

Dental Technicians

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



Contents

1. Working as a Dental Technician	2
2. Skills, Education and Experience.....	5
3. Finding Jobs	7
4. Applying for a Job	9
5. Getting Help from Industry Sources	10

1. Working as a Dental Technician [NOC 2021: 32112 / NOC 2016: 3223]

Job Description

Dental Technicians make and repair dental devices such as crowns and bridges, dentures, orthodontics, sports and night guards.

As a Dental Technician you perform the following duties:

- Design or repair dental devices including dentures, crowns, bridges, inlays, and implants
- Make models of patients' mouths or teeth
- Cast gold or metal alloys for bridges and denture bases
- Make orthodontic bands from gold, silver, stainless steel or other metals
- Finish metal framework of dentures and polish and buff dentures to obtain natural finish
- May consult with dentists or other specialists on complicated dental cases
- May train and supervise other dental technicians

Source:

WorkBC Career Profile <https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers>

Industry Overview

A career in dental technology is one that is continually evolving, with new products and services continuously being developed. The need for properly trained dental technicians is growing. The BC Dental Technologist Association reports that B.C currently has a shortage of skilled dental technicians, particularly in the area of crown and bridge, ceramics, and orthodontics.

Most jobs are located in the Lower Mainland/Southwest and Vancouver Island regions of the province.

Job Outlook in BC

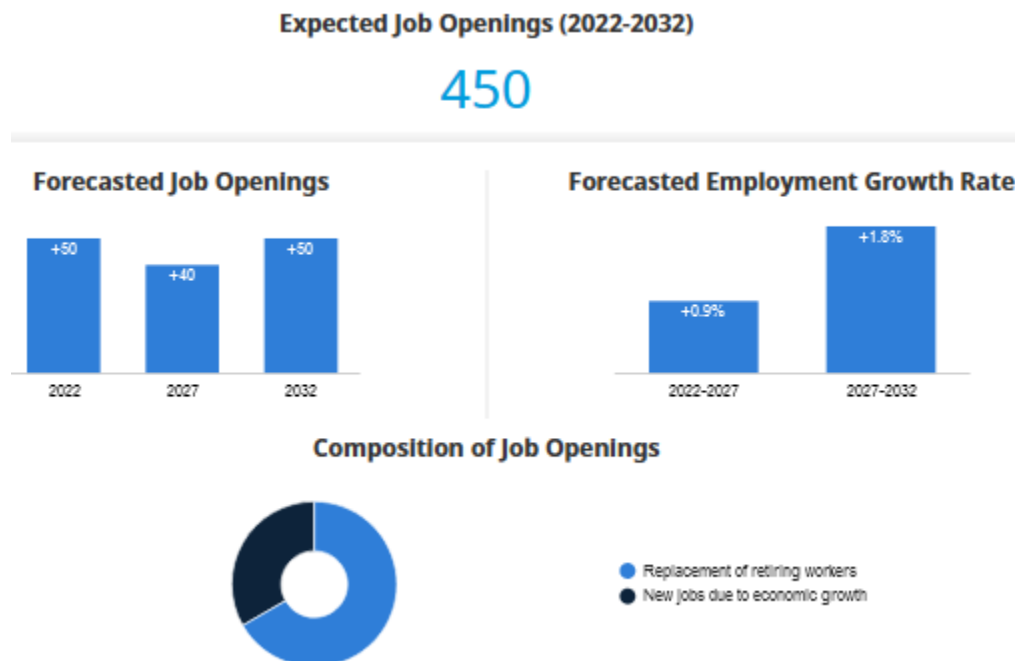


Chart from WorkBC

WorkBC provides job openings in BC regions from 2022-2032:

Region	Employment in 2022	Average Annual Employment Growth	Expected Number of Job Openings
Vancouver Island / Coast	100	1.0%	60
Lower Mainland / Southwest	820	1.4%	350
Thompson-Okanagan	100	1.0%	n/a

You can learn more about working as a dental technician in BC from:

- **WorkBC Career Profile**
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers> [Search Dental Technologists]
- **Career Cruising (Profile for Dental Lab Tech)**
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising/>
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page
- **Dental Technicians Association of BC**
<https://www.dentaltechniciansofbc.com/about-us/overview>

Types of Employers

Dental Technicians work in commercial dental laboratories. There are about 300 laboratories in British Columbia. Most are small 2 - 5 person laboratories. About 6 laboratories in BC have over 30 employees.

