

# Economic Structure of Vancouver: GDP of Metro Vancouver

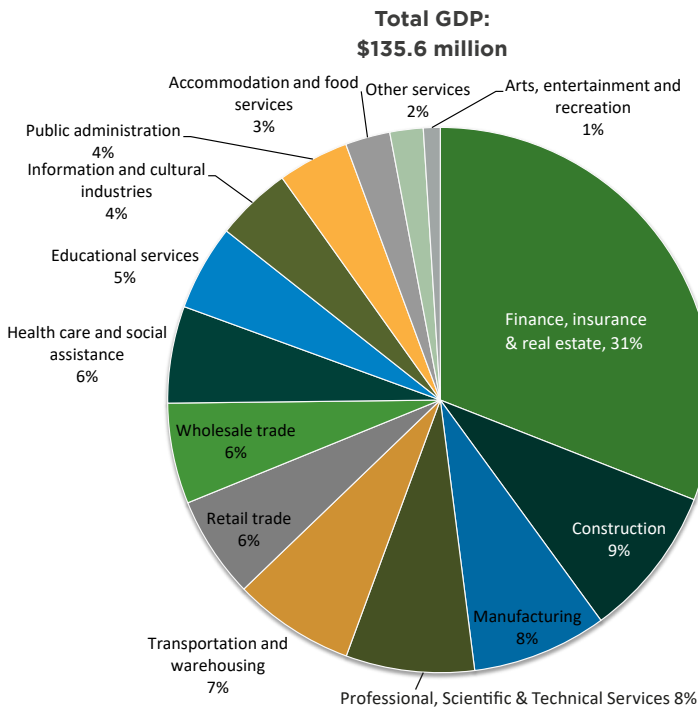
## WHAT IS GDP?

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total value of the goods and services produced in a particular economic area (i.e. a region, province, country) over time. It is one of the primary indicators used to gauge the health of a country or region's economy. It can also be used to calculate the dollar value of goods and services produced in specific industries.

## GDP of Metro Vancouver

The Metro Vancouver region had a total GDP of \$135.6 million in 2017. The largest contributor was the finance, insurance and real estate (FIRE) sector, with \$41 million in economic output or 31% of the region's GDP (See Figure 1).

FIGURE 1. METRO VANCOUVER GDP BY SECTOR, 2017



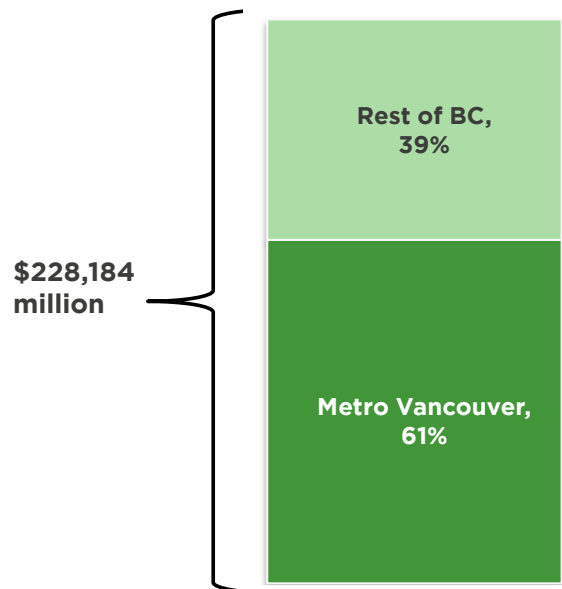
Source: Conference Board of Canada, January 2019. Gross Domestic Product by Industry in 2017, Q4 (millions of 2007 dollars).

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Metro Vancouver has the third largest GDP of metropolitan regions in Canada, with a total estimated GDP of about \$135.6 million in 2017.
- The largest contributor to the region's GDP was the finance, insurance and real estate sector. Other large contributors are construction; professional, scientific and technical services; manufacturing; and transportation and warehousing.
- Metro Vancouver experienced an average annual GDP growth rate of 3.9 % between 2013 and 2017. This is the highest of all regions in Canada over that same time period.
- Metro Vancouver has a GDP per capita of \$39,914, which is relatively low compared to other major cities in Canada and the West Coast of the US.

