

Regions of British Columbia

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Economic Regions

The economy in British Columbia is constantly evolving. These changes will affect both the number and type of jobs that are available. Over the next decade (2023-2033), it is projected that there will be nearly one million job openings in BC. Approximately 65% of these openings will be to replace workers as they retire, with the remaining 35% representing new positions created through economic growth.

The demographic makeup of new job seekers in BC is expected to consist primarily of newcomers to Canada (46%) and young British Columbians aging out of school and entering into the workforce (47%). There will also be a small proportion of new job seekers migrating to BC from other provinces and territories in Canada (7%).

It is anticipated that over half of all BC job opening during this 10-year period will come from the following five broad industry groupings:

- **Health care and social assistance** (17%)
- **Professional, scientific, and technical services** (14%)
- **Retail trade** (10%)
- **Educational services** (7%)
- **Construction** (7%)

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Because British Columbia covers such a large expanse, the average statistics for BC as a whole may not hold true in every part of the province. The map of BC can be divided along geographical lines into eight distinct **economic regions**, each of which experiences its own unique labour market conditions. Although the vast majority (85%) of the BC population lives in urban areas, with around 60% residing in the Mainland/Southwest region alone, there is a demand for workers in all regions of the province.



Sources:

- WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/research-labour-market/bc-and-regional-profiles>
- Trade and Invest BC <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/about-british-columbia-canada/regions>
- Government of BC <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/economic-development/support-organizations-community-partners/economic-development-organizations>

2. Cariboo Region

Overview

This region covers much of the northern interior of the province, ranging from the Cariboo Plateau in the west to the valleys of the Cariboo and Rocky Mountain ranges in the east. It is an area of vast landscapes and outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities.



The total population is 169,600, with most living in the city of Prince George. Not only is it the largest city in the Cariboo, it's the largest city in the entire northern half of the province. It is sometimes even referred to as the "northern capital of BC". Other key cities in this region include Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, Quesnel, and Mackenzie.

Job Outlook

In response to ongoing economic growth in the region, the city of Prince George established the *Move Up Prince George* initiative, specifically designed to recruit more workers from elsewhere in the province.

Over the next decade (2023-2033), it is projected that there will be 21,150 job openings in the Cariboo region, with an average annual employment growth rate of 0.1%. The following careers are expected to see the highest proportion of openings.

| Top Ten Occupations | Job Openings (2023-2033) |
|---|--------------------------|
| Retail and wholesale trade managers (NOC 60020) | 980 |
| Retail salespersons and visual merchandisers (NOC 64100) | 920 |
| Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses (NOC 31301) | 630 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Transport truck drivers (NOC 73300) | 530 |
| Social and community service workers (NOC 42201) | 530 |
| Administrative officers (NOC 13100) | 510 |
| Nurse aides, orderlies and patient service associates (NOC 33102) | 490 |
| Cashiers (NOC 65100) | 470 |
| Light duty cleaners (NOC 65310) | 340 |
| Carpenters (NOC 72310) | 330 |

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/cariboo>

Key Industries

The Cariboo region is home to many large natural resources operations due to the ready availability of raw materials and the presence of a robust infrastructure that provides access to international distribution chains and an adaptable labour force. Mining, forestry, ranching, and agriculture are all key economic drivers here, as are construction, manufacturing, retail, and professional services.

| Industry | Employment (2023) | % Share of Employment for this Industry |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 3,708 | 4.4% |
| Agriculture and Fishing | 792 | 0.9% |
| Business, Building and Other Support Services | 2,146 | 2.5% |
| Construction | 7,396 | 8.8% |
| Educational Services | 6,375 | 7.6% |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 2,771 | 3.3% |
| Forestry, Logging and Support Activities | 2,688 | 3.2% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 13,646 | 16.2% |

| | | |
|---|--------|-------|
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 1,792 | 2.1% |
| Manufacturing | 8,979 | 10.7% |
| Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction | 2,729 | 3.2% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 4,396 | 5.2% |
| Public Administration | 4,542 | 5.4% |
| Repair, Personal and Non-Profit Services | 3,771 | 4.5% |
| Retail Trade | 10,146 | 12.0% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 4,708 | 5.6% |
| Utilities | 146 | 0.2% |
| Wholesale Trade | 3,479 | 4.1% |