You may also be self-employed, operating your own dental laboratory.

Salary

The median annual salary for Dental Technicians working full-time in BC is \$52,150. Your salary depends on experience, skill, area of expertise and employer.

Your salary tends to be higher if you work in a smaller lab performing a variety of tasks compared to a large lab with more specialized duties. You will generally have the highest income if you own and operate your own lab.

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In addition to a salary, most full-time Dental Technicians receive health and dental benefits, paid sick days, and paid vacations.

Job Bank Canada provides hourly wages for Dental Technicians in BC regions:

Community/Area	Low (\$/hour)	Median (\$/hour)	High (\$/hour)
British Columbia	18.00	25.00	35.57
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	18.00	25.00	35.68
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	18.00	27.50	35.50

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

Sources: WorkBC and Career Cruising

Working Hours

Full-time Dental Technicians usually work a 5-day, 40-hour week. Overtime may be necessary on occasion.

Part-time work is also common.

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- excellent hand-eye coordination
- ability to focus on small details
- able to do precise, detailed work
- creative and artistic inclinations
- good color perception
- interest in health care

Education and Experience

To work as a Dental Technologist in BC you require:

- completion of a college program in dental technology approved by the BC College of Oral Health Professionals

OR

- 5 or more years of on-the-job training under the supervision of a registered dental technician
- Registration with the BC College of Oral Health Professionals is mandatory

Qualifications

This occupation is regulated in British Columbia.

You must be registered with the ***BC College of Oral Health Professionals [BCCOHP]*** in order to work as a Dental Technician in BC.

In order to register you require:

- graduation from a Dental Technician Education Program approved by the Registration Committee, **OR**
- (i) to have provided the services equivalent to those of a dental technician for a period of not less than 5 years, AND
(ii) a combination of knowledge, skills and abilities, which satisfy the education requirements
- to be of good character and fit to practice the profession
- demonstrated competence in the English language
- submission of application form and fees
- successful completion of the Competency Assessment (examinations) administered by the ***Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators (CADTR)***
- proof of having obtained and maintained the required professional liability insurance coverage

For more information see:

BC College of Oral Health Professionals

- General Information <https://oralhealthbc.ca>
- Registered Dental Technician Registration Requirements
<https://oralhealthbc.ca/register-renew/dental-technician-registration/>

Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators

<https://cadtr-acord.com/>

Internationally Trained Dental Technicians

If you are an internationally trained Dental Technician you must:

- have your academic credentials evaluated through the Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators (CADTR)
- register with the BC College of Oral Health Professionals
- be able to work legally in Canada

For more information on internationally trained Dental Technicians see:

- **Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators**
<https://cadtr-acord.com/credentialing/>
- **BC College of Oral Health Professionals**
<https://oralhealthbc.ca/register-renew/first-time-applicants/dental-technician-initial-registration/>

3. Finding Jobs

You'll find job advertisements in local newspapers, trade journals, and electronic sources, as well as through professional association publications.

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 and in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **Indeed.com**
<https://www.indeed.ca>
Find jobs posted on a multitude of company career sites and job boards
- **WorkBC Job Search**
<https://www.workbc.ca/search-and-prepare-job/find-jobs>

Professional Associations' Career Resources

- **Dental Technicians Association of British Columbia**
<https://www.dentaltechniciansofbc.com/our-services/job-board>

Identifying the Right Position

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a range of different job titles that are relevant.

For dental technicians look for these related job titles

- ceramic denture moulder
- dental technologist
- denture finisher
- denture wax pattern former
- orthodontic band maker
- registered dental technician / technologist
- dental laboratory technician

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

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of dental laboratories in BC. Contact them directly to find out if they are hiring.

- **Dentist Directory – Dental Labs**

<https://www.dentistdirectorycanada.ca/dental-labs/british-columbia-dental-labs-directory-dental-labs-in-british-columbia/>

- **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 "*dental laboratories*" 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. These should identify the position you are applying for and summarize 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/getting-canadian-work-experience>
- **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

Associations for Dental Technicians in BC and Canada can provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are required for membership.

- **BC College of Oral Health Professionals**
<https://oralhealthbc.ca/>
- **Dental Technicians Association of British Columbia**
<https://www.dentaltechniciansofbc.com/>
- **Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators**
<https://cadtr-acordt.com/>

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/>