



WORKING FROM HOME

Economy - Structure

Step 1: Understanding Yesterday and Today

Metropolitan Core Jobs & Economy Land Use Plan

Highlights

- Nearly 22,400 people work from home in the City of Vancouver.
- This is approximately 7% of all jobs in the city.
- Economic sectors vary in the degree to which jobs are home-based. Arts and real estate have the highest percent of work at home. Public administration and accommodation and food have the lowest percents of work at home.
- A significant number of home-based jobs are part-time jobs: 37%, compared to 18% for all jobs.
- Greater Vancouver ranks 2nd in Canada Metropolitan regions in terms of the proportion of employed labour force working from home.

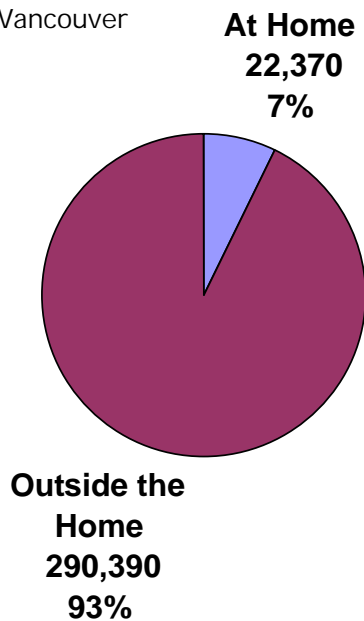


HOW MANY PEOPLE WORK FROM HOME?

There are 22,370 people working from home in the City of Vancouver. This is:

- 7.2% of jobs in the city for which there is a known workplace (Figure 1).
- 6.4% of total jobs - i.e., when workers with no fixed place of work are included (travelling salespeople, construction workers, etc)
- 8.0% of employed labour force (i.e., residents) in the city - or slightly higher at 8.5% for people who live in the Metro Core (See Table A-1 in Appendix).

Figure 1: Job locations in the City of Vancouver



Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS (2 digit), 2001.xls. Note: Figures above do not include employees with no fixed place of work. See Table A-1.

HOW HAS WORK FROM HOME CHANGED OVER TIME?

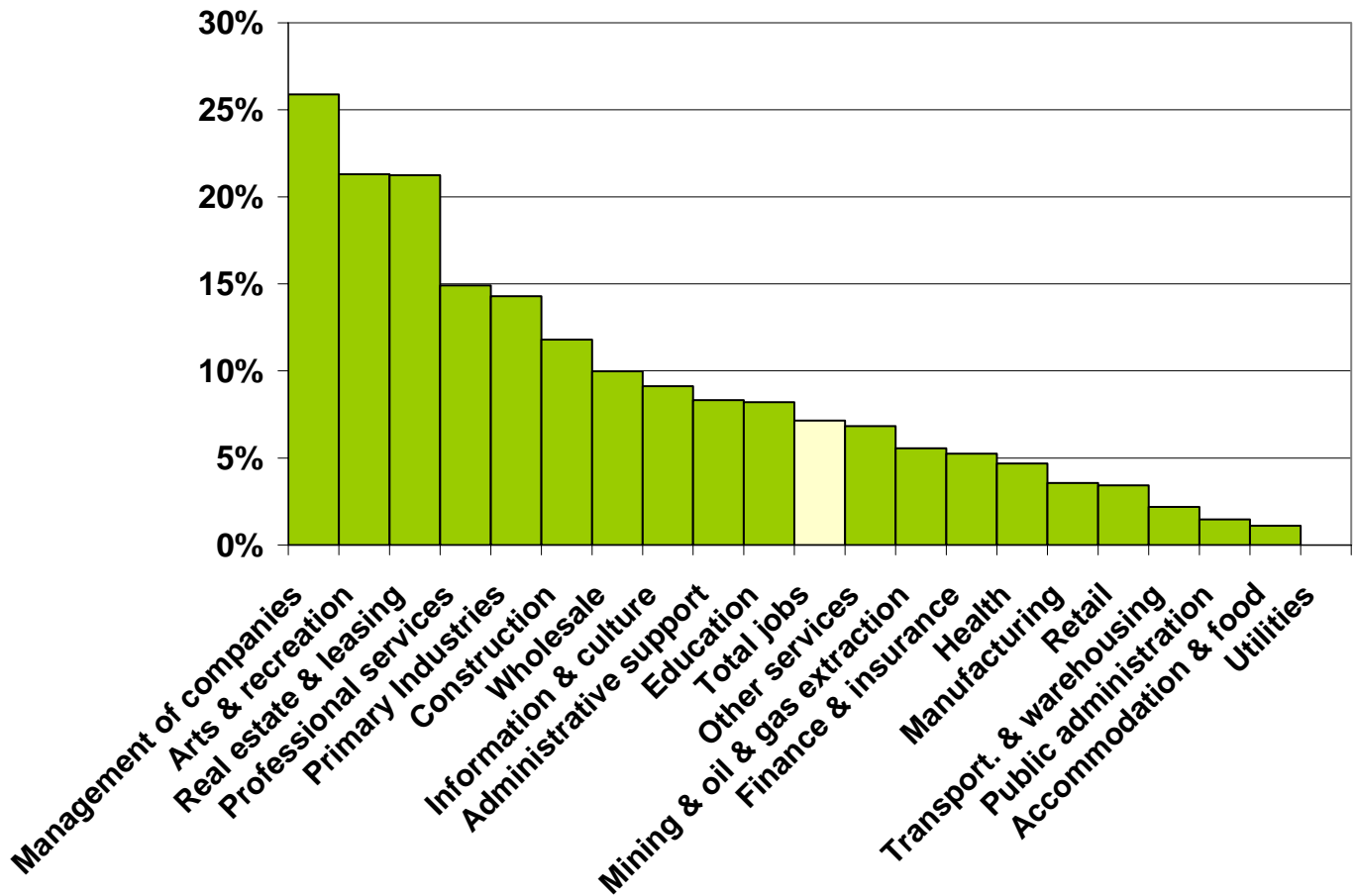
Do to data limitations; it is very difficult to accurately track changes in work at home before 1996. Between 1996 and 2001, the “work at home” share of total jobs increased by 0.4% in the Greater Vancouver Region.

