

Learning about Skilled Occupations

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Working in Your Skilled Occupation

Job Description

You can learn about the job description for your occupation from:

- **National Occupational Classification**
<https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/>
- **WorkBC Career Profiles**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
- **Job Bank, Explore Careers**
<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-occupations>
- **Career Cruising**
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

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

Industry Overview

The demand for workers in British Columbia is expected to surpass the supply.

Several industries are expected to offer particularly strong job opportunities:

- green technology, digital media and life sciences
- traditional industries such as natural resources (growth through innovation)
- service industries including health care, high-tech and retail sales

Source, Work BC, BC's Economy

<https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Information/B-C-s-Economy/B-C-s-Economy.aspx>

Job Outlook in BC

Job Openings in BC, Top 10 Industries, 2021-2023



Source: British Columbia 2021 Labour Market Outlook

<https://www.workbc.ca/labour-market-industry/labour-market-outlook.aspx>

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Almost two-thirds of projected job openings in British Columbia over the next 10 years are expected to be in the Lower Mainland and Southwest region of the Province.

Employment Outlook by Region, 2021-2031

Region	Employment 2021	10-Year Employment Growth Rate 2021-2031	Job Openings 2021-2031		
			Expansion	Replacement	Total
Vancouver Island/Coast	425,000	1.1%	50,400	111,000	161,500
Mainland/Southwest	1,680,000	1.4%	260,000	393,200	653,200
Thompson-Okanagan	303,000	1.2%	38,600	77,000	115,600
Kootenay	80,000	0.6%	5,100	20,400	25,400
Cariboo	87,000	0.4%	3,700	16,700	20,400
Northeast	39,000	1.0%	4,300	8,000	12,300
North Coast and Nechako	43,000	1.4%	6,700	8,500	15,200
British Columbia	2,657,000	1.3%	368,800	634,800	1,003,600

Source: British Columbia 2017, Labour Market Outlook

Types of Employers

There are a variety of employer options for you in British Columbia depending on your occupation and preferences, for example company size or location. BC is increasingly focused on medium and small business.

Self-employment is also an option to consider as contract work is becoming more common in British Columbia.

Salary

Average hourly wages of employees by selected occupation, British Columbia

National Occupational Classification (NOC) ⁶	September 2022
	Current dollars
Total employees, all occupations ²	32.18
Management occupations [0]	51.67
Business, finance and administration occupations [1]	30.65
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations [2]	43.79
Health occupations [3]	33.33
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services [4]	35.58
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport [5]	32.99
Sales and service occupations [6]	21.55
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations [7]	31.84
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations [8]	27.90
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities [9]	27.02

Source: Government of Canada, Statistics Canada

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1410030601>

For detailed salary information by occupation, see:

- **JobBank Canada Wages**

<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

Search by occupation to find wages for regions across Canada

Working Hours

Your working hours will vary depending on your occupation.

Short term contract and project work is becoming more common in BC.

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- **Employability Skills Toolkit. Conference Board of Canada**
<https://www.conferenceboard.ca/futureskillscentre/tools/employability-skills>
Learn about the skills you require to adapt and succeed in the Canadian workforce.
- **Skills for Success. Government of Canada**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/initiatives/skills-success.html>
Learn about the nine skills needed to participate and thrive in work and life in Canada.

Education and Experience

- **Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials**
<https://www.cicic.ca/>
Information on how to obtain recognition of your credentials in order to work or study in Canada.
- **International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES)**
<https://www.bcit.ca/ices/>
Evaluates formal for-credit educational programs for people who have studied in other provinces or countries and determines comparable levels in British Columbian and Canadian terms.
- **Credential Evaluation. Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre**
Go to <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guides>
[Search Credential Evaluations]

Qualifications

You will want to find out if your Occupation is **Regulated** or **Non-Regulated** in BC.

Some professions and trades are regulated in British Columbia to protect public health and safety. This means that you require a licence or certificate from the assigned regulatory body to work in that occupation.

You can find the qualifications for your occupation at:

- **Getting Certified to Work in BC. WelcomeBC**
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-in-B-C/Getting-Certified-to-Work-in-B-C>

- **Work BC - List of BC Occupational Regulators**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers/B-C-Occupational-Regulators.aspx>
A list of all the regulatory bodies in British Columbia.

- **WorkBC Career Profiles**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
Search by job title to find requirements for employment in BC

3. Finding Jobs

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

Local Newspapers

The Vancouver Public Library has a wide variety of local newspapers. For example, you can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at any VPL branch 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.

Using a **recruitment agency** can be a useful tool in your job search. Recruitment agencies act as your representative. For more information see:

- **Recruitment Agencies**

Go to <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guides>
[Search: Recruitment Agencies]

Online Job Postings

- **Indeed.com**

https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search

Find jobs posted on a large number of company career sites and job boards

Professional Associations' Career Resources

Look for websites for associations related to your industry and profession, they may have a career section or job postings. Some of these professional associations offer job matching and career assistance services.

Some examples in British Columbia:

- **BC Industry Job Boards**

<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Find-Jobs/View-B-C-Industry-Job-Boards.aspx>

Identifying the Right Position

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

To find other terms to describe your occupation look at:

- **National Occupation Classification.** Available online at:
<https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/>

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of potential employers. Contact them directly to find out if they are hiring. Some examples:

- **Business in Vancouver Book of Lists**

This lists top companies in specific categories. At Central Library, 338.9711 B97b

- **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. Type your keywords and 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/guides>.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
- **Networking for Employment**
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**

5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

Industry Associations

Professional Associations for skilled occupations are very common in BC and Canada. These associations can provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are usually required for membership but not for information.

You can find associations and other organizations associated with your occupation by searching online or look at the following directory at VPL:

- **Associations Canada**
Available at VPL Central Branch, 060 A84 and online through VPL's Digital Library: <https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/canada-info-desk>

Industry Journals

Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession. Industry journals will give you current information about companies and industry news. Also, these journals will report events, such as conferences, you may want to attend for networking and information.

Business in Vancouver is an example of a good general journal available at VPL.

- **Business in Vancouver**, 338.9711 B97b

This journal has up to date information about business in the lower Mainland, such as growing industries or changes in an industry regulation and economic coverage.

There is also limited online access through the Business in Vancouver website: <https://www.biv.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 <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/>.