

Economic Structure of Vancouver: Employment Characteristics of Vancouver

Largest Employment Sectors in the City of Vancouver

The largest sectors in the city of Vancouver are: professional, scientific and technical services; health care and social assistance; accommodation and food services; and retail. Together, these four sectors account for 185,710 jobs or 49% of all jobs in the city.

Vancouver's smallest employment sectors are: utilities; management of companies and enterprises; and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. These sectors have less than 2,000 jobs each and together account for only 1.1% of all the jobs in the city.

HIGHLIGHTS

- There are about 377,000 jobs in the city of Vancouver across 20 sectors.
- The largest employment sectors are professional, scientific and technical services; health care and social assistance; accommodation and food services; and retail trade, which together account for 49% of all jobs in the city.
- Professional and commercial services now make up a larger share of jobs in the city while jobs in manufacturing, transportation, warehousing, and primary resource industries are declining.
- Jobs in the information and cultural industries, which include film production and video game publishing, have increased by 39% since 2006.

TABLE 1. TOTAL JOBS IN VANCOUVER BY EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

EMPLOYMENT SECTOR	NUMBER OF JOBS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL JOBS
Professional, scientific and technical services	58,740	15.6%
Health care and social assistance	47,085	12.5%
Accommodation and food services	40,360	10.7%
Retail trade	39,525	10.5%
Finance and insurance	27,660	7.3%
Educational services	22,530	6.0%
Information and cultural industries	20,640	5.5%
Other services (except public administration)	18,405	4.9%
Public administration	18,395	4.9%
Administrative support and waste management	13,295	3.5%
Real estate and rental and leasing	12,980	3.4%
Manufacturing	12,460	3.3%
Wholesale trade	10,220	2.7%
Construction	9,870	2.6%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	9,680	2.6%
Transportation and warehousing	9,105	2.4%
Mining and oil and gas extraction	2,005	0.5%
Utilities	1,545	0.4%
Management of companies and enterprises	1,520	0.4%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1,010	0.3%
Total Jobs	377,015	100%

Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census: Jobs by NAICS (2 digit). Note that this data does not include jobs "with no fixed workplace address" (See Note 1 in the [Appendix](#)).

Historical Trends: Changes to Vancouver's Employment Sectors

Vancouver's 20 employment sectors can be broken down into a range of sub-sectors.

The professional, scientific and technical services sector is Vancouver's largest sector and represents 16% of all jobs. This sector contains a wide range of sub-sectors including computer systems design, legal services and architecture/engineering.

The largest sub-sector in Vancouver is full-service restaurants and limited service eating places, which represents 8% of all jobs (See Table 2).

TABLE 2. LARGEST SUB-SECTORS IN THE CITY OF VANCOUVER

SECTOR / SUB-SECTOR	# OF JOBS	% OF JOBS
Professional, scientific and technical services	58,740	16%
Computer systems design and related	14,190	4%
Legal services	10,755	3%
Architectural, engineering and related	10,085	3%
All other sub-sectors	23,710	6%
Health care and social assistance	47,080	12%
Hospitals	16,070	4%
Offices of physicians	6,920	2%
Nursing and residential care facilities	4,665	1%
All other sub-sectors	19,425	5%
Accommodation and food services	40,355	11%
Full-service restaurants/limited service eating places	29,890	8%
Traveller accommodation	7,375	2%
Special food services	1,965	1%
All other sub-sectors	1,125	0%
Retail trade	39,525	10%
Grocery stores	7,360	2%
Clothing stores	7,145	2%
Health and personal care stores	4,635	1%
All other sub-sectors	20,385	5%
All other sectors	191,305	51%
Total city employment	377,005	100%

Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census: Jobs by NAICS (4 digit). Does not include jobs "with no fixed workplace address".

