

# Economic Structure of Vancouver: Business Size

## Business Size in Vancouver

There are approximately 79,989 businesses in Vancouver (See Table 1). While most businesses employ less than 20 employees, a majority of employees work in larger businesses (See Figure 1).

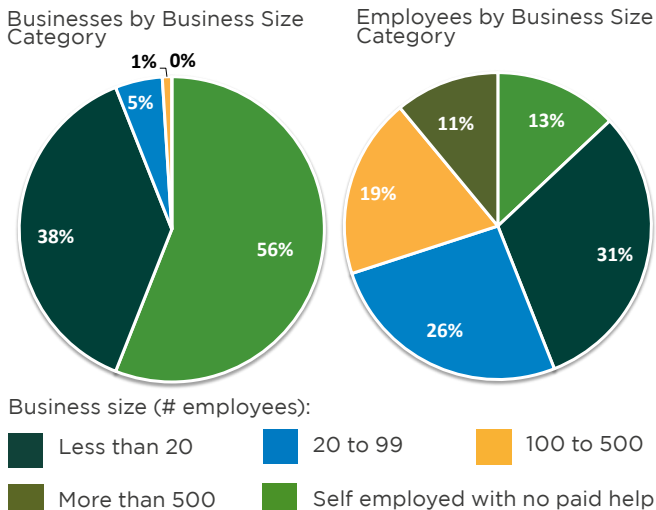
TABLE 1. NUMBER OF BUSINESSES BY EMPLOYEES SIZE IN VANCOUVER

BUSINESS SIZE (# OF EMPLOYEES)	# OF BUSINESSES	% OF BUSINESSES
<b>Self-employed with no paid help</b>	<b>44,600</b>	<b>53.8%</b>
<b>Businesses with 1 employee or more</b>	<b>35,389</b>	<b>46.2%</b>
1 to 4	20,652	24.9%
5 to 9	5,925	7.1%
10 to 19	4,164	5.0%
20 to 49	2,812	3.4%
50 to 99	997	1.2%
100 to 199	503	0.6%
200 to 499	238	0.3%
500 to 999	53	0.1%
1,000 an over	45	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,989</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### HIGHLIGHTS

- There are approximately 79,989 businesses in the city of Vancouver. 54% are self-employed individuals and 46% are businesses with 1 or more employees.
- A majority of employees in Vancouver work in larger businesses.
- 98% of all businesses in Vancouver are small businesses (less than 50 employees).
- Large businesses are more concentrated in the public administration; utilities; and educational services sectors. Small businesses are more concentrated in the professional, scientific and technical; real estate, rental and leasing; and transportation and warehousing sectors.
- Small business growth in the region has been fastest in construction; information, culture and recreation; health and education; and finance, insurance and real estate sectors.

FIGURE 1. BUSINESSES VS. EMPLOYEES BY BUSINESS SIZE CATEGORY IN VANCOUVER

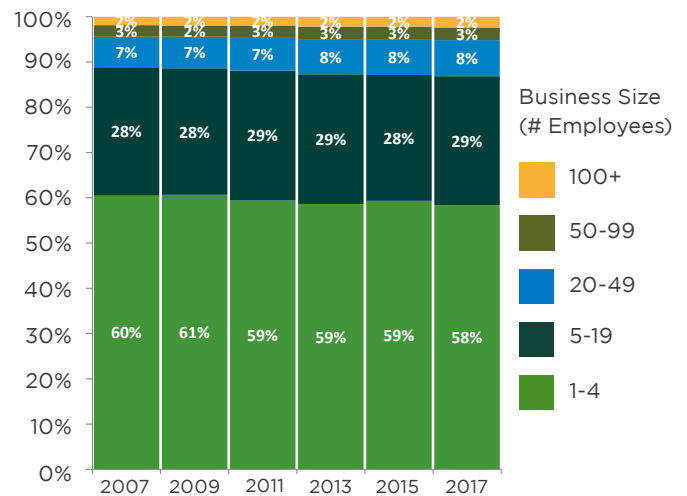


Source for Table 1 and Figure 1: Statistics Canada Business Registry, 2017. Published by BC Stats, 2017. Business Locations by Employee Size; Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2017. Employment by class of worker, annual.

