



# WHOLESALE

## Economy - Sectors

Step 1: Understanding Yesterday and Today

### Metropolitan Core Jobs & Economy Land Use Plan

#### Highlights

- 3% of Metro Core employment is in this sector.
- Over 25% of these jobs are in food, beverage, and tobacco.
- The Metro Core has 53% of the city's jobs in this sector and 13% of the region's. This is a lower than average share.
- 48% of the Metro Core employees in this sector live in Vancouver.
- The Central Business District has a larger number of these employees than any other Metro Core sub-area. However, False Creek Flats has the largest percent of its jobs in this sector.



#### What is included in this sector?

This sector is comprised of establishments engaged in wholesaling merchandise and providing related logistics, marketing and support services to retailers and individuals as well as business and institutional customers. (Statistics Canada)

#### JOBS

#### How many people are employed in this sector?

In 2001, over 6,300 people were employed in the wholesale trade sector in the Metro Core. This is 3% of all Metro Core employees. One quarter of Metro Core employment in this sector is in food, beverage, and tobacco wholesale distribution (Table 1).



A food wholesaler in the False Creek Flats area

Sub-sector	Metro Core	
Food, beverage and tobacco wholesaler-distributors	1,610	25%
Machinery, equipment and supplies wholesaler-distributors	1,420	22%
Personal and household goods wholesaler-distributors	1,070	17%
Miscellaneous wholesaler-distributors	840	13%
Wholesale agents and brokers	735	12%
Building material and supplies wholesaler-distributors	355	6%
Wholesale trade	6,345	100%

Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS (4 digit), 2001.xls. See Note 1.

## How does this compare to the rest of the city and the region?

### (a) Percent of total jobs

The wholesale trade sector accounts for approximately 3% of all jobs in the Metro Core. This is lower than the rest of the city and region where this sector accounts for approximately 5% and 7% of all employment respectively (Table 2).

	Metro Core	Rest of city	Rest of region
Total jobs	199,955	112,700	589,115
Number of people working in wholesale trade	6,345	5,675	38,465
% of total jobs	3%	5%	7%

Statistics Canada 2001 Census. Jobs by NAICS (2 digit), 2001.xls

### (b) Share of wholesale trade jobs

The Metro Core has a lower than average share of city and regional employment in this sector:

- 53% of city jobs in this sector is in the Metro Core (vs. 64% of all city jobs).
- 13% of regional jobs in this sector are in the Metro Core (vs. 22% of all regional jobs).

This low share applies generally across various sub-sectors (Table 3).

Table 3: Share of city and regional jobs (1,000 or more employees city wide)

Sub-sectors	Metro Core's share of city	City total	Metro Core's share of region	Region total
Wholesale agents and brokers	62%	1,195	19%	3,970
Machinery, equipment and supplies wholesaler-distributors	56%	2,540	12%	11,605
Food, beverage and tobacco wholesaler-distributors	55%	2,905	19%	8,495
Personal and household goods wholesaler-distributors	54%	1,995	16%	6,645
Miscellaneous wholesaler-distributors	53%	1,600	12%	6,965
Building material and supplies wholesaler-distributors	29%	1,225	4%	7,970
Wholesale trade total	53%	12,030	13%	50,475
All sectors total	64%	312,660	22%	901,775

Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS (4 digit), 2001.xls.

## How has this employment changed over time?

The analysis of economic sectors over time is limited due to changes to the industrial classification methods used by Statistics Canada over the past 25 years. In 1981, the majority of the industries within the wholesale trade sector were classified in the "wholesale trade industries" sector. . From 1981 to 2001, wholesale trade jobs in the Metro Core decreased by 40%, compared to a 14% increase for all jobs (Table 4).

	1981	2001	% change
Total jobs	193,846	221,246	14%
Wholesale trade industries jobs	12,975	7,776	-40%

Statistics Canada 1981& 2001 Census: Jobs by SIC, 1981 to 2001.xls. See Note 2.

### Who is working in this sector and what do they do?

Women occupy 37% of the positions in the Metro Core wholesale trade sector. This is slightly higher than the rest of the city and region where women occupy 34% and 32% of the positions in this sector, respectively. Overall, women occupy 50% of all jobs in the region.

Fulltime workers hold 89% of the positions in this sector in the Metro. This is similar to the rest of the city and region where 86% and 87% of workers are employed full time, respectively. Overall, 77% of all jobs in the region provide full time work (*Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS (2-digit and 4-digit) by work activity by sex.xls*).

One quarter of Metro Core employees in this sector work in business, finance, and administrative occupations, one quarter work in sales and service occupations and one quarter work in management occupations (Table 5).

Business, finance and administrative occupations	1,710	27%
Sales and service occupations	1,615	25%
Management occupations	1,585	25%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	785	12%
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	275	4%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	255	4%
Total	6,345	100%

Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS by Occupation, 2001.xls.

