

Economic Structure of Vancouver: Vancouver’s Role: From Provincial to International

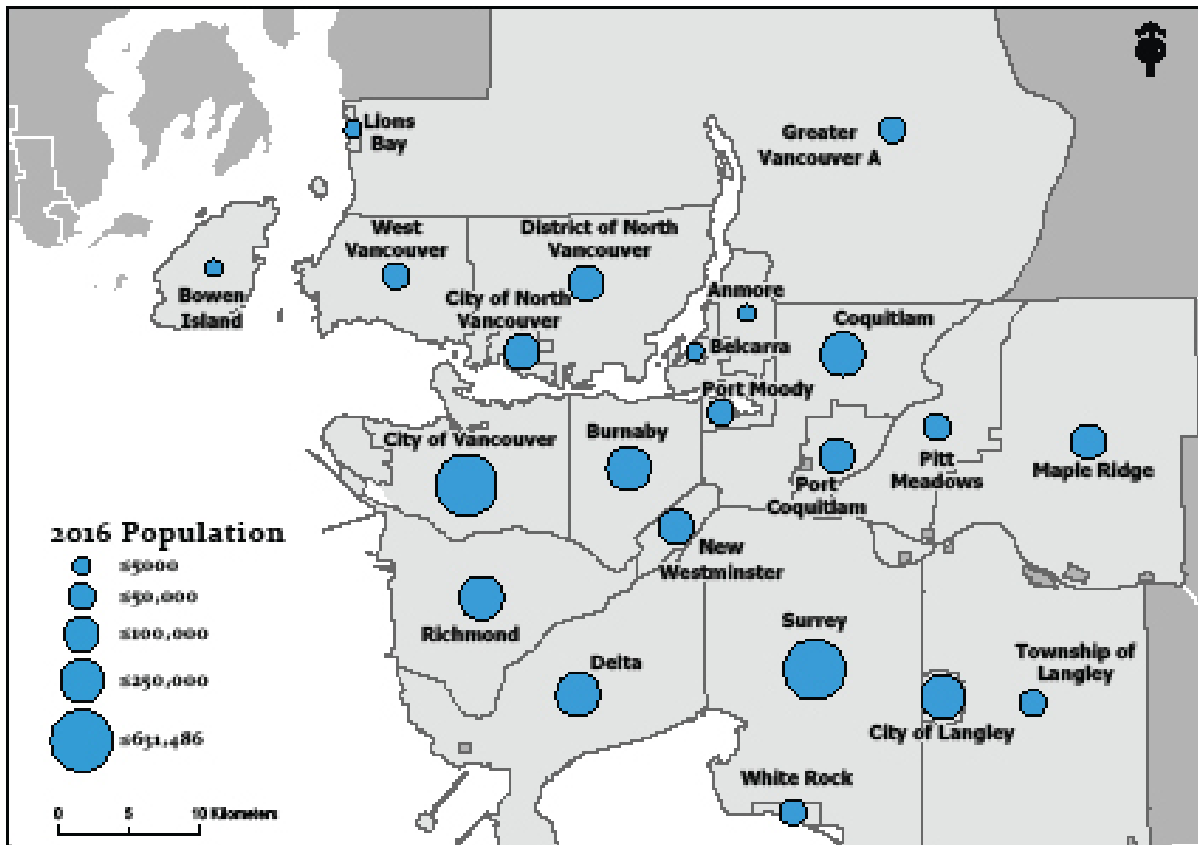
Vancouver and the Region

The city of Vancouver has a population of 631,486 making it the largest of the 22 municipalities in the Metro Vancouver region. The next largest municipalities in Metro Vancouver are Surrey (517,887), Burnaby (232,755) and Richmond (198,309). The four smallest municipalities in Metro Vancouver are Belcarra (643), Lions Bay (1,334), Anmore (2,210) and Bowen Island (3,680).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The city of Vancouver is the largest municipality in British Columbia and the 8th largest in Canada in terms of population.
- Metro Vancouver is the third largest region in the country and shares many employment characteristics with Toronto and Montreal, the two largest regions.
- The city of Vancouver has a higher percentage of professional and commercial services jobs and a lower share of primary resource, manufacturing, healthcare and government jobs than the rest of B.C.
- Vancouver’s economic characteristics are influenced by its location on the west coast of North America in the Cascadia Region (B.C., Washington and Oregon) and the Pacific Rim (countries bordering the Pacific Ocean).