## Historical Trends in Business Size in Vancouver

Between 2007 and 2017, the number of businesses in Vancouver increased by 17%. Excluding self-employment, the percentage of total businesses in each business size category with 1 employee or more has not changed significantly since 2007 (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. BUSINESS SIZES IN VANCOUVER, 2007 - 2017



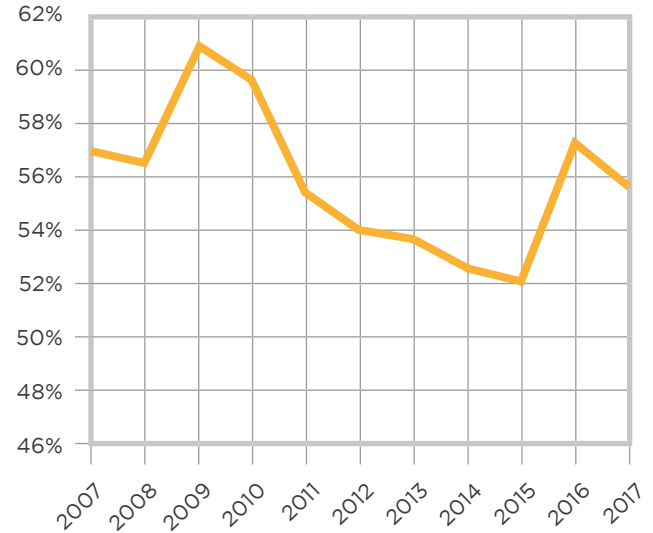
Source: Statistics Canada Business Registry, 2007 - 2017. Published by BC Stats, 2017. Business Locations by Employee Size.

The percentage of businesses classified as “self-employed with no paid help” as a percentage of all businesses has fluctuated over the past 10 years, ranging from a high of 61% in 2009 to a low of 52% in 2015 (See Table 2).

### Business Size by Sector in the Metro Vancouver Region

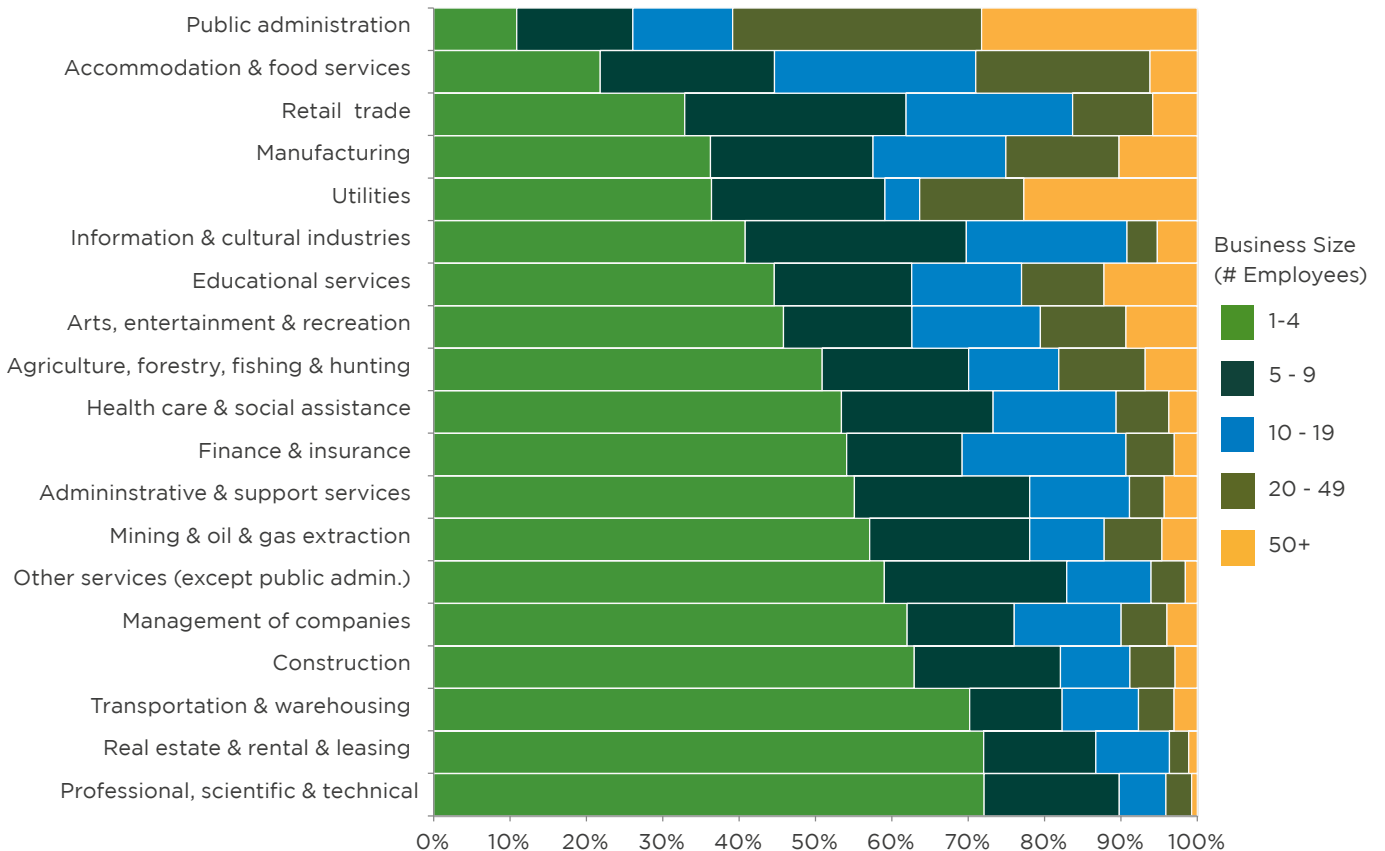
In general, businesses with 50 or more employees are more concentrated in the public administration, utilities, and educational services sectors in Metro Vancouver (See Figure 3). Businesses with 1 to 4 employees are found in higher percentages in the professional, scientific and technical; real estate, rental and leasing; and transportation and warehousing sectors.

