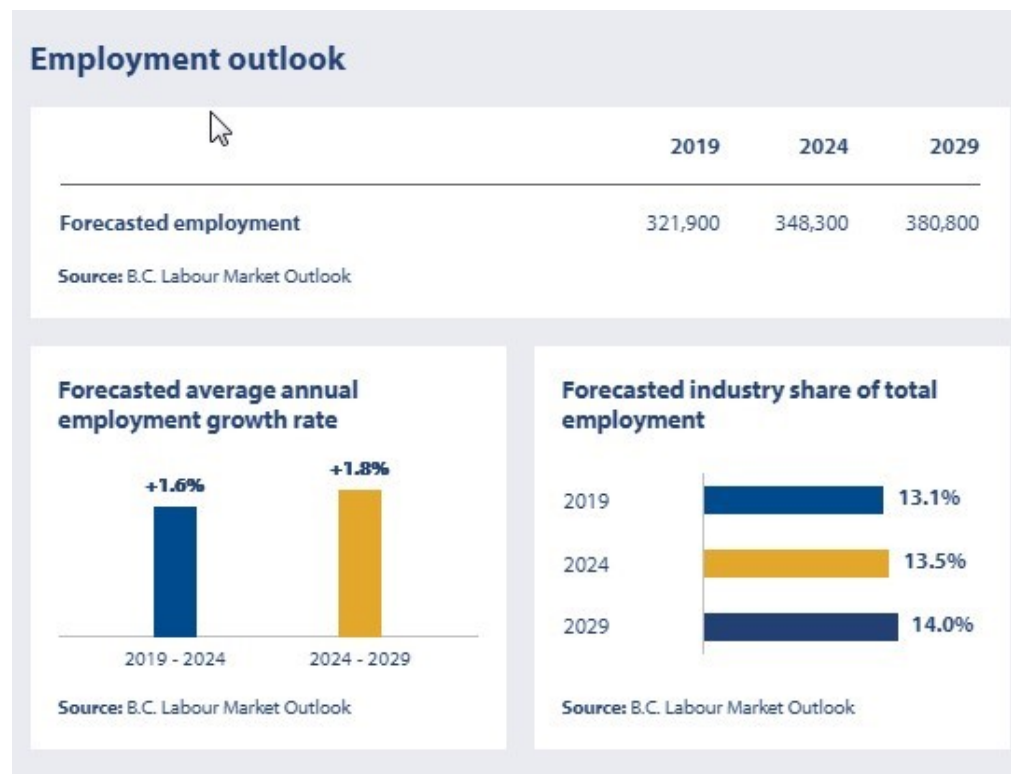
The Health Care and Social Assistance industry provides health care and social assistance to the people of B.C. Establishments in the health care sector offer/help clients with diagnosis and treatment services and providing residential care for medical reasons. Establishments include hospitals and clinics, ambulances, nursing or residential care homes. Establishments in the social assistance sector offer direct services to their clients such as counselling, welfare, child protection and child care, housing and food services.

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry is currently the largest employer in the province with 312,600 employed in 2019. The industry is expected to expand its workforce at a much faster pace than all industries as a whole over the next ten years up to 2029. The industry is projected to have 141,700 job openings over the 10-year period 2019-2029. Over half of those job openings (58 percent) are a result of replacement demand for retiring workers.



Health care and Social Assistance Jobs

Expected growth in employment



Source: Work BC <https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Information/Industry-Information/Industry-Profiles/Health-Care-and-Social-Assistance>

The workforce is predominantly female, and wages for women in this industry are notably higher than in other industries.

Immigrants are seen as a key source of talent as health care organizations seek to meet their hiring needs. The industry has responded by creating a number of programs to attract new workers.

One such initiative is the **Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants Program**. This program helps you understand how to obtain credential recognition, education, and association membership in order to establish your health care career. It also

Fastest Growing Industries: Health Care *A guide for newcomers to British Columbia*

provides assistance in overcoming language and cultural barriers in order to succeed in the Canadian workplace.

- More information:
 - <https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-in-B-C/Career-Paths-for-Skilled-Immigrants>

BC Health Careers is a free health professional recruitment service funded by the Government of British Columbia. They recruit physicians, registered nurses and allied health professionals on behalf of BC's publicly funded health employers.

- More information: <https://www.bchealthcareers.ca/>

The **BC Provincial Nominee Program** is for people with the skills, experience and qualifications needed by B.C. employers. This program is for individuals who would like to live and work in B.C. and become a permanent resident of Canada. You can apply to the PNP through the health care professional category if you are sponsored by or have a full-time job offer from a public health authority in targeted occupations.