FIGURE 1. POPULATION SIZE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE METRO VANCOUVER REGION



Source: Statistics Canada, Population and Dwelling Count Highlight Tables, 2016 Census

Economic Role in the Province

The city of Vancouver is the largest municipality in B.C. with a population of 631,486 people. The largest municipalities outside of the Metro Vancouver region are Kelowna (127,380), Kamloops (90,280), Nanaimo (90,504), Victoria (85,792) and Prince George (74,003).

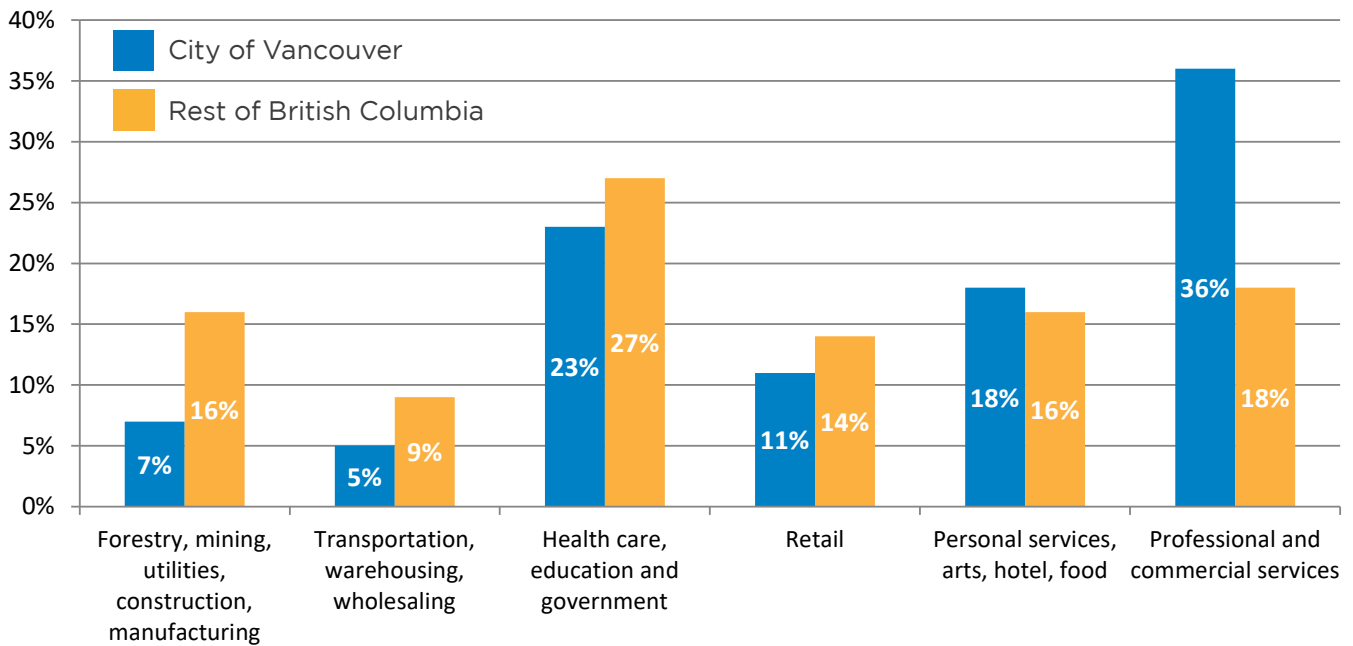
While the resource-based economy still plays a large role in other parts of B.C., the city of Vancouver’s economy has moved more toward service and technology. The city has a higher share of professional and commercial services jobs compared to the rest of B.C. and a smaller share of jobs in forestry, mining, utilities, construction and manufacturing; and health care, education and government (See Figure 3).

FIGURE 2. POPULATION SIZE OF SELECTED CITIES BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGION IN B.C.



Source: Statistics Canada Census 2016: Census Profiles, Census Subdivisions in BC.

FIGURE 3. PERCENTAGE OF JOBS BY SECTOR: VANCOUVER VS. REST OF B.C.



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

Economic Role in Canada

The city of Vancouver is the 8th largest municipality in Canada (See Table 1). The Metro Vancouver region is the third largest metropolitan region in the country with a total population of 2,463,431. This places Metro Vancouver behind the metropolitan regions of Toronto (5,928,040) and Montreal (4,098,927), and ahead of Calgary (1,392,609) - See Figure 4.

