

Audio & Video Recording Technicians

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



Contents

1. Working as an Audio & Video Recording Technician, [NOC 52113]	2
2. Skills, Education and Experience	6
3. Finding Jobs	7
4. Applying for a Job	10
5. Getting Help from Industry Sources.....	10

1. Working as an Audio & Video Recording Technician, [NOC 2021: 52113 / NOC 2016: 5225]

Job Description

Audio and video recording technicians operate equipment to record, mix and edit sound, music and videotape for motion pictures, television and radio programs, videos, recordings and live events. You may perform the following duties:

- set up, prepare, operate and adjust audio, recording, editing and reproducing equipment for sound input or feed of pre-recorded material from tapes, records, compact discs, digital audio devices, and input from live microphones, satellites or microwave trucks for films, videos, radio, television programs and recordings
- prepare and operate videotape recording and playback equipment and edit video tape after production
- operate electronic equipment to generate program titles, credits, subtitles, graphic backgrounds or animation for television programs
- operate audio consoles or computers, tape machines, microphones and sound processing equipment to mix, combine and edit music and sound
- operate dubbing machines to play back edited dialogue, music and sound effect tracks from different sources, in synchronization with motion picture film

Source: *WorkBC Career Profile for Audio & Video Recording Technicians*

<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>

Industry Overview

BC is Canada's largest and North America's third-largest centre for motion picture production in North America. The province offers over 120 sound stages and more than 130 animation, VFX and post-production companies. The majority of both direct and indirect jobs associated with film & TV industry are located in Metro Vancouver. However, the industry is expanding into B.C.'s regions, particularly the Okanagan and Vancouver Island.

As Canada's third largest music centre, BC has a diverse pool of writers and musicians who can create and perform all genres of music. BC also has world class recording studios for use in film/television or digital media. BC's music industry is also comprised of more than 80 independent record labels and over 200 sound recording studios. Overall, the music industry in BC is comprised of small companies (less than five employees). Some of the companies include world-renowned recording studios such as The Armoury and Warehouse Studio and Nettwerk Music Group.

The interactive and digital media sector has 161 video game companies. 62 of these are micro, 83 standard and 19 large organizations.

Sources:

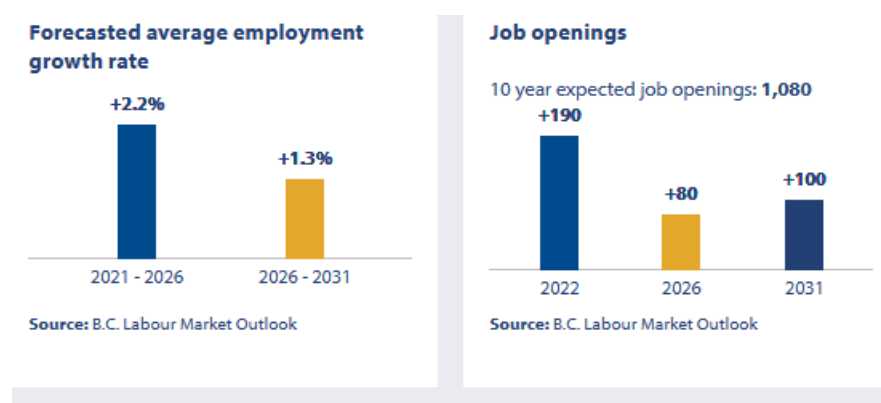
Creative BC:

<https://www.creativebc.com/sector/>

Creative BC Annual Impact Report, 2020-2021

<https://www.creativebc.com/sector/research-reports/annual-impact-reports/>

Job Outlook in BC
Audio and Video Recording Technicians



Composition of job openings



Chart from WorkBC

WorkBC provides job openings projections within BC regions:

Region	Employment in 2021	Average Annual Employment Growth 2021-2031	Expected Number of Job Openings 2021-2031
Vancouver Island	240	1.8%	100
Lower Mainland/Southwest	2,510	1.7%	900
Thompson-Okanagan	150	2.4%	70
Kootenay	40	2.0%	20

You can learn more about working as an Audio and Video Recording Technician in BC from:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Audio & Video Recording Technicians**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>

- **Career Cruising (Profiles for Audio-Visual Techs and Sound Techs)**

<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

Types of Employers

Audio and video recording technicians are employed by film, video and concert production companies, sound recording firms, theatre and dance companies, clubs, bands, multimedia companies, radio stations, television networks and video production and editing companies.

Salary

In BC, the median annual salary for audio & video recording technicians is \$66,739. Hourly wages for sound technicians working in film tends to be the highest. Television stations usually pay higher salaries than radio stations; commercial broadcasting usually pays more than educational broadcasting; and stations in large markets pay more than those in small markets.

If you work on a full-time or regular part-time basis, you often receive benefits in addition to your salary. Typical benefits include paid vacation, sick days, and dental coverage. Techs who are self-employed must provide their own benefits.