**TABLE 2. SELF-EMPLOYED WITH NO PAID HELP AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL BUSINESSES IN VANCOUVER, 2007 - 2017**



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2007 - 2017. Employment by class of worker, annual.

**FIGURE 3. BUSINESS SIZE BY SECTOR IN METRO VANCOUVER**



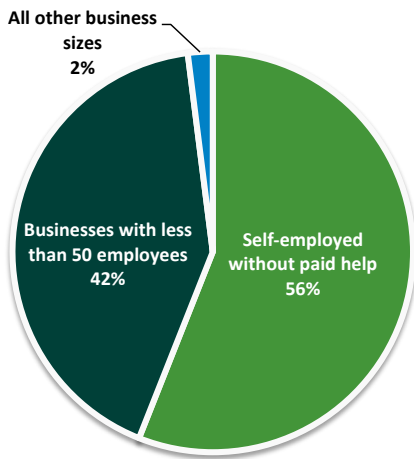
Source: Statistics Canada Business Registry, 2007 - 2017. Published by BC Stats, 2017. Business Locations by Employee Size.

### Small Businesses in Vancouver

BC Stats defines a small business as one with fewer than 50 employees, or operated by a person who is self-employed without paid help. Vancouver has approximately 78,153 small businesses, representing 98% of all businesses (See Figure 4).

The share of small businesses in the city of Vancouver is consistent with the share in Metro Vancouver and British Columbia (See Table 3).

**FIGURE 4. BREAKDOWN OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF VANCOUVER**



Source: Statistics Canada Business Registry, 2017. Published by BC Stats, 2017. Business Locations by Employee Size; Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2017. Employment by class of worker, annual.

**TABLE 3. SHARE OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN VANCOUVER, METRO VANCOUVER AND BRITISH COLUMBIA**

GEOGRAPHY	SMALL BUSINESSES		ALL OTHER BUSINESS SIZES	
	#	%	#	%
City of Vancouver	78,153	98%	1,836	2%
Metro Vancouver	270,848	98%	4,779	2%
British Columbia	493,100	98%	8,200	2%

Source: BC Stats: Small Business Profile 2018; Statistics Canada Business Registry, 2017. Published by BC Stats, 2017. Business Locations by Employee Size; Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2017. Employment by class of worker, annual.

BC Stats divides the province into separate economic development regions. The city of Vancouver is part of the Mainland/Southwest economic development region, which includes Metro Vancouver, Abbotsford-Mission, Chilliwack, Squamish, Whistler and Sechelt.

In this region, the fastest growing sectors for small business have been in construction; information, culture and recreation; health and education; and finance, insurance and real estate (See Table 4).

The province has a methodology for separating out small business in the high tech industry from all other economic sectors. According to this methodology, small businesses in the high tech sector have grown by 10.2% over the past 3 years in the region.

**TABLE 4. SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH BY SECTOR IN THE MAINLAND/SOUTHWEST REGION OF BC**

SECTOR	2014	2017	%
Construction	11,977	13,708	14.5%
Information, culture & recreation	3,173	3,631	14.4%
Health & education	11,226	12,183	8.5%
Finance, insurance & real estate	10,247	10,963	7.0%
Professional & business services	20,196	20,592	2.0%
Manufacturing	4,180	4,189	0.2%
Transportation & storage	4,427	4,436	0.2%
Other services	15,893	15,858	-0.2%
Trade	17,416	17,178	-1.4%
Forestry and logging	269	264	-1.9%
Public administration	127	121	-4.7%
Other primary	2,079	1,869	-10.1%
Mining, oil & gas	535	417	-22.1%
Utilities	62	46	-25.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,354</b>	<b>116,807</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
High tech	6,174	6,805	10.2%
Tourism	9,155	9,320	1.8%
Secondary manufacturing	3,789	3,765	-0.6%

Source: BC Stats: Small Business Profile, 2018