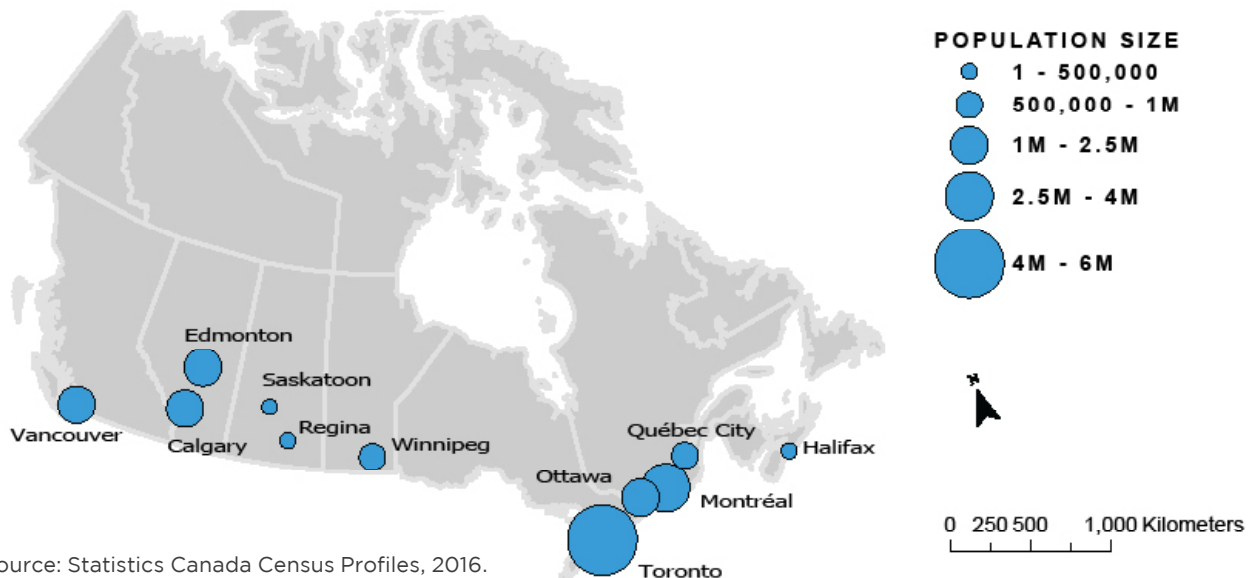
The employment characteristics of Metro Vancouver are similar to the metropolitan regions of Toronto

TABLE 1. MUNICIPALITIES IN CANADA BY POPULATION

RANK	CITY	2016 POPULATION	POPULATION INCREASE SINCE 2011 (%)
1	Toronto	2,731,571	4.5
2	Montréal	1,704,694	3.3
3	Calgary	1,239,220	13
4	Ottawa	934,243	5.8
5	Edmonton	932,546	14.8
6	Mississauga	721,599	1.1
7	Winnipeg	705,244	6.3
8	Vancouver	631,486	4.6
9	Brampton	593,638	13.3
10	Hamilton	536,917	3.3

Source: Statistics Canada Census Profiles, 2016.

FIGURE 4. POPULATION SIZE OF METROPOLITAN AREAS IN CANADA

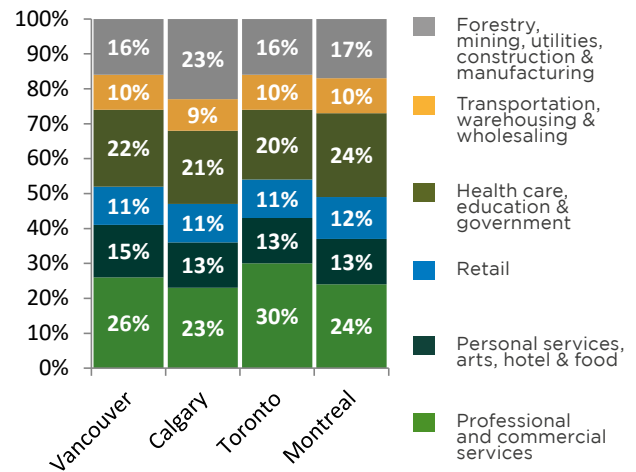


Source: Statistics Canada Census Profiles, 2016.

and Montreal. Metro Vancouver has a slightly smaller percentage of professional and commercial services (26%) than Toronto (30%).

Compared to the Calgary Metropolitan Area, Metro Vancouver has a much lower share of residents working in forestry, mining, utilities, construction and manufacturing but a slightly higher share working in professional and commercial services and personal services, arts, hotel and food (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY CATEGORY IN CANADA'S TOP 4 METROPOLITAN AREAS



Source: Statistics Canada Census Profiles, 2016: Employment by NAICS (2 digit).

