



# POPULATION, JOBS, & TRAVEL TO WORK

## Transportation – Travel Patterns

Step 1: Understanding Yesterday and Today

### Metropolitan Core Jobs & Economy Land Use Plan

#### Highlights

- The city has more jobs than employed residents (346,500 vs 278,000). 69% of residents stay in Vancouver to work.
- Except for Richmond, Vancouver is a net importer of workers.
- Between 1981 and 2001: the number of employed city residents grew faster than the number of jobs in the city -- and jobs outside the city grew faster than in the city -- leading to growth in both residents staying in the city to work and in residents leaving the city to work -- with a shift toward the latter and, thus, an increase in the "reverse commute."
- The in-commute remains much higher than the reverse commute.



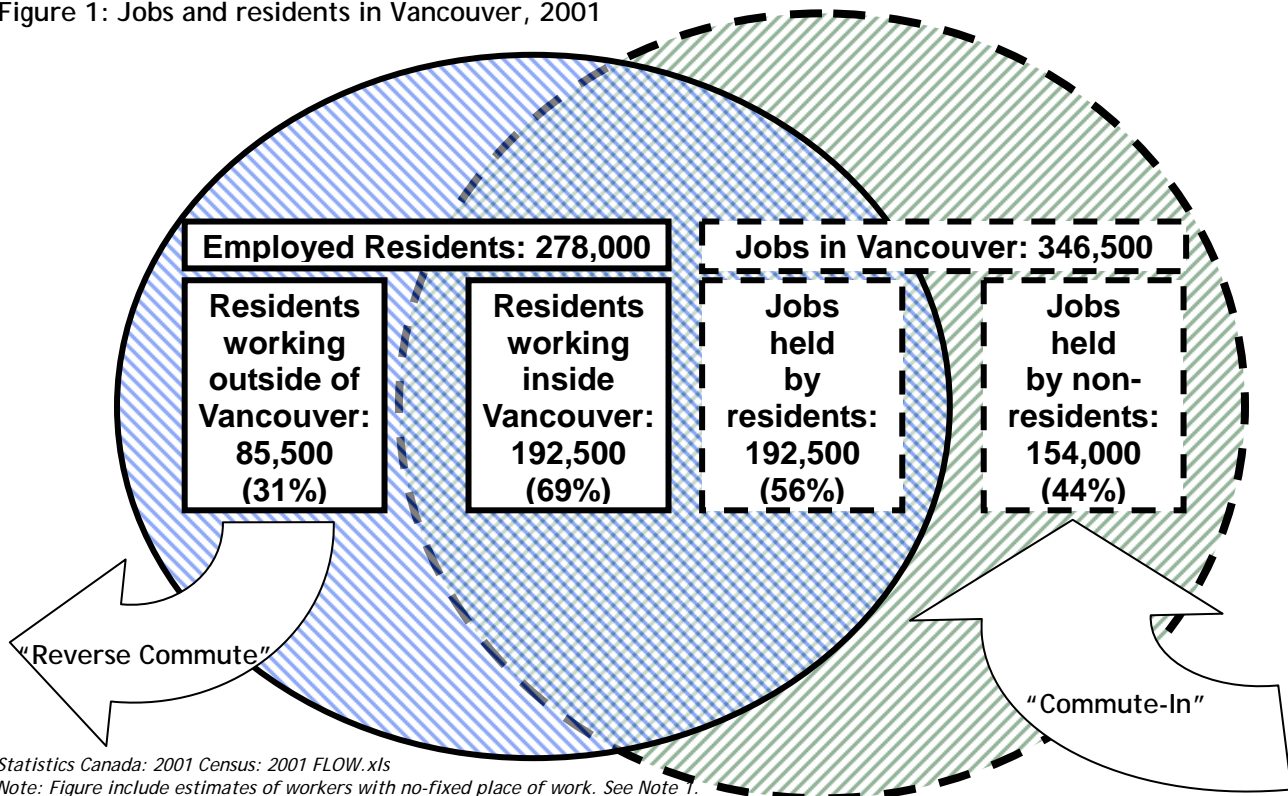
#### HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AND WORK IN VANCOUVER?

There are more jobs in the city than employed residents who live in the city (346,500 vs. 278,000). Of the 278,000 employed residents, 69% (192,500) stay in the city to work, and the other 31% commute out of the city to work.

The 192,500 employed residents who stay in the city to work hold 56% of the city's jobs (192,500 out of 346,500). The other 44% of the city's jobs (154,000 jobs) are filled by people who commute into the city to work (Figure 1).

Overall, the in-coming commute is far greater than the "reverse-commute" (154,000 vs. 85,500).

Figure 1: Jobs and residents in Vancouver, 2001



Statistics Canada: 2001 Census: 2001 FLOW.xls  
Note: Figure include estimates of workers with no-fixed place of work. See Note 1.