Sources:

- WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/cariboo>
- Trade and Invest BC <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/about-british-columbia-canada/regions/cariboo>
- Move Up Prince George <https://moveupprincegeorge.ca>

3. Kootenay Region

Overview

The Kootenay region is located in the southeast corner of the province, bordering Alberta to the east and the United States to the south. It is one of Canada’s leading destinations for outdoor pursuits such as hiking, mountain biking, skiing, fishing, and river rafting. It is also known for its thriving art and culture scene.



The total population of the Kootenay region is 163,100. Cranbrook is the largest city in this area and serves as the center for commercial and government services. Nelson is another key city.

Job Outlook

Over the next decade (2023-2033), it is projected that there will be 25,720 job openings in the Kootenay region, with an average annual employment growth rate of 0.5%. The following careers are expected to see the highest proportion of job openings.

| Top Ten Occupations | Job Openings (2023-2033) |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Retail and wholesale trade managers (NOC 60020) | 1,050 |
| Transport truck drivers (NOC 73300) | 980 |
| Administrative officers (NOC 13100) | 680 |
| Heavy equipment operators (NOC 73400) | 650 |
| Nurse aides, orderlies and patient service associates (NOC 33102) | 630 |
| Retail salespersons and visual merchandisers (NOC 64100) | 620 |
| Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses (NOC 31301) | 490 |
| Social and community service workers (NOC 42201) | 400 |
| Elementary school and kindergarten teachers (NOC 41221) | 380 |
| Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related support occupations (NOC 65201) | 370 |

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/kootenay>

Key Industries

Coal production, critical minerals mining, forestry, and tourism all contribute to the local economy while value-added manufacturing industries, technology, and digital media are emerging in the Kootenay region. Several hydroelectric dams are also located in this region, creating employment opportunities in the utilities sector.

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| Industry | Employment (2023) | % Share of Employment for this Industry |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 5,938 | 7.4% |
| Agriculture and Fishing | 458 | 0.6% |
| Business, Building and Other Support Services | 2,208 | 2.8% |
| Construction | 6,625 | 8.3% |
| Educational Services | 7,167 | 8.9% |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 3,229 | 4.0% |
| Forestry, Logging and Support Activities | 1,271 | 1.6% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 13,042 | 16.3% |
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 2,667 | 3.3% |
| Manufacturing | 5,146 | 6.4% |
| Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction | 6,979 | 8.7% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 4,875 | 6.1% |
| Public Administration | 3,312 | 4.1% |
| Repair, Personal and Non-Profit Services | 3,292 | 4.1% |
| Retail Trade | 9,438 | 11.8% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 2,312 | 2.9% |
| Utilities | 1,104 | 1.4% |
| Wholesale Trade | 1,188 | 1.5% |

Sources:

- WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/kootenay>
- Trade and Invest BC <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/about-british-columbia-canada/regions/kootenay>
- ImagineKootenay <https://imaginekootenay.com/work>

4. Mainland/Southwest

Overview

The Mainland/Southwest region is located in the southwest corner of the British Columbian mainland. It includes Greater Vancouver (also known as the “Lower Mainland”), the Fraser Valley, the southern part of the Sunshine Coast, and stretches north to include Whistler, Pemberton, and Lillooet.



Although it is the smallest region by land mass, it is the largest by population. More than 3 million people, representing approximately 60% of BC’s entire population, live in the Mainland/Southwest region. Vancouver is not only the largest city in the region, but the largest in the province. It is also the financial and business capital of BC, home to the headquarters for many of the larger businesses operating throughout the province, including the banks and other financial institutions.

Other key cities in Greater Vancouver include the neighbouring municipalities of Burnaby, Richmond, and Surrey. Notable cities in the Fraser Valley include Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Langley.

The Mainland/Southwest is one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the country. People are attracted to this urban region because of its warm climate, metropolitan atmosphere, diverse economic opportunities, thriving entrepreneurial environment, and abundance of recreational activities.