HOW DOES WORK FROM HOME EMPLOYMENT VARY BY SECTOR?

A) Likelihood of working at home by sector

The percent of jobs in each sector that are based out of the home varies dramatically across economic sectors. Economic sectors with the highest rates of home-based work (above 20% - compared to the average of 7%) include: management of companies (holding companies); arts, entertainment and recreation; and real estate and leasing (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Home-based jobs as a percent of jobs in each sector - City of Vancouver

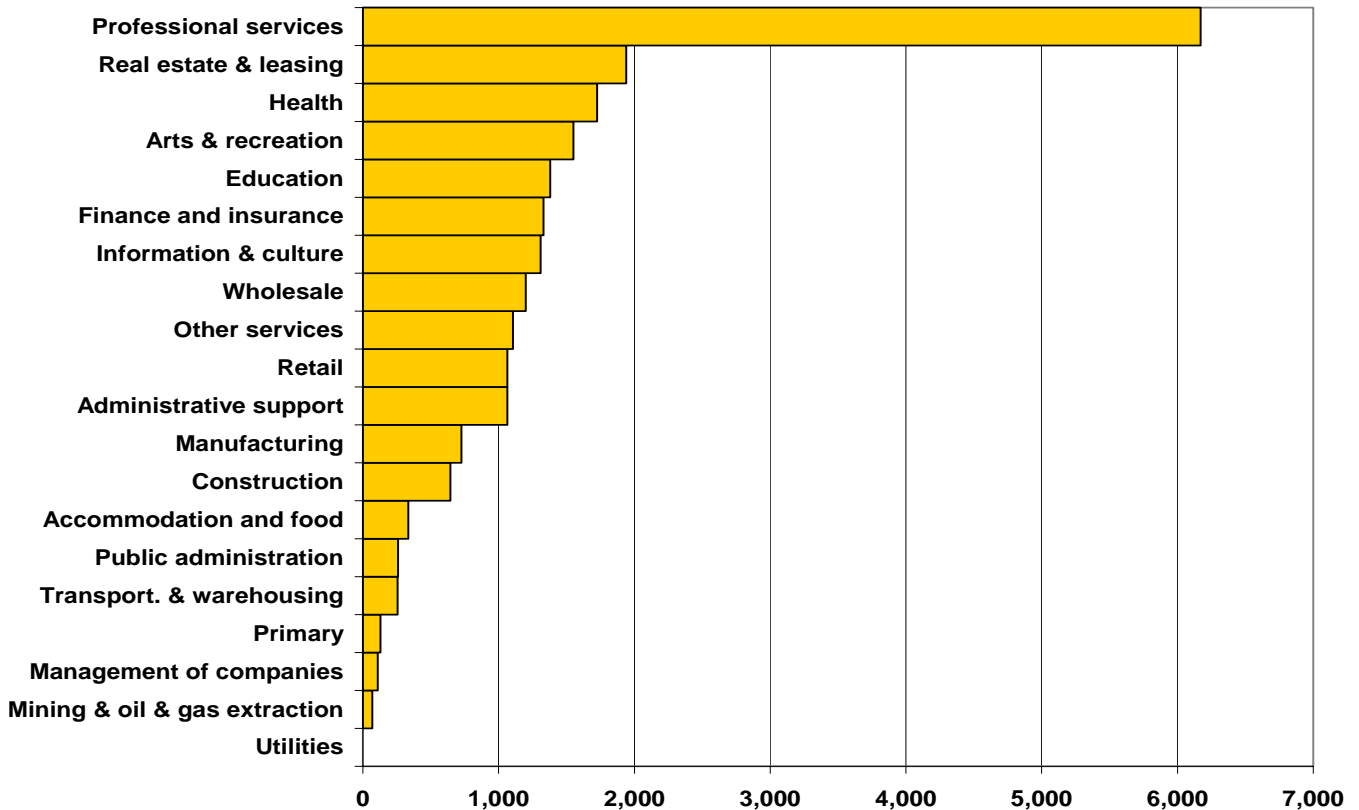


Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS (2 digit), 2001.xls. Note: Figures above do not include employees with no fixed place of work. See Note 1 and Table A-2.

B) Distribution of total home-based jobs

Of the total home-based jobs, the number coming from each economic sector depends upon 2 factors: (1) the propensity (likelihood) for home-based work in the sector and; (2) the total number of jobs in the sector. Of all economic sectors, the professional services sector has the largest number of total jobs in the City Vancouver. Since 15% of jobs in this sector are based out of the home, the sector also accounts