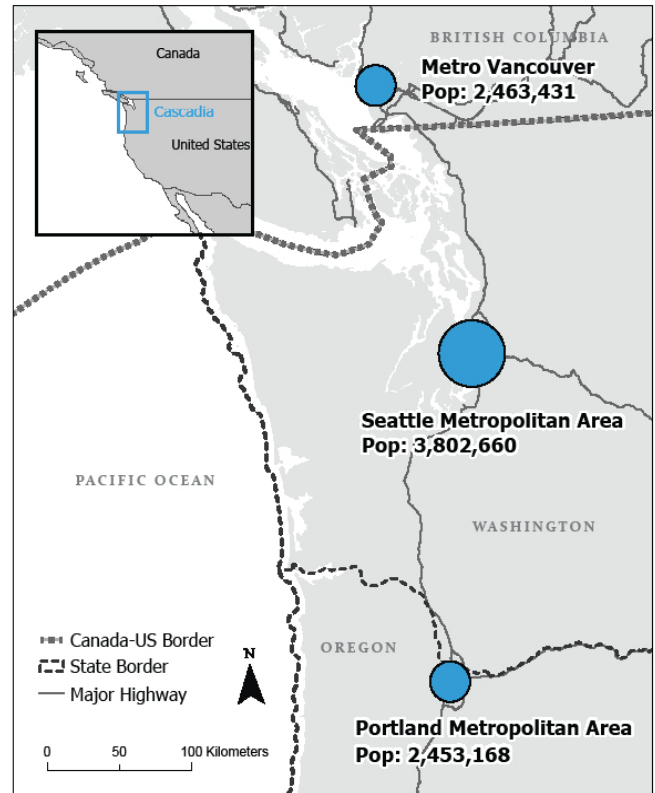
Economic Role in Cascadia

Cascadia generally refers to the region that extends from southwestern B.C. to the western coasts of Washington and Oregon in the U.S., and is roughly bounded by the Cascade Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Seattle is the largest metropolitan area in Cascadia, with 3.8 million residents. Metro Vancouver and the Portland Metropolitan Area are roughly the same size, with populations of 2.46 million and 2.45 million respectively (See Figure 6).

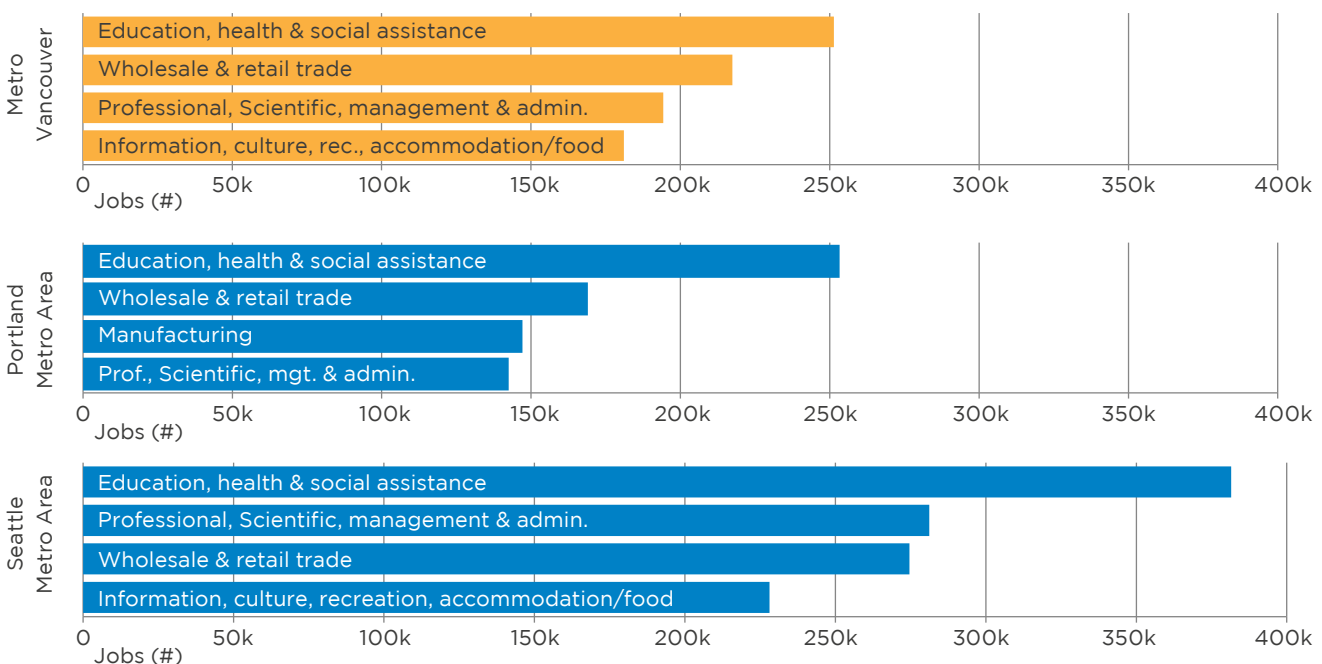
The metropolitan regions of Seattle, Vancouver and Portland share a number of common employment characteristics. Educational services, health care and social assistance is the largest industry for employment in all three cities. Employment in professional, scientific, management, and administration and wholesale and retail trade is strong in the three regions. Portland has stronger employment in the manufacturing industry than both Vancouver and Seattle. Information, culture, recreation, accommodation and food service is stronger in Vancouver and Seattle compared to Portland (See Figure 7).