- More information:
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate-to-B-C/About-The-BC-PNP>

For more information on the Health Care sector see:

- **WorkBC Industry Profile: Health Care and Social Assistance**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Information/Industry-Information/Industry-Profiles/Health-Care-and-Social-Assistance>

2. Occupations in the Health Care Sector

Occupations in High Demand in BC:

- Physician – General/Family Practice & Specialists
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupation Therapist
- Medical Laboratory Technologist
- Medical Radiation Technologist
- Physiotherapist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Ultra sonographer
- Pharmacist.
- Health Care Assistant/Care Aide
- Perfusionist
- Paramedics

Source:

British Columbia 2018 Labour Market Outlook

https://www.welcomebc.ca/getmedia/c59fcf72-1280-43a2-a3af-3bcf1f5bf32b/Report_2018-BC-Labour-Market-Outlook.pdf.aspx

Work BC Health Care and Social Assistance

<https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Industry/Industry-Information/Industry-Profiles/Health-Care-and-Social-Assistance>

Fastest Growing Industries: Health Care A guide for newcomers to British Columbia

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST JOB OPENINGS | 2019-2029

Occupation	Job Openings 2019-2029
Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses	19,600
Nurse Aides, Orderlies and Patient Service Associates	17,900
Licensed Practical Nurses	4,300
General Practitioners and Family Physicians	3,400
Specialist Physicians	3,000
Massage Therapists	2,300
Dental Assistants	2,000

Source: Good Jobs for Today & Tomorrow, https://www.workbc.ca/getmedia/30a4a0d6-57bd-4047-8b8b-250c54b505c3/BC_Good_Jobs_For_Today_And_Tomorrow_2019.aspx

Additional high opportunity health care occupations in BC:

Occupation	Job Openings to 2025
Dentists	1,640
Home Support Workers	6,610
Social & Community Service Workers	11,020
Physiotherapists	1,850
Occupational Therapists	950
Medical Laboratory Technologists	1,520
Medical Laboratory Technicians	1,650
Medical Radiation Technologists	1,110
Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists	1,310
Respiratory Therapists & Perfusionists	570
Practitioners of Natural Healing	1,140
Amulance Attendants & other Paramedical occupations	1,320

Fastest Growing Industries: Health Care *A guide for newcomers to British Columbia*

Source: Good Jobs for Today & Tomorrow,

https://www.workbc.ca/getmedia/30a4a0d6-57bd-4047-8b8b-250c54b505c3/BC_Good_Jobs_For_Today_And_Tomorrow_2019.aspx

For detailed information on any of the occupations in the health care sector, including job description, educational requirements for working in BC, salary, and more, see:

- **Allied Health Jobs BC**
<https://alliedhealthjobsbc.ca/>
- **WorkBC Career Profiles**
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers> [search by job title]

3. Hiring Forecast by Region

The demand for health care workers is strong in all regions of the province.

The largest numbers of jobs in this industry are located in Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Island and the Thompson-Okanagan regions

Employment Growth by Region – Health Care & Social Assistance, 2019-2029

1.3 B.C. industry employment growth and job openings by development region

Region	Employment	Employment Growth (Average Annual Rate)			Job Openings		
	2019	2019-2024	2024-2029	2019-2029	2019-2024	2024-2029	2019-2029
British Columbia	321,889	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%	67,230	74,455	141,684
Vancouver Island/Coast	63,646	1.3%	1.6%	1.4%	12,999	14,298	27,297
Mainland/Southwest	187,063	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	41,031	44,119	85,149
Thompson-Okanagan	41,890	1.1%	1.6%	1.3%	8,398	9,499	17,897
Kootenay	8,987	1.0%	1.7%	1.3%	1,739	2,067	3,806
Cariboo	12,017	1.1%	2.0%	1.6%	1,770	2,578	4,347
North Coast & Nechako	4,306	1.4%	2.1%	1.7%	714	947	1,661
Northeast	3,980	1.1%	2.5%	1.8%	579	947	1,526

Source: Work BC Industry Outlook Profile, B.C. Labour Market Outlook 2019 Edition – Health Care and Social Assistance <https://www.workbc.ca/getmedia/c08b2072-266c-4b4a-b5d2-3459380ec3dd/Profile-Aggregated-Industry-62-Health-Care-and-Social-Assistance.pdf.aspx>

4. Finding Jobs

Online Job Postings

- **BC’s Provincial Health Authorities**

BC’s five regional health authorities provide services in BC regions:

- **Vancouver Coastal Health Authority**

<https://careers.vch.ca/>

- **Fraser Health Authority**

<https://careers.fraserhealth.ca/>

- **Interior Health Authority**

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/careers/Pages/default.aspx>

- **Island Health Authority**

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/careers>

- **Northern Health Authority**

<https://careers.northernhealth.ca/>

- **First Nations Health Authority**
<https://www.fnha.ca/about/work-with-us>
- **Provincial Health Services Authority**
<http://www.phsa.ca/careers>
- **BC Health Careers**
<https://www.bchealthcareers.ca/#job-search>
Free health professional recruitment service funded by the Government of British Columbia
- **Work BC**
<https://www.workbc.ca/search-and-prepare-job/find-jobs#/job-search;industry=35;>
- **Indeed.com**
<https://ca.indeed.com/>
- **BC Jobs**
<https://www.bcjobs.ca/health-care-jobs>

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in the health care industry in British Columbia. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring

- **Directory of Canadian healthcare personnel**
Available at the Central Library
362.11025 C21a
- **Guide to Canadian health care facilities**
Available at the Central Library
362.105 C212ca

5. Additional Resources

Still looking for more information? Try looking at the following resources:

- **WelcomeBC | Work in B.C.**
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-in-B-C>
- **WelcomeBC | Study in B.C.**
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Study-in-B-C>
- **WorkBC | People New to B.C.**
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/resources/people-new-bc>
- **Work BC | Industry Profiles**
<https://www.workbc.ca/research-labour-market/bcs-industries-and-sectors/industry-profiles>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic>