### Where do employees in this sector live?

Approximately 48% of employees in the Metro Core wholesale trade sector reside in the City of Vancouver. This is lower than the average of 53% across all sectors (Table 6).

Vancouver *	3,015	48%
Burnaby/New West	855	13%
North Shore	680	11%
South of Fraser	610	10%
NE Sector	500	8%
Richmond	355	6%
Total	6,345	100%

Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS by POR, Metro Core, 2001.xls. Note: \* includes people who work at home in this sector in the Metro Core.

## BUSINESSES

### How many businesses are in this sector and what size are they?

There are over 1,600 business establishments in the wholesale trade sector in the Metro Core. This is 6% of all businesses (vs. 3% of all employment).

Statistics Canada lists many businesses as indeterminate in size (37% in this sector - see Note 3). Of those for which size is known (Table 7):

- Over 90% have less than 50 employees.
- 12 have over 100 employees.

### How do these businesses compare to the rest of the city and the region?

Metro Core wholesale trade sector businesses operate at a similar scale as wholesale businesses located in the rest of the city and region (Table 7).

# of employees	Metro Core		Rest of city		Rest of region	
1-4	531	52%	584	59%	2,664	53%
5-19	340	33%	277	28%	1,644	33%
20-49	106	10%	89	9%	490	10%
50-99	34	3%	27	3%	161	3%
100-499	11	1%	12	1%	69	1%
500+	1	0%	0	0%	2	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,030</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistics Canada: *Businesses by NAICS (2-digit) by Size, 2001.xls*.

## SPACE AND LOCATION

### How many people work from home in this sector?

Of those people employed by the Metro Core wholesale trade sector, only 5% work from home (Table 8).

	Metro Core	City	GVRD
Total	6,345	12,020	50,485
Work at home	320	1,200	5,070
%	5%	10%	10%
% across all sectors	3%	7%	9%

Statistics Canada: *Jobs by NAICS (2 digit), 2001.xls*. Note: Figures above do not include employees with no fixed place of work.

### Where in the Metro Core is this sector located?

The largest numbers of wholesale trade jobs by employment area are as follows (see Table 9a and Figure 1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> last page):

- Central Business District - 1,300 jobs
- False Creek Flats - 900 jobs
- Powell Street - 900 jobs

	Central Business District	False Creek Flats	Powell Street
Machinery, equipment and supplies wholesaler-distributors	28%	4%	17%
Wholesale agents and brokers	20%	3%	6%
Miscellaneous wholesaler-distributors	19%	12%	13%
Personal and household goods wholesaler-distributors	12%	6%	24%
Building material and supplies wholesaler-distributors	7%	3%	11%
Farm product wholesaler-distributors	6%	0%	1%
Food, beverage and tobacco wholesaler-distributors	6%	69%	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistics Canada 2001 Census-- *Jobs by NAICS (2 digit) Emp Areas, 2001.xls*

Overall, 3% of Metro Core employees work in this sector. Sub-areas where this sector comprises significantly more than 3% are (see Table 9b on 2<sup>nd</sup> last page):

- False Creek Flats (20%)
- Brewery Creek (17%)
- Powell St. (14%)