FIGURE 6. METROPOLITAN REGIONS IN CASCADIA



Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census, Census Profiles; US Census Bureau, Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas Population Totals: 2016

FIGURE 7. TOP 4 EMPLOYMENT SECTORS IN METROPOLITAN REGIONS IN CASCADIA



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Characteristics by Census Metropolitan Area 2016; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey,

Economic Role Internationally

The city of Vancouver is situated within the Pacific Rim, a geographical area that borders the Pacific Ocean, including the west coasts of North and South America, the east coast of Asia, and the east coast of Oceania.

The Vancouver metropolitan region has a small population compared to other metropolitan regions within the Pacific Rim and the rest of the world (See Figure 8). With a population of 2.4 million, it is about one fifth the size of Los Angeles (12.3 million), one quarter the size of Paris (10.4 million), and about one tenth the size of Shanghai (24.4 million).

Vancouver International Airport (YVR) has flights to many destinations around the world, with a particularly high number of routes to airports along the Pacific Rim (See Figure 8).

The Metro Vancouver region plays an important role as a gateway in B.C. for trade with other countries. The U.S. is B.C.'s biggest export partner, receiving \$22.3 billion in exports in 2017 (See Table 2). The next largest countries include Mainland China (\$6.7 billion), Japan (\$4.5 billion) and South Korea (\$2.9 billion). Since 2007, export value to India and Mainland China has increased the most, up by 566% and 240% respectively between 2008 and 2017.

In terms of ship-based trade, the Port of Vancouver's biggest trade partner is China, with 33.1 million metric tonnes in 2017 (See Table 3). The next largest trading partners include Japan (15.5 million metric tonnes), South Korea (14.5 million), India (6.6 million) and the U.S. (6 million).

FIGURE 8. COMMERCIAL AIR TRAVEL BETWEEN VANCOUVER AND THE REST OF THE WORLD



Source: YVR Airport: Airlines and Destination, 2018. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2018: "The World's Cities in 2016: Data Booklet."

TABLE 2. TOP 10 DESTINATION COUNTRIES FOR B.C. EXPORTS IN TOTAL VALUE (\$000,000), 2008 - 2017

COUNTRY	2008	2017	% CHANGE
United States	17,582	22,323	27%
Mainland China	1,962	6,669	240%
Japan	5,026	4,496	-11%
Other	4,116	4,063	-1%
South Korea	1,961	2,879	47%
India	159	1,057	566%
Taiwan	598	692	16%
United Kingdom	405	412	2%
Germany	516	366	-29%
Australia	218	273	26%

Source: Province of British Columbia, Annual Trade Data, 2008 - 2017

TABLE 3. TOP 10 TRADING ECONOMIES THROUGH PORT OF VANCOUVER FOR ALL CARGO (METRIC TONNES)

COUNTRY	TOTAL TONNAGE
China	33,100,338
Japan	15,530,486
South Korea	14,457,495
India	6,610,569
United States	6,013,151
Taiwan	4,088,056
Indonesia	2,875,689
Vietnam	2,388,529
Chile	2,176,656
Mexico	1,935,458

Source: Port of Vancouver (2017), "Statistics Overview"

FIGURE 9. TOP 10 TRADING ECONOMIES FOR ALL CARGO THROUGH THE PORT OF VANCOUVER IN 2017


Source: Port of Vancouver (2017), "Statistics Overview"