Sources: WorkBC & Career Cruising

In BC regions, you can expect to earn:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	20.00	32.00	47.64
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	20.06	32.27	49.00

Source: Job Bank Wages <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

Working Hours

Full time **AV technicians** normally work a 40-hour week but your hours can vary. Schedules of AV techs are often irregular, and can include evening and weekend work. Overtime may also be required for some events.

For **sound technicians**, hours vary greatly in this field. Technicians working in film are generally on short-term contracts, but spend long days on a set. Those working on daily programs at radio or television stations are more likely to work a standard 40-hour week.

Source: *Career Cruising* (Profiles for Audio-Visual Techs and Sound Techs)

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- Significant use of technology
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Creativity
- Good spatial perception
- Detail oriented

Audio and video recording technicians should be physically fit and able to lift heavy objects, as well as be comfortable working at heights. Workers should also have the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

Education and Experience

- Completion of a one- to three-year certificate, diploma or degree program in audio and video recording or a related program is required.
- Paid or volunteer experience as a recording studio assistant is also usually needed.

Qualifications

Audio and video recording technician is **not a regulated** occupation in BC.

However, many TV and film production companies operating in BC may require membership in a union:

- **AFCF West Association of Canadian Film Craftspeople Union, Local 2020**
<https://www.acfcwest.com/>

OR

- **IATSE 891 International (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees)**
<https://iatse.com/>

3. Finding Jobs

You'll find job advertisements in local newspapers, electronic sources, and through professional associations.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily and the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays or *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **CultureWorks**
<https://www.cultureworks.ca/>
- **Indeed.com**
https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
- **Talent.com**
<https://ca.talent.com/>
- **Mandy.com**
<https://www.mandy.com/ca>

- **Media Job Search Canada**

<https://www.mediajobsearchcanada.com/>

- **Playback**

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

- **BC JobConnect**

<https://bcjobconnect.ca> **must have permanent resident number**

newcomers can post their skills, education and work experience to BC employers looking for workers

Professional Associations' Career Resources

- **Canadian Media Producers Association**

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

- **DigiBC – The Creative Technology Association of BC**

<https://www.digibc.org/jobs>

Identifying the Right Position

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a wide range of different job titles that are relevant. For audio and video recording technicians, look at these related job titles:

- Audiovisual (AV) technician
- Audio engineer – recording studio
- Colour timer – video
- Digital effects specialist
- Multimedia sound technician
- Postproduction technician
- Editor – sound
- Editor - videotape
- Film technician
- Radio technician
- Recording engineer
- Recording studio technician
- Sound effects editor
- Sound engineer
- Sound mixer
- Sound technician
- Playback operator
- Video and sound recorder
- Video recording technician

Source: NOC Complete listing of job titles at:

<https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/>

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of film production companies, broadcasters, recording studios, new media companies and other employers in the Lower Mainland or BC. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Creative BC - Industry Contacts**

<https://www.creativebc.com/community/initiatives/knowledge-hub/>

- **Canadian Media Producers Association**

<https://cmpa.ca/find-a-production-partner/>

- **Canadian Independent Music Association**

<https://cimamusic.ca/membership/directory?genre=all-music-genres>

- **BC Alliance for Arts & Culture Membership Directory**

<https://www.allianceforarts.com/member-directory>

- **British Columbia Association of Broadcasters Membership Directory**

<https://www.bcab.ca/membership/directory/>

- **Reference Canada**

<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "videography" (OR audio visual creative services OR movie production OR film production) and click LOOKUP. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

4. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume or curriculum vitae and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your relevant experience.

Use the library catalogue, <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

To learn about applying for jobs in Canada, use the following guides which are available in print at the Central Library or online at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/>.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>
- **Networking for Employment**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **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>

5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

Industry Associations

Industry associations can provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are usually required for membership.

- **British Columbia and Yukon Council of Film Unions**
<https://bccfu.com/>

The BC Council of Film Unions (BCCFU) is comprised of three member-unions representing workers in BC's film and television industry: IATSE Local 891, Teamsters Local Union 155, and International Cinematographer's Guild Local 669.

- **ACFC West Local 2020**

<https://www.acfcwest.com>

The Association of Canadian Film Craftspeople, Local 2020, is a technical film union representing film technicians including sound, special effects, more

- **Creative BC**

<https://www.creativebc.com/>

- **Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA)**

<https://cmpa.ca/>

An industry association for independent producers.

- **Music BC Industry Association**

<https://musicbc.org/>

Non-profit society that supports and promotes the development and growth of the BC music community

- **Canadian Association of Broadcasters**

<https://www.cab-acr.ca/>

CAB is the national representation of Canada's private radio and television broadcasters

- **DigiBC – The Creative Technology Association of BC**

<https://digibc.org/>

Represents BC's video game/interactive, animation, visual effects, and VR/MR/AR sectors

- **Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC**

<https://mppia.com>

Industry Journals

Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession or see this online journal:

- **Playback Magazine**

<https://playbackonline.ca/>

**Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Library,
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 <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>*