Job Outlook

The Mainland/Southwest region accounts for the largest percentage of provincial employment. Over the next decade (2023-2033), it is projected that there will be 228,060 job openings, with an average annual employment growth rate of 1.2%. The following careers are expected to see the highest proportion of job openings.

| Top Ten Occupations | Job Openings (2023-2033) |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Retail salespersons and visual merchandisers (NOC 64100) | 16,940 |
| Retail and wholesale trade managers (NOC 60020) | 16,930 |
| Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses (NOC 31301) | 15,840 |
| Senior managers - public and private sector (NOC 00018) | 13,630 |
| Nurse aides, orderlies and patient service associates (NOC 33102) | 12,690 |
| Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related support occupations (NOC 65201) | 10,890 |
| Software engineers and designers (NOC 21231) | 10,740 |
| Administrative officers (NOC 13100) | 10,220 |
| Material handlers (NOC 75101) | 8,120 |
| Social and community service workers (NOC 42201) | 8,060 |

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/mainlandsouthwest>

Key Industries

The service economy is very important in the Mainland/Southwest region as most of the jobs here belong to this sector.

The majority of BC jobs in the financial and scientific sectors are concentrated in the Mainland/Southwest. It is also a hub for film, television, visual effects, gaming, and digital media as well as for emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality.

As Vancouver is the shipping hub for all of Western Canada, the transportation industry here plays an integral role of the global supply chain bringing products into and out of Canada.

Other key industry sectors in this region include tourism, construction, education, information and communications technology (ICT), aerospace, and even agriculture.

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| Industry | Employment (2023) | % Share of Employment for this Industry |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 122,729 | 6.8% |
| Agriculture and Fishing | 12,750 | 0.7% |
| Business, Building and Other Support Services | 54,292 | 3.0% |
| Construction | 140,458 | 7.8% |
| Educational Services | 141,708 | 7.9% |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 127,708 | 7.1% |
| Forestry, Logging and Support Activities | 1,646 | 0.1% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 222,875 | 12.4% |
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 101,646 | 5.7% |
| Manufacturing | 111,958 | 6.2% |
| Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction | 6,583 | 0.4% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 208,688 | 11.6% |
| Public Administration | 76,812 | 4.3% |
| Repair, Personal and Non-Profit Services | 70,958 | 3.9% |
| Retail Trade | 218,896 | 12.2% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 101,958 | 5.7% |
| Utilities | 9,562 | 0.5% |
| Wholesale Trade | 66,354 | 3.7% |

Sources:

- WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/mainlandsouthwest>
- Trade and Invest BC <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/about-british-columbia-canada/regions/lower-mainland-southwest>

5. North Coast and Nechako

Overview

The **North Coast** region covers the northern coastal areas of the province as well as Haida Gwaii. Bordering the Pacific Ocean, the northern coastal region is an area of forests, mountains, and coastlines. It offers easy access to outdoor pursuits, a relaxed lifestyle, and a growing economy.

The total population in this region is 59,300. Prince Rupert, Terrace, and Kitimat are the largest cities.



The **Nechako** region stretches from the BC-Yukon border in the north down to the central Lakes District, with the Rocky Mountain Trench along the east. The remote wilderness is popular with outdoor enthusiasts and those who enjoy rural living.

Despite being the second largest region by land mass, Nechako has the lowest population with only 40,400 residents. Key municipalities include Burns Lake, Smithers, and Vanderhoof.

Although the North Coast region and the Nechako region are two distinct economic regions, government statistics often report them as one due to their small populations.