for the most home-based jobs in the city. Other sectors with a large number of home-based jobs include: real estate; health; and arts (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Home-based jobs in the City of Vancouver



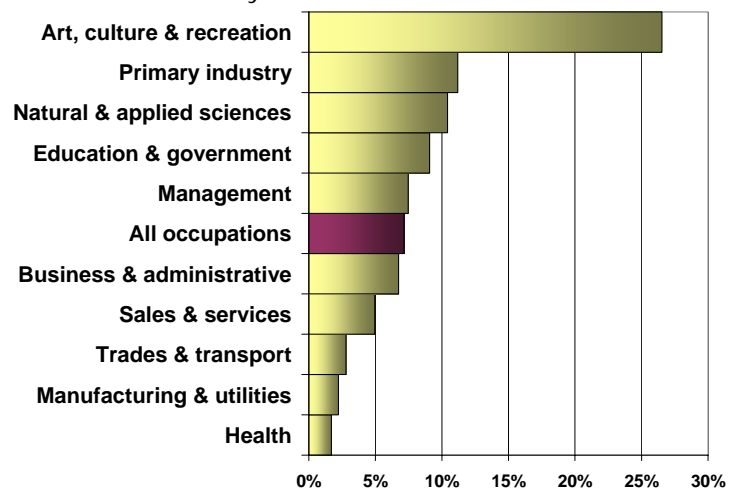
Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS (2 digit), 2001.xls. Note: Figures above do not include employees with no fixed place of work. See Note 1 and Table A-2.

HOW DOES WORK FROM HOME VARY BY OCCUPATION?

Occupations are not the same as economic sectors. Some occupations, such as management and administration, are found in multiple sectors.

There is a large variation in the rate of home-based work across occupations. In the city of Vancouver, the most prevalent home-based occupations are in art, culture and recreation. This is indicative of the large number of artists working from home in the city. Not surprising, the least common home-based occupations are in health and manufacturing (Figure 4 and Table A-3 in appendix).

Figure 4: Home-based jobs by occupation in the City of Vancouver



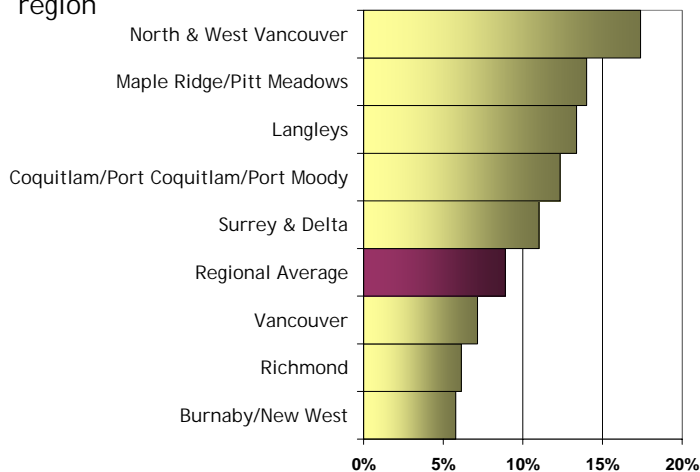
Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS by Occupation, 2001.xls. See Table A-3.