## HOW HAS THE CITY PATTERN CHANGED OVER TIME?

Between 1981 and 2001, there continued to be more jobs in the city than employed residents, but employed residents grew faster than city jobs. At the same time, jobs outside the city grew faster than jobs in the city. These two factors led to the following:

- With a faster increase in city residents relative to city jobs, and a faster growth of jobs outside the city, there was growth in both residents staying in the city to work and those leaving the city to work - with a shift toward the latter. (Residents staying in city to work decreased from 75% of residents to 69%, and residents leaving the city to work increased from 25% to 31%). This increased the “reverse commute.”
- The continued, although smaller, increase in city jobs also led to an increase in the in-coming commute. Although the in-coming commute did not grow as fast as the reverse commute, the in-coming commute remained much higher. (Jobs held by residents and by non-residents both increased in absolute numbers, but did not change much as a percent of total jobs - staying around 55% and 45%.)

The pattern within the city is shown in Figures 3, 4 & 5. The change in the regional job context is shown in Table 1.

Figure 3: Jobs and residents in Vancouver, 1981

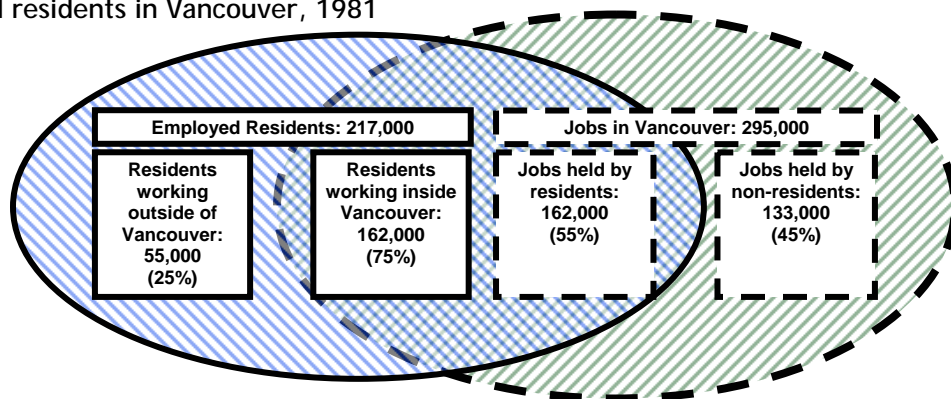


Figure 4: Jobs and residents in Vancouver, 1991

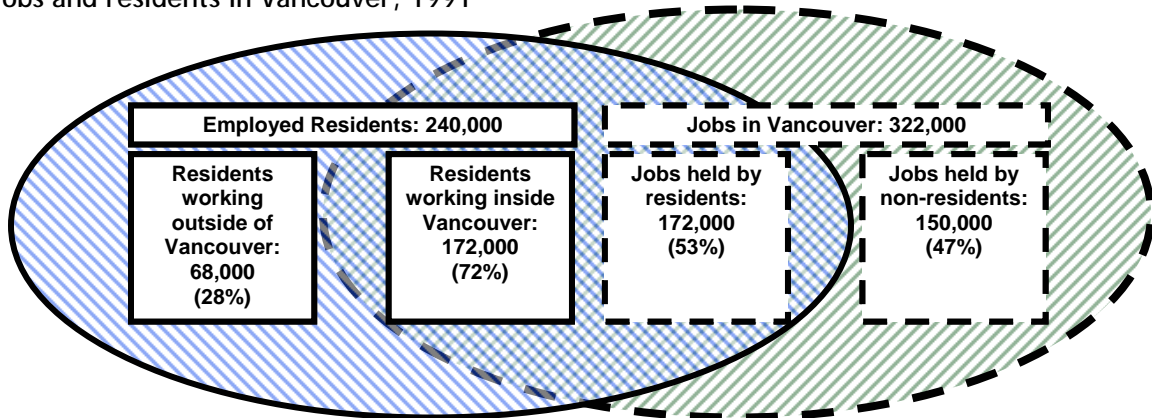
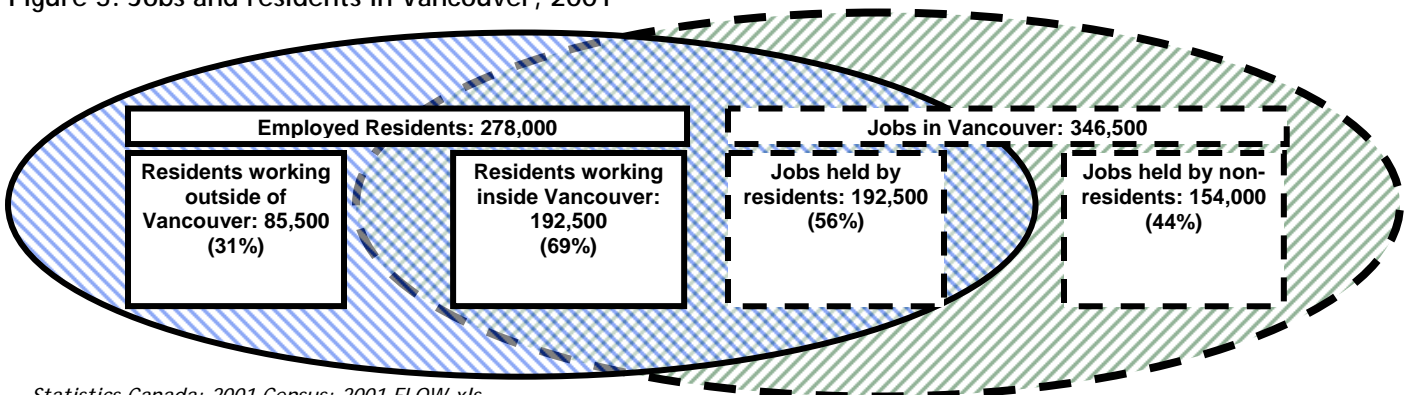


