

Industry Profile: Oil & Gas

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Overview of the Oil & Gas Industry

Introduction

British Columbia’s government forecasts a high demand for workers in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector. LNG Canada is the largest private sector investment in Canadian history. It will require a large workforce for both construction activities and long-term operations.

Employment in the oil and gas industry is very dependent on economic cycles. The COVID-19 global pandemic and an oversupplied oil market have had a significant negative impact on the Canadian industry and its workforce. However, industry sources anticipate a modest recovery over the next 3 years.

Number of Job openings in BC, 2021-2031

Industry	Employment 2021	Expansion Job Openings 2021-2031	Replacement Job Openings 2021-2031	Total Job Openings 2021-2031
Oil and gas extraction	6,100	1,100	1,800	2,900
Support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction	7,400	800	2,000	2,800

Source: BC Labour Market Outlook 2021, <https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Industry/High-Opportunity-Occupations.aspx>

British Columbia is projected to see 2,810 job openings in the oil and gas industry between 2021 and 2023. The Province shows a resiliency not seen in other regions of Canada, adding jobs related to LNG plants and for site reclamation as well as the replacement retiring workers. Companies are already experiencing challenges attracting oil and gas services workers. For 2022 and 2023, hiring is expected for field and plant operations and maintenance roles, as well as oil and gas services occupations.

The development of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) sector is a fairly new area of focus which represents a significant opportunity. LNG facilities and associated pipelines will create operations and maintenance roles.

Northern BC, in particular, will need to recruit numerous workers to meet construction and operations requirements.

The industry is in need of a more skilled and knowledgeable workforce. As energy projects resume and workers retire, BC's industry will require more people with specialized skills to work in an increasingly complex environment. Higher levels of reading, mathematical ability, communications and problem-solving skills are required to perform new tasks.

Immigrants are seen as a key source of talent as oil and gas companies seek to meet their hiring needs in the years ahead.

The industry has responded by developing a number of programs to attract newcomers. These include:

- initiatives to attract newcomers to remote locations of the province
- corporate efforts to encourage diversity in the workplace
- strategies for streamlining foreign-credential recognition

One such initiative is the **FAST BC – Facilitating Access to Skilled Talent – Skilled Trades** program. FAST BC is a set of free online services and resources to help skilled newcomers succeed in the Canadian workplace, including:

- skills and knowledge assessment and online training
- e-Mentoring
- international credential evaluation services
- access to BC JobConnect, which connects you to Canadian employers

More information:

- **FAST BC**
<https://fastbc.org/skilled-trades>

In recognition of the current demand for skilled professionals in northern BC, the Canadian government has created the **Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot**. This program creates a path to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers who want to work and live in one of the participating communities.

More information:

- **Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/rural-northern-immigration-pilot.html>

For more information on the oil and gas sector see:

- **Careers in Energy.** Petroleum Labour Market Information Division of Enform
<https://careersinenergy.ca/>
- **LNG Projects, Government of British Columbia**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-gas-oil/lng/lng-projects/lng-canada-39828>
- **Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction. WorkBC**
<https://www.workbc.ca/industry-profile/mining-and-oil-and-gas-extraction>

2. Occupations in the Oil & Gas Sector

The oil and gas sector is made of up numerous occupations. Each career has its own unique set of experience and training requirements.

For most jobs you should be able to read, write and communicate effectively in English in order to work safely and efficiently.

Top 15 oil and gas occupations in Canada by hiring needs - 2021 to 2023

- 1 Supervisors, oil and gas drilling and services (8222)
- 2 Managers in natural resources production, drilling and well servicing (0811)
- 3 Purchasing agents and officers (1225)
- 4 Oil and gas well drillers, servicers, testers and related workers (8232)
- 5 Geoscientists and oceanographers (2113)
- 6 Transport truck drivers (7511)
- 7 Oil and gas well drilling workers and service operators (8412)
- 8 Environmental- and social-related occupations (regulatory, safety, environmental, Indigenous relations and stakeholder engagement, etc.) (1123, 1253, 1254, 1422, 1452, 1454, 2262, 2263, 4161, 4162, 4164, 4423)
- 9 Geological and mineral technologists and technicians (2212)
- 10 Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics (7311)
- 11 Petroleum engineers (2145)
- 12 Heavy equipment operators (except crane) (7521)
- 13 Petroleum, gas, chemical process operators (no steam ticket required) (9232)
- 14 Information technology occupations (2147, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2281, 2282, 2283)
- 15 Oil and gas drilling, servicing and related labourers (8615)

(Numbers in brackets refer to the NOC)

Source: Labour Market Outlook 2021-2031 – Canada's Oil & Gas Industry

In BC, occupations involved in the Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) sector are in the greatest demand.

For detailed information on any of the occupations in the oil and gas sector, including job description, training requirements, salary, and more see:

- **Careers in Energy. Petroleum Labour Market Information (PetroLMI)**
<https://careersinenergy.ca/>
- **WorkBC Career Profiles**
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers> [search by job title]
- **Workforce Information. Canadian Association of Energy Contractors**
https://caoec.ca/workforce_information
- **LNG Canada Workforce Development Programs**
<https://www.lngcanada.ca/opportunities/workforce-development/>

3. Hiring Forecast by Region

Most of BC's oil and gas activity is in the northeastern part of the province.

Oil pipelines and rail deliveries to BC ports and LNG export facilities are also planned for the northwest coast, including Kitimat and Prince Rupert.

Companies involved in planning LNG exports from BC are opening offices and placing staff in Vancouver, Prince George, Prince Rupert and Kitimat, resulting in new employment opportunities. These are head office type jobs that are involved in the early stage planning of projects including regulatory, stakeholder relations and business development roles.

Additional information on oil and gas activities in specific regions can be found at:

- **Liquefied Natural Gas Projects. Government of British Columbia**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-gas-oil/lng/lng-projects>
- **Major Projects. BC Oil & Gas Commission**
<https://www.bcogc.ca/what-we-regulate/major-projects/>
- **British Columbia Energy Profile. Canada Energy Regulator**
<https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-markets/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles-british-columbia.html>

4. Finding Jobs

Online Job Postings

- **WorkBC Jobs**
<https://www.workbc.ca/search-and-prepare-job/find-jobs#/job-search>
- **Indeed.com**
<https://ca.indeed.com/>
- **JGC/Fluor BC LNG**
<https://jfjvkitimat.com/careers/>
Job opportunities in the LNG sector in BC
- **Rigzone Oil & Gas Jobs**
<https://www.rigzone.com/oil/jobs/>
- **Careers in Energy Job Board**
<https://careersinenergy.ca/job-board/>

Creating a List of Potential Employers

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

- **Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Members Directory**
<https://www.capp.ca/about/membership/producer-members/>
- **Member Directory. Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors**
<https://thehitch.ca/member-directory/>
- **Comprehensive Oilfield Service & Supply Database (COSSD)**
<https://www.cossd.com/>

5. Additional Resources

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

- **Pipeline News North**
<https://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/pipeline-news-north>
- **Industry Training Authority of BC**
<https://www.itabc.ca>
- **WelcomeBC**
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/>
- **Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP)**
<https://www.stepbc.ca/>
- **Immigrant Employment Council of British Columbia**
<https://iecbc.ca/our-work/programs/>
- **BC Oil & Gas Commission**
<https://www.bcoqc.ca/>
- **Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)**
<https://www.capp.ca/>

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>.