HOW DOES WORK FROM HOME VARY BY GENDER AND PART TIME WORK STATUS?
 Men are slightly more likely to report a home-based place of work. Of those Vancouverites with a home-based place of work in 2001, 52% were men, compared to all jobs where men represent 49%.

A significant number of home-based jobs are part-time. Of those Vancouverites with a home-based place of work in 2001, 37% worked part-time, compared to 18% overall.

HOW DOES WORK FROM HOME VARY BY LOCATION OF HOME IN THE REGION?
 Census data does not show a clear relationship between home-based work and location in the region. The rate of home-based work in Burnaby and Richmond is lower than in more distant suburbs such as Langley and Maple Ridge. However, the rate of home-based work on the North Shore is the highest in the GVRD (Figure 5 and Table A-4 in appendix).

Figure 5: Home-based jobs by location in the region



Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Jobs by NAICS, Usual & Home, CSDs, CMAs, BC, Canada 2001.xls. See Table A-4.

Occasional Work at Home
 In this Info Sheet, home-based work data are from Census data on the number of workers whose "usual place of work" is at home. The Census does not track the extent to which employees who work outside the home may also work at home, on a more occasional basis. Highlights from a literature review on this subject are presented below. This occasional work at home appears to be more extensive than full time work at home.

EKOS Research Associates

- Over 40% of Canadians work from home at least part of the time (includes telework, overtime, time on own business).
- 34% of Canadians who work at home do so under 5 hours per week, while 31% do so over 20 hours per week.
- 52% of professionals and 56% of managers work from home occasionally.

EKOS Research Associates. 2001. *Canadians Working from Home*. EKOS website: http://www.ekos.ca/admin/press_releases/telework4.pdf

IPSOS-REID

- 42% of Canadians say that they could be retained at one job or lured to another if they were allowed to work from home at least one day per week.
- 81% of white collar Canadians accept business calls at home after working hours.
- 65% of white collar Canadians check their email after work.

Darrell Bricker and John Wright of IPSOS-REID. 2005. *Collective wisdom on the workplace*. *Globe and Mail*. Wednesday, April 20, 2005 Page C3.

Duxbury & Higgins

- In BC, 28% of professional and 19% of non-professionals work a compressed work week compared to 10% and 12% nationally.
- In BC, the rate of informal work from home is similar to the national average at 14% for professionals and 11% for non-professionals.
- Flex time is least common in BC where 15% of professionals and 11% of non-professionals work a flex time arrangement vs. 22% and 15% nationally.

Duxbury & Higgins. 2003. *Where To Work in Canada? An Examination of Regional Differences in Work Life Practices*. Canadian Policy Research Network website: <http://www.cprn.com/en/doc.cfm?doc=1220>

HOW DOES GREATER VANCOUVER COMPARE TO OTHER METROPOLITAN REGIONS IN CANADA?

Compared to other metropolitan regions, Greater Vancouver ranks among the top two in terms of the proportion of employed labour force working from home (Table 1).

| | 1996 | 2001 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Victoria | 8.7% | 9.2% |
| Vancouver | 7.7% | 8.1% |
| Saskatoon | 7.6% | 7.2% |
| Calgary | 6.8% | 7.1% |
| London | 7.0% | 6.8% |
| Edmonton | 6.8% | 6.4% |
| Toronto | 5.9% | 6.3% |
| British Columbia | 8.8% | 9.1% |
| Canada | 8.2% | 8.0% |

*Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Work at home Canadian CMAs.xls.
See Note 2.*