Figure 5: Jobs and residents in Vancouver, 2001



Statistics Canada: 2001 Census: 2001 FLOW.xls

## HOW HAVE THE REGIONAL PATTERNS CHANGED OVER TIME?

Changes in the percentage of residents working outside of Vancouver can be explained, in part, by rapid employment growth in suburban municipalities. While Vancouver gained about 51,800 jobs between 1981 and 2001, the rest of the region gained 315,500 jobs. Richmond and Surrey/White Rock lead the way with nearly 60,000 and 70,000 more jobs respectively. These growth patterns forced the Vancouver share of regional jobs to fall from 46% to 34% (Table 1).

**Table 1: Job Growth within the GVRD sub-areas, 1981 - 2001**

	Total Jobs 1981	Total Jobs 2001	Growth	% Growth	Share of GVRD jobs (81 and 01)	
Vancouver	294,710	346,458	51,748	18%	46%	34%
Surrey & White Rock	53,342	122,024	68,681	129%	8%	12%
Richmond	57,081	115,402	58,321	102%	9%	11%
Burnaby	70,878	120,306	49,429	70%	11%	12%
All other areas within the GVRD*	161,680	300,706	139,026	86%	25%	30%
<b>GVRD</b>	<b>637,692</b>	<b>1,004,897</b>	<b>367,205</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Statistics Canada 2001 Census: 2001 FLOW.xls & 1981 FLOW.xls*

\* Note: no other single municipality in the GVRD grew by more than 32,000 jobs.

## WHAT ARE THE OVERALL REGIONAL PATTERNS TODAY?

Vancouver has the most jobs (Table 1) and has the highest percent of its own residents living and working in the same municipality (69% - Table 2).

With the exception of Richmond, Vancouver is a net importer of workers from other municipalities. E.g., just over 31,000 people from Burnaby travel to Vancouver to work vs. the 23,900 Vancouverites who travel to Burnaby to work (Table 2.)

**Table 2: Commuting Patterns in GVRD cities, 2001**

HOME	WORK				
	Vancouver	Surrey & White Rock	Richmond	Burnaby	Rest of Region
Vancouver	192,569 69%	4,724 2%	23,765 9%	23,914 9%	28,065 10%
Surrey/White Rock	23,891 14%	81,116 46%	15,194 9%	13,859 8%	38,232 22%
Richmond	18,876 24%	1,729 2%	46,904 59%	4,326 5%	5,725 7%
Burnaby	31,091 34%	2,856 3%	6,393 7%	35,779 39%	14,175 15%
Rest of Region	73,115 20%	26,053 7%	20,671 6%	39,448 11%	197,819 54%

*Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Commute stats 1971 to 2001 (ac).xls. Note: Figures include estimates of workers with no-fixed place of work. Figures do not include jobs and residents outside of the GVRD. In addition to Richmond, Vancouver is also a net exporter of workers to the University of British Columbia Endowment Lands (8,347 commuting out vs. 1,161 commuting in).*

For related information, see the following Information Sheets created for this study:

- Population and Job Growth in the Metro Core, City and Region
- Jobs to Labour Force Balance
- Core Employees and Where They Live
- Core Residents and Where They Work

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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) Re: inclusion of workers with no fixed place of work. To make comparisons over time, these workers must be included because they were not separated out in past data. The 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. The GVRD makes these estimates for each municipality. (In other Information Sheets, workers with no fixed place of work are not included because they are not as relevant to identifying job locations needs in the Metro Core, which is the purpose of this study and because on a sector-by-sector basis in small geographic areas the data is more accurate without this estimate.)

Terminology: Figures show “employed residents.” This means the same as the more technical term, “employed labour force.” It is people who live in the city who have jobs, whether they are jobs in the city or elsewhere. It does not include residents who do not work, such as children, retired people, or unemployed people.

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)