Sectors in Brief

Sectors are defined by Statistics Canada using the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

- **Accommodation and food:** e.g. restaurants, hotels
- **Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services:** e.g. janitorial and security services, record keeping, travel agents
- **Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting:** e.g. offices of forestry companies
- **Arts, entertainment and recreation:** e.g. artists, performing arts companies
- **Construction:** e.g. buildings, development
- **Educational services:** e.g. universities, ESL schools
- **Finance and insurance:** e.g. banks, insurance brokers, stock brokers
- **Health care and social assistance:** e.g. hospitals, medical offices
- **Information and cultural industries:** e.g. telecommunications, wireless, film industry
- **Management of companies and enterprises:** e.g. corporate headquarters, holding companies
- **Manufacturing:** e.g. food and clothing manufacturing
- **Mining and oil and gas extraction:** e.g. offices of mining companies
- **Other services:** e.g. professional organizations, hair care, photofinishing, car repair
- **Professional, scientific and technical:** e.g. legal, computer systems design, architectural, engineering, specialized design, biotech
- **Public administration:** e.g. federal government
- **Real estate and rental and leasing:** e.g. realtors, condo & apartment management
- **Retail:** e.g. grocery stores, clothing stores
- **Transportation and warehousing:** e.g. port, postal service, transit
- **Utilities:** e.g. BC Hydro
- **Wholesale:** e.g. food wholesalers

*For more information, see the [Appendix](#).

Historical Trends: Changes to Vancouver's Employment Sectors

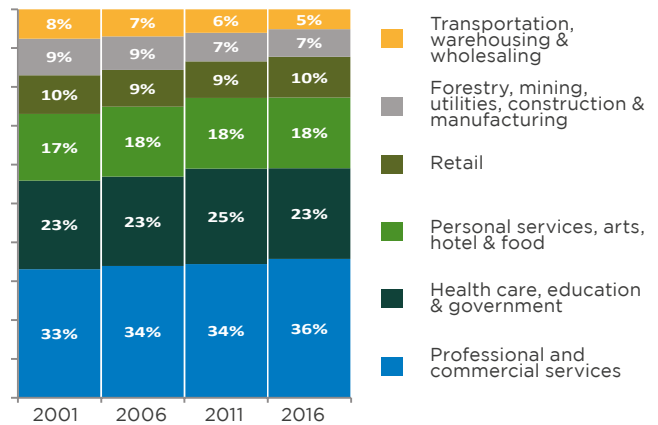
Overall, Vancouver's employment characteristics have shifted over the past 15 years.

Vancouver's 20 employment sectors can be grouped into 6 broad categories to observe broader employment trends. Since 2001, the percentage of jobs in the transportation, warehousing and wholesale category and the forestry, mining, utilities, construction and manufacturing category have declined as a share of all jobs in the city (See Figure 1). In contrast, the percentage of jobs in the professional and commercial services category has increased as a share of all jobs in the city.

One of the largest percentage increases since 2006 was in the information and cultural industries sector. This sector increased by 5,830 jobs or 39% since 2006 (See Table 3). Jobs in this sector include film production, video game publishing, broadcasting, telecommunications, and data processing.

The manufacturing sector has seen the largest job decrease, with a loss of 4,310 jobs or -26% between 2006 and 2016. Other sectors that have lost jobs include: wholesale trade; transportation and warehousing; mining and oil and gas extraction; and administrative support and waste management.

FIGURE 1. HISTORICAL TRENDS IN EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS IN VANCOUVER, 2001 - 2016



Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001 - 2016: Jobs by NAICS. Sector groups defined by City staff as outlined in Note 4 in the [Appendix](#).

TABLE 3. JOB INCREASES AND LOSSES IN VANCOUVER BY SECTOR, 2006 - 2016

EMPLOYMENT SECTOR	JOB # INCREASE/ DECREASE	% INCREASE/ DECREASE
Professional, scientific and technical services	11,005	23%
Retail trade	8,290	27%
Health care and social assistance	7,775	20%
Accommodation and food services	7,425	23%
Information and cultural industries	5,830	39%
Educational services	3,445	18%
Finance and insurance	3,020	12%
Real estate and rental and leasing	2,575	25%
Construction	2,195	29%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,210	14%
Management of companies and enterprises	760	100%
Public administration	610	3%
Utilities	370	31%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	205	25%
Other services (except public administration)	80	0%
Mining and oil and gas extraction	-295	-13%
Administrative support and waste management	-690	-5%
Transportation and warehousing	-1,705	-16%
Wholesale trade	-2,045	-17%
Manufacturing	-4,310	-26%
Total - All Industry	45,735	14%

Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001 - 2016: Jobs by NAIC (2 digit). Does not include jobs with "no fixed workplace address"

Vancouver's High Tech Sector

A recognized limitation of the data used in this fact sheet is that it is categorized using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The NAICS does not effectively capture the full range of high technology or knowledge-intensive activities in the economy. High technology jobs can be found in a range of sectors including information and cultural industries; professional, scientific and technical services; and manufacturing, amongst others.

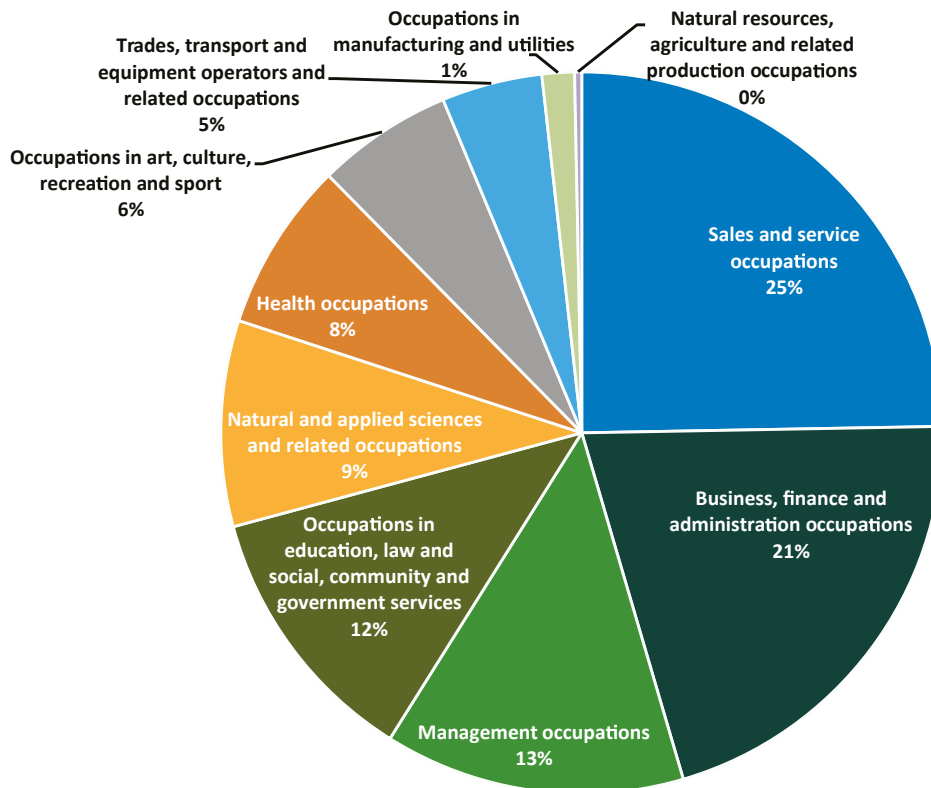
According to the Vancouver Economic Commission, there are nearly 101,000 tech professionals across the province, with about 75,000 working in Vancouver. Some businesses involved in Vancouver's tech sector include Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Cisco Systems, and Hootsuite, amongst others.

Occupations in Vancouver

Occupations are not the same as economic sectors. Occupations are identified and grouped primarily in terms of the duties, tasks and responsibilities of the occupation. Some occupations, such as management and administration, are found in multiple sectors.

In Vancouver, one quarter of all jobs are in sales and services while one in five workers are employed in business, finance and administration (See Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. OCCUPATIONS IN THE CITY OF VANCOUVER



Source: Statistics Canada Census 2016: Jobs by National Occupational Classification (NOC). Does not include jobs with "no fixed workplace address".