Appendix

| Table A-1: Home-based work in the Metro Core, City and Region | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Value (Jobs or Labour Force) | % Working from Home |
| METRO CORE | | |
| At Home Jobs | 6,640 | na |
| Total Jobs (usual place of work + work at home) | 199,955 | 3.3% |
| Total Jobs (usual place of work + work at home + no fixed work place) | 222,413 | 3.0% |
| Employed Labour Force | 78,355 | 8.5% |
| CITY | | |
| At Home Jobs | 22,365 | na |
| Total Jobs (usual place of work + work at home) | 312,660 | 7.2% |
| Total Jobs (usual place of work + work at home + no fixed work place) | 347,952 | 6.4% |
| Employed Labour Force | 278,845 | 8.0% |
| REGION | | |
| At Home Jobs | 80,280 | na |
| Total Jobs (usual place of work + work at home) | 901,775 | 8.9% |
| Total Jobs (usual place of work + work at home + no fixed work place) | 1,007,160 | 8.0% |
| Employed Labour Force | 995,320 | 8.1% |

Statistics Canada: Work at Home Summary sheet.xls

Table A-2: Home-based employment in the City of Vancouver

| Sector | Total Jobs | Home-based jobs | Sector share of total home-based jobs in the City | Percent of sector jobs based out of the home |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| Professional services | 41,365 | 6,170 | 28% | 15% |
| Real estate & leasing | 9,135 | 1,940 | 9% | 21% |
| Health | 36,865 | 1,725 | 8% | 5% |
| Arts, entertainment & recreation | 7,280 | 1,550 | 7% | 21% |
| Education | 16,805 | 1,380 | 6% | 8% |
| Finance and insurance | 25,350 | 1,330 | 6% | 5% |
| Information & cultural industries | 14,355 | 1,310 | 6% | 9% |
| Wholesale trade | 12,020 | 1,200 | 5% | 10% |
| Other services | 16,175 | 1,105 | 5% | 7% |
| Administrative support & waste management | 12,795 | 1,065 | 5% | 8% |
| Retail | 31,150 | 1,065 | 5% | 3% |
| Manufacturing | 20,350 | 725 | 3% | 4% |
| Construction | 5,465 | 645 | 3% | 12% |
| Accommodation and food | 30,280 | 335 | 1% | 1% |
| Public administration | 17,585 | 260 | 1% | 1% |
| Transportation and warehousing | 11,610 | 255 | 1% | 2% |
| Primary Industries | 910 | 130 | 1% | 14% |
| Management of companies | 425 | 110 | 0% | 26% |
| Mining & oil & gas extraction | 1,260 | 70 | 0% | 6% |
| Utilities | 1,475 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Total jobs | 312,660 | 22,365 | 100% | 7% |

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

| Occupational category | Total jobs | # of people working from home | % of Total |
|---|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Art, culture, recreation and sport | 15,455 | 4,100 | 27% |
| Primary industry | 1,340 | 150 | 11% |
| Natural and applied sciences | 22,980 | 2,395 | 10% |
| Social science, education, and government service | 27,750 | 2,520 | 9% |
| Management | 42,235 | 3,155 | 7% |
| All occupations | 312,660 | 22,365 | 7% |
| Business, finance and administrative | 75,970 | 5,125 | 7% |
| Sales and services | 77,000 | 3,815 | 5% |
| Trades, transport and equipment operators | 18,570 | 520 | 3% |
| Manufacturing and utilities | 10,095 | 225 | 2% |
| Health | 21,265 | 360 | 2% |

Statistics Canada: Jobs by NAICS by Occupation, 2001.xls. Note: Figures above do not include employees with no fixed place of work.

| | Total jobs | Home-based jobs | % of total |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Burnaby/New West | 133,960 | 7,760 | 6% |
| Richmond | 104,525 | 6,425 | 6% |
| Vancouver | 312,660 | 22,370 | 7% |
| Regional Average | 901,775 | 80,280 | 9% |
| Surrey & Delta | 149,730 | 16,490 | 11% |
| Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody | 54,835 | 6,765 | 12% |
| Langley | 46,815 | 6,260 | 13% |
| Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows | 20,555 | 2,880 | 14% |
| North & West Vancouver | 60,995 | 10,610 | 17% |

Jobs by NAICS, Usual & Home, CSDs, CMAs, BC, Canada 2001.xls. Note: Figures above do not include employees with no fixed place of work.

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

Note 1: North American Industrial Classification System. 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. The Sector Information Sheets created for this study are available at: www.vancouver.ca/commsvcs/planning/corejobs/research.htm

Note 2: Employed labour force data used in Table 1. Table 1 is created using data that reflect the total number of employed residents in various Metropolitan regions across Canada - the "employed labour force" of these areas. Due to data limitations, employed labour force data was used in Table 1 instead of the total jobs data used elsewhere in this info sheet. The various ways of calculating home-based work are explained at the beginning of the info sheet.

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