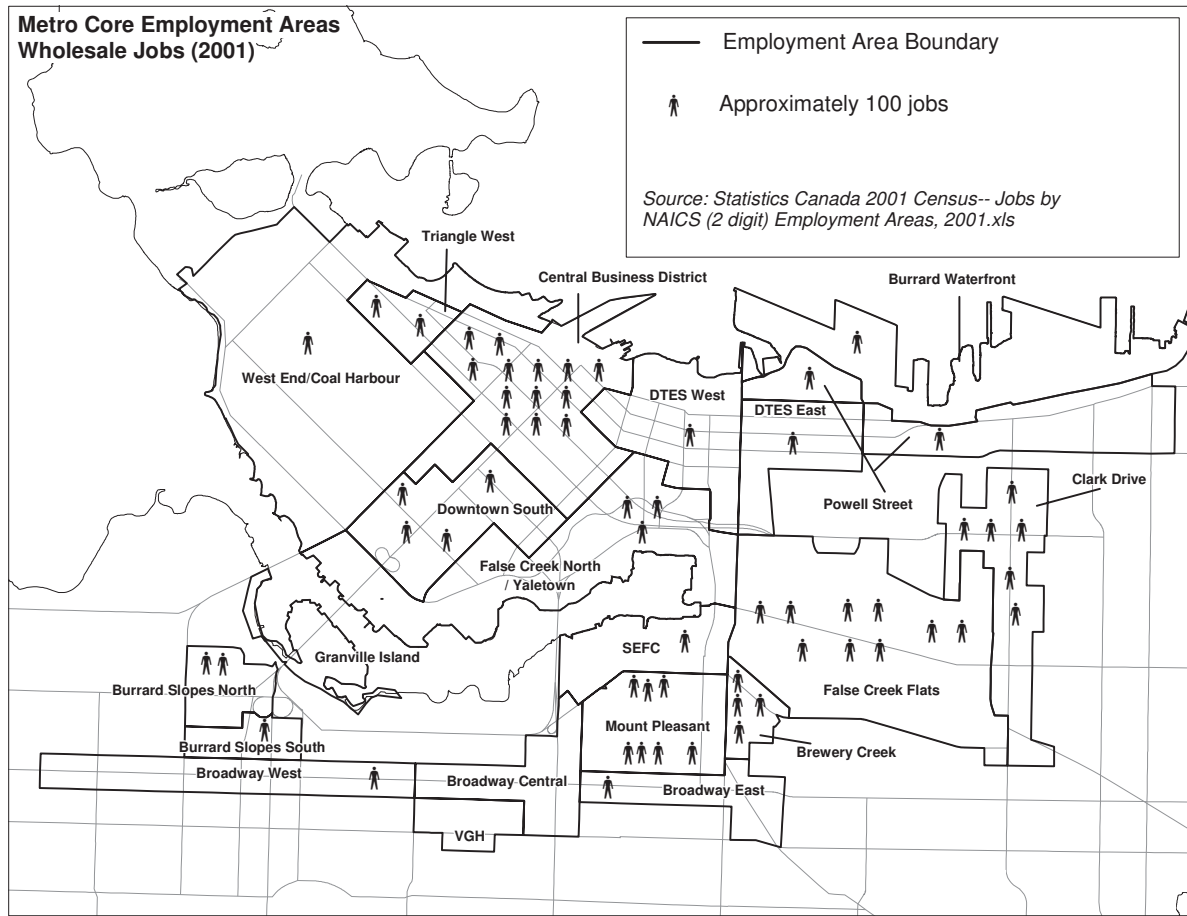
### What types of space does this sector occupy?

While specific data is not available to connect each sector with its type of space, observation suggests that Metro Core businesses in this sector occupy mostly office and industrial spaces.

### What else do we know about the economic role of this sector?

The wholesale trade sector typically generates 5% of British Columbia's Gross Domestic Product and accounts for 3% of employees in BC. This is on par with the Metro Core where 3% of all employees work in this sector (*BC Stats-- BC GDP by Industry and BC Employment by Industry*).

Figure 1: Distribution of jobs



**Table 9b: Percent of total jobs by employment area**

False Creek Flats	20%	Triangle West	6%	Central Business District	2%
Brewery Creek	17%	Burrard Slopes North	6%	DTES West	2%
Powell Street	14%	Broadway East	3%	Broadway West	1%
Clark Drive	11%	False Creek	3%	West End/Coal Harbour	1%
Mount Pleasant	10%	North/Yaletown	3%	Granville Island	1%
Burrard Waterfront	8%	Downtown South	3%	Broadway Central	1%
SEFC	7%	Burrard Slopes South	3%	VGH	0%
		DTES East	2%		

Statistics Canada 2001 Census-- Jobs by NAICS (2-digit), Employment Areas, 2001.xls. Note: Available data for the Burrard Waterfront employment area covers a geography that exceeds the boundaries of the Metro Core.

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## Sources / Contacts

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Sources of information are recorded throughout this Information Sheet. Additional notes are provided here:

1) In this paper, NAICS refers to the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System, which was the system used by Statistics Canada in 2001 to categorize jobs and businesses by industry sector.

2) Re: Table 4 - Data in this table are categorized according to 1980 SIC (Standard Industrial Classification). SIC was the classification method used by Statistics Canada prior to the 2001 Census. The job totals in Table 4 are higher because they include an estimate of jobs with no fixed place of work. This estimate is reached by assigning to the Metro Core a share of the workers with no fixed place of work. The share is determined on a sector by sector basis and is based on the number of workers with a known place of work.

3) Re: Table 7 - Businesses in the “indeterminate” category have no employees registered on the payroll. They may have contract workers, or no workers at all. “Indeterminate” does not equate with “self-employed”. Self-employed businesses may be in either category.

This Information Sheet was published by the City of Vancouver. It is one in a series of Information Sheets produced for the Metropolitan Core Jobs and Economy Land Use Plan. The purpose of this initiative is to develop a long term land use policy plan to accommodate future economic activity and jobs in the Metro Core. For further information, please e-mail [corejobs@vancouver.ca](mailto:corejobs@vancouver.ca) or visit the website [www.vancouver.ca/corejobs](http://www.vancouver.ca/corejobs)