Job Outlook

Over the next decade (2023-2033), it is projected that there will be 15,300 job openings in the combined North Coast and Nechako regions, with an average annual employment growth rate of 1.1%. The following careers are expected to see the highest proportion of job openings.

| Top Ten Occupations | Job Openings (2023-2033) |
|--|--------------------------|
| Transport truck drivers (NOC 73300) | 950 |
| Retail and wholesale trade managers (NOC 60020) | 500 |
| Heavy equipment operators (NOC 73400) | 350 |
| Retail salespersons and visual merchandisers (NOC 64100) | 350 |
| Longshore workers (NOC 75100) | 320 |
| Construction trades helpers and labourers (NOC 75110) | 320 |
| Carpenters (NOC 72310) | 290 |
| Administrative officers (NOC 13100) | 270 |
| Material handlers (NOC 75101) | 270 |
| Railway and yard locomotive engineers (NOC 73310) | 260 |

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/north-coast-and-nechako>

Key Industries

Natural resources – particularly mining and forestry – have always played a critical role in both the North Coast and Nechako economies. In recent years, this has shifted somewhat due to significant investments in infrastructure and mining.

In the **North Coast** region, commercial fishing, logging, and mining continue to account for a large portion of employment. The recent Prince Rupert port expansion

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has created many more opportunities for employment in the transportation and warehousing sector. Likewise, the construction of an aluminium smelter in Kitimat and the preparations for liquefied natural gas projects has contributed to a growing economy in this region.

Mining and forestry remain important in the **Nechako** regional economy, with oil and gas also growing in significance. Many companies are actively exploring for minerals in this region.

The industry statistics below represent the combined totals for the North Coast and Nechako regions.

| Industry | Employment (2023) | % Share of Employment for this Industry |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 2,000 | 4.6% |
| Agriculture and Fishing | 146 | 0.3% |
| Business, Building and Other Support Services | 938 | 2.2% |
| Construction | 3,708 | 8.6% |
| Educational Services | 3,896 | 9.0% |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 1,333 | 3.1% |
| Forestry, Logging and Support Activities | 1,896 | 4.4% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 5,792 | 13.4% |
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 1,083 | 2.5% |
| Manufacturing | 3,708 | 8.6% |
| Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction | 1,271 | 2.9% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 1,688 | 3.9% |

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Public Administration | 2,062 | 4.8% |
| Repair, Personal and Non-Profit Services | 1,979 | 4.6% |
| Retail Trade | 4,958 | 11.5% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 5,000 | 11.6% |
| Utilities | 500 | 1.2% |
| Wholesale Trade | 1,271 | 2.9% |

Sources:

- WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/north-coast-and-nechako>
- Trade and Invest BC <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/about-british-columbia-canada/regions/north-coast> & <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/about-british-columbia-canada/regions/nechako>

6. Northeast

Overview

This Northeast region is bordered by the Yukon and Northwest Territories in the north, the Rocky Mountains to the west and Alberta to the east. It is a vast and remote area of mountains, foothills, forests, lakes, and the Peace River valley.

Affordable housing and unlimited recreational opportunities attract and retain an active and exciting community of entrepreneurs, tradespeople, clean energy, and resource professionals.

The Northeast region also holds the province's highest rate of employment and has a high demand for skilled and level entry workers.

With a total population of only 72,300, this is among the least populous of BC's economic regions. The largest urban center in this region is Fort St. John. Other key municipalities include Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson.

Job Outlook

Over the next decade (2023-2033), it is projected that there will be 10,420 job openings in the Northeast region, with an average annual employment growth rate of 0.4%. The following careers are expected to see the highest proportion of job openings.

| Top Ten Occupations | Job Openings (2023-2033) |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Transport truck drivers (NOC 73300) | 570 |
| Retail and wholesale trade managers (NOC 60020) | 400 |
| Retail salespersons and visual merchandisers (NOC 64100) | 340 |
| Administrative officers (NOC 13100) | 270 |
| Central control and process operators, petroleum, gas and chemical processing (NOC 93101) | 270 |
| Accounting technicians and bookkeepers (NOC 12200) | 220 |
| Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related support occupations (NOC 65201) | 210 |
| Light duty cleaners (NOC 65310) | 210 |
| Administrative assistants (NOC 13110) | 210 |
| Heavy equipment operators (NOC 73400) | 190 |

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/northeast>

Key Industries

The Northeast's thriving economy is based on natural resources, particularly natural gas production, agriculture, forestry, and critical minerals. Rapid development of the energy sector contributes to the Northeast region's growth.

