



SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Economy - Structure

Step 1: Understanding Yesterday and Today

Metropolitan Core Jobs & Economy Land Use Plan

Highlights

- 12% of the jobs in Vancouver are held by self-employed people. This is the same as the region as a whole.
- Most of the jobs held by self-employed people are located outside of the home (64% in Vancouver and 52% in the rest of the region).
- The rate of self-employment varies considerably across economic sectors. In Vancouver, nearly 30% of the jobs in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector are held by the self-employed, compared to 0% of jobs in public administration.



WHO ARE THE SELF-EMPLOYED?

Statistics Canada defines the self-employed as persons “for whom the job reported consisted mainly of operating a business, farm or professional practice, alone or in partnership. Some examples include: operating a farm... working on a freelance or contract basis to do a job (e.g. architects, private duty nurses); [or] operating a direct distributorship selling and delivering products such as cosmetics” (Statistics Canada. 2001. Census Dictionary. Statistics Canada website: <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Reference/dict/pop023.htm>).

HOW MANY OF THE JOBS IN VANCOUVER ARE HELD BY THE SELF-EMPLOYED?

There are about 312,000 jobs in the City of Vancouver. Over 37,600 of these jobs are held by self-employed people working in the City of Vancouver. This is 12% of the jobs in the City. This share of total jobs holds true in the rest of the region as well (Table 1).

Table 1: Jobs in Vancouver and Region by employment status

	City of Vancouver		Rest of Region		Region	
	Jobs	%	Jobs	%	Jobs	%
Jobs held by Self-Employed	37,655	12%	68,590	12%	106,245	12%
Jobs held by Paid Employees	274,225	88%	518,570	88%	792,795	88%
Total Jobs	311,880	100%	587,160	100%	899,040	100%

Statistics Canada 2001 Census. Self-employed by Place of Work.xls. Note: data do not include workers with no-fixed place of work. Data do not include jobs held by persons where class of worker (employment status) is not known.

ARE MOST OF THE SELF-EMPLOYED JOBS BASED IN THE HOME?

Over half of the jobs held by self-employed people are located outside of the home. The tendency for self-employed jobs to be based outside of the home is quite high in the City of Vancouver compared to the rest of the region (64% vs. 52%) (Table 2).

Table 2: Self-Employed jobs in Vancouver and Region by place of work status

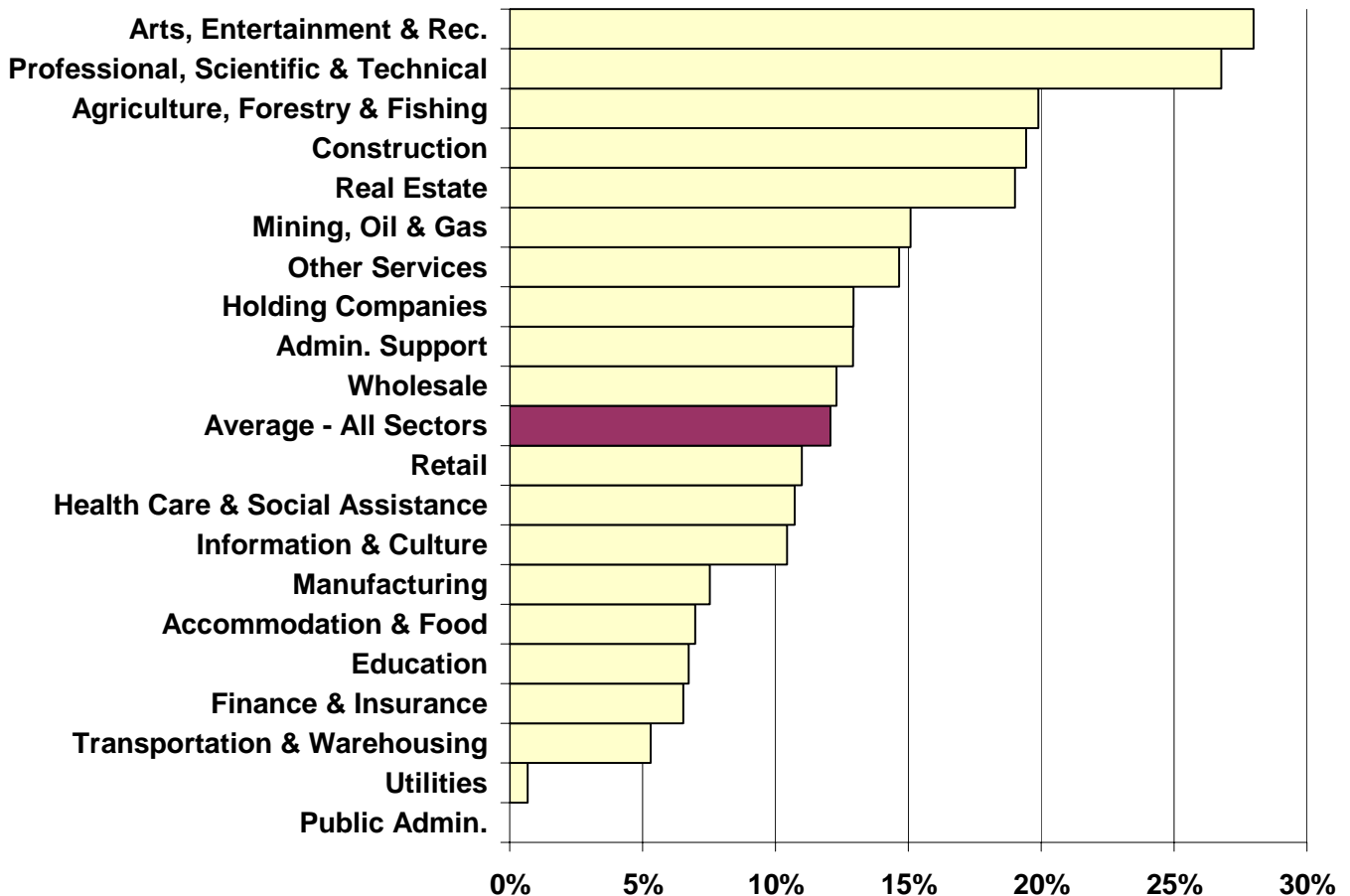
	City of Vancouver		Rest of Region		Region	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Self-Employed, Working from Home	13,660	36%	33,150	48%	46,810	44%
Self-Employed, Working Outside the Home	24,000	64%	35,435	52%	59,435	56%
Total Self-Employed Jobs	37,655	100%	68,590	100%	106,245	100%

Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Self-employed by Place of Work.xls. Note: data do not include workers with no-fixed place of work.

HOW DOES SELF-EMPLOYMENT VARY ACROSS SECTORS?

The percent of Vancouver jobs held by self-employed persons varies considerably across sectors. Nearly 30% of Vancouver jobs in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector are held by self-employed persons compared to 0% in the public administration sector (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Self-Employment by sector in the City of Vancouver



Statistics Canada 2001 Census: POW by Detailed NAICS, Class of Worker, Emp Areas, J3546.ivt. Note: data do not include workers with no-fixed place of work. Data do not include jobs held by persons where class of worker (employment status) is not known.

Sources / Contacts

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 or visit the website www.vancouver.ca/corejobs