Another important industry is utilities. Other sectors include logging, wood products manufacturing and agriculture. Power-generating projects, both planned and in progress, include hydroelectric dams and wind farms.

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| Industry | Employment (2023) | % Share of Employment for this Industry |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 2,708 | 7.5% |
| Agriculture and Fishing | 125 | 0.3% |
| Business, Building and Other Support Services | 562 | 1.6% |
| Construction | 4,250 | 11.8% |
| Educational Services | 2,479 | 6.9% |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 979 | 2.7% |
| Forestry, Logging and Support Activities | 604 | 1.7% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 3,229 | 9.0% |
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 833 | 2.3% |
| Manufacturing | 1,417 | 3.9% |
| Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction | 4,521 | 12.6% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 1,604 | 4.5% |
| Public Administration | 1,167 | 3.2% |
| Repair, Personal and Non-Profit Services | 1,917 | 5.3% |
| Retail Trade | 5,167 | 14.4% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 2,771 | 7.7% |
| Utilities | 542 | 1.5% |
| Wholesale Trade | 1,125 | 3.1% |

Sources:

- WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/northeast>

Trade and Invest BC <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/about-british-columbia-canada/regions/northeast>

7. Thompson-Okanagan

Overview

The Thompson-Okanagan region in BC's central interior lies between the Cascade and Monashee mountains, and borders Alberta and Washington. It is a popular tourist destination, renowned for its sunny climate and beautiful landscapes. The region is also an area of remarkable geographical diversity, comprising desert, mountains, lakes, and rivers.

With its hot, dry summers, Thompson-Okanagan is popular as both a vacation destination and a place for retirees to live. Due to the above average amount of retirees living in this region, the unemployment rate is consistently higher than the provincial rate, as is the median age of its residents.

The pleasant climate and the many recreational activities have been credited for the region's increasing population growth, now the third largest region in BC. There are 609,300 people living in this region, with about three-quarters of them residing in urban centres and one-quarter in more rural areas. Kelowna is the largest city in the region. Other key cities include Vernon, Kamloops, and Penticton.

Job Outlook

The Thompson-Okanagan region accounts for the third largest percentage of provincial employment. Over the next decade (2023-2033), it is projected that there will be 124,620 job openings, with an average annual employment growth rate of 1.2%. The following careers are expected to see the highest proportion of job openings.

| Top Ten Occupations | Job Openings (2023-2033) |
|---|--------------------------|
| Retail and wholesale trade managers (NOC 60020) | 4,610 |
| Nurse aides, orderlies and patient service associates (NOC 33102) | 3,570 |
| Retail salespersons and visual merchandisers (NOC 64100) | 3,400 |
| Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses (NOC 31301) | 3,040 |
| Administrative officers (NOC 13100) | 2,820 |
| Transport truck drivers (NOC 73300) | 2,550 |
| Senior managers - public and private sector (NOC 00018) | 2,240 |
| Social and community service workers (NOC 42201) | 2,140 |
| Elementary school and kindergarten teachers (NOC 41221) | 1,870 |
| Light duty cleaners (NOC 65310) | 1,790 |

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/thompson-okanagan>

Key Industries

The diverse economy in the Thompson-Okanagan region is based on the industries of health care, manufacturing, technology, agriculture, livestock, forage production and ranching, mining, logging, and tourism. Key growth industries include information and communications technology, film and digital media, clean energy, viticulture and wine production, aviation, and health care.

Thompson-Okanagan has some of the best agricultural land in the province and is a prime location for vineyards and orchards. There are also some cattle ranches in the region. A large share of BC's Agriculture employment is located in this region.

This region also has a relatively large share of provincial employment in some services sector industries due to its popularity as a vacation destination.

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| Industry | Employment (2023) | % Share of Employment for this Industry |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 23,271 | 7.7% |
| Agriculture and Fishing | 6,562 | 2.2% |
| Business, Building and Other Support Services | 11,417 | 3.8% |
| Construction | 33,458 | 11.1% |
| Educational Services | 22,167 | 7.3% |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 14,750 | 4.9% |
| Forestry, Logging and Support Activities | 1,896 | 0.6% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 41,396 | 13.7% |
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 10,667 | 3.5% |
| Manufacturing | 21,625 | 7.2% |
| Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction | 4,375 | 1.4% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 21,896 | 7.3% |
| Public Administration | 13,146 | 4.4% |
| Repair, Personal and Non-Profit Services | 12,021 | 4.0% |
| Retail Trade | 40,312 | 13.4% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 9,875 | 3.3% |
| Utilities | 2,917 | 1.0% |
| Wholesale Trade | 10,000 | 3.3% |

Sources:

- WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/thompson-okanagan>
- Trade and Invest BC <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/about-british-columbia-canada/regions/thompson-okanagan>
- Central Okanagan EDC <https://www.investkelowna.com>

8. Vancouver Island/Coast

Overview

Situated on the West Coast of Canada, the Vancouver Island/Coast region sits as a gateway to Asia and the U.S. Pacific Northwest. This region is known for its temperate climate, unspoiled wilderness, and beautiful coastlines.

The Vancouver Island/Coast region is the second most populated region in BC, home to a total population of 881,700 residents. Victoria, the capital city of the province, is the largest city in this region and also the oldest city in all of Western Canada. Other key cities include Nanaimo and Courtenay.

Job Outlook

The Vancouver Island/Coast accounts for the second largest percentage of provincial employment. Over the next decade (2023-2033), it is projected that there will be 174,690 job openings, with an average annual employment growth rate of 1.2%. The following careers are expected to see the highest proportion of job openings.

| Top Ten Occupations | Job Openings (2023-2033) |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Retail and wholesale trade managers (NOC 60020) | 5,570 |
| Retail salespersons and visual merchandisers (NOC 64100) | 5,420 |
| Nurse aides, orderlies and patient service associates (NOC 33102) | 4,780 |
| Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses (NOC 31301) | 4,460 |
| Administrative officers (NOC 13100) | 3,760 |
| Social and community service workers (NOC 42201) | 3,430 |
| Senior managers - public and private sector (NOC 00018) | 3,340 |
| Light duty cleaners (NOC 65310) | 2,700 |
| Early childhood educators and assistants (NOC 42202) | 2,310 |
| Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related support occupations (NOC 65201) | 2,290 |

Source: WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/vancouver-islandcoast>

Key Industries

The service sector plays a major role in the Vancouver Island/Coast regional economy. Many people have jobs in the hospitality and tourism industries.

A large proportion of BC's public administration employment occurs in Vancouver Island/Coast, reflecting the presence of the provincial capital in the region. In the more rural areas, there are significant resource-based activities such as logging and fishing.

With three international airports, four deep seaports, plenty of competitively priced land and properties, this region is also a strategic hub for trade, shipping, and logistics.

| Industry | Employment (2023) | % Share of Employment for this Industry |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 33,125 | 7.5% |
| Agriculture and Fishing | 4,771 | 1.1% |
| Business, Building and Other Support Services | 14,917 | 3.4% |
| Construction | 38,896 | 8.8% |
| Educational Services | 34,271 | 7.8% |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate | 22,792 | 5.2% |
| Forestry, Logging and Support Activities | 3,729 | 0.8% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 72,833 | 16.5% |
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 18,188 | 4.1% |
| Manufacturing | 19,021 | 4.3% |
| Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction | 2,688 | 0.6% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 35,688 | 8.1% |

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Public Administration | 42,250 | 9.6% |
| Repair, Personal and Non-Profit Services | 16,292 | 3.7% |
| Retail Trade | 55,583 | 12.6% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 15,021 | 3.4% |
| Utilities | 1,375 | 0.3% |
| Wholesale Trade | 9,062 | 2.1% |

Sources:

- WorkBC <https://www.workbc.ca/region-profile/vancouver-islandcoast>
- Trade and Invest BC <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/about-british-columbia-canada/regions/vancouver-island-coast>

9. Additional Resources

- **Industry Profiles**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guides/industry-profiles>
- **Learn More about Working in BC and Canada**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/learn-more-about-working-in-bc-and-canada>

**Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Branch,
Vancouver Public 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>.