The GDP of Metro Vancouver represents 61% of the provincial GDP (See Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. METRO VANCOUVER'S CONTRIBUTION TO BRITISH COLUMBIA'S GDP, 2017



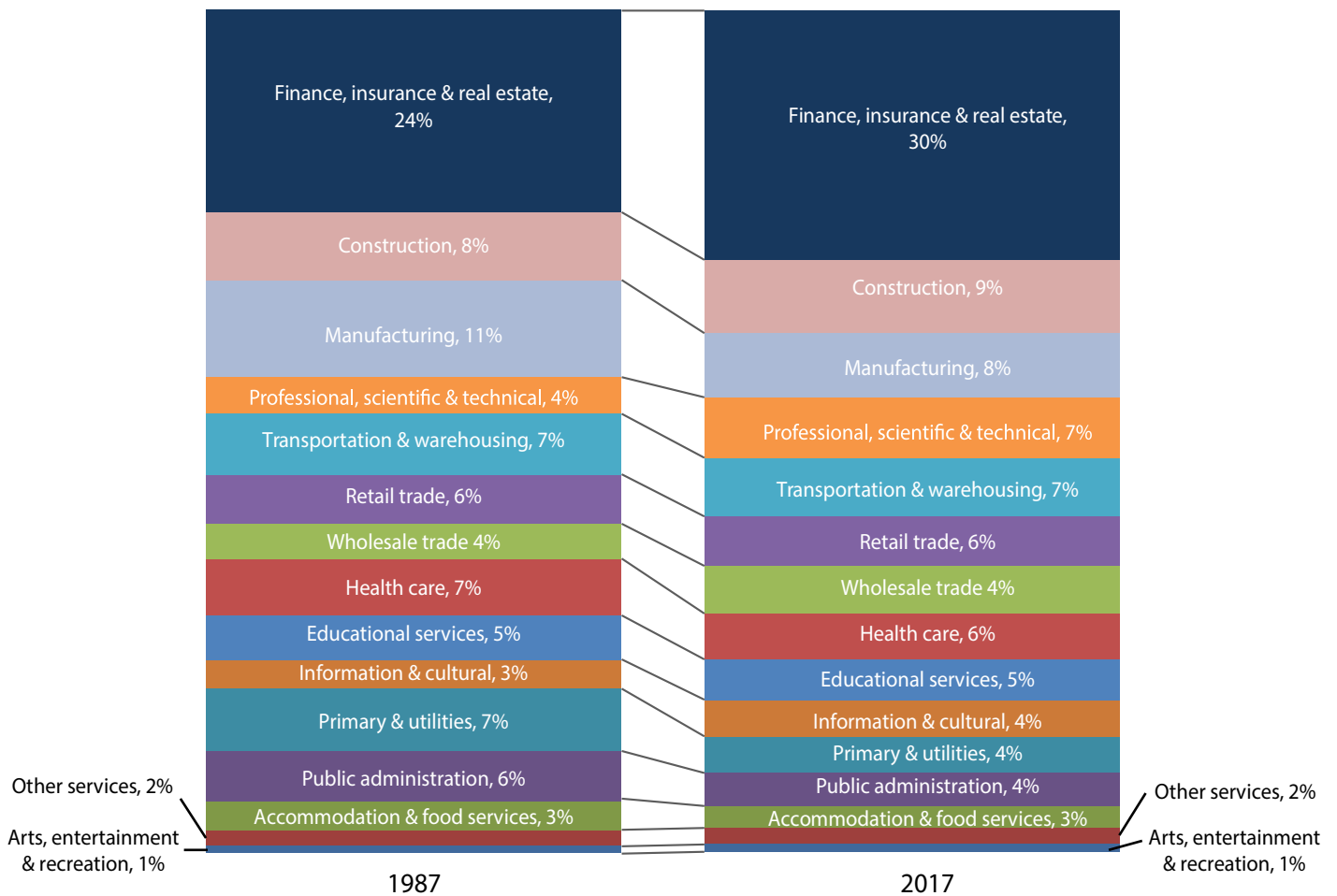
Source: Conference Board of Canada, January 2019. Gross Domestic Product by Industry in 2017, Q4 (millions of 2007 dollars). Statistics Canada Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories, 2017 (millions of 2007 dollars).

\* The City of Vancouver would like to acknowledge the support of the Vancouver Economic Commission in producing this fact sheet.

### Metro Vancouver's GDP Over Time

Metro Vancouver's GDP can be broken down into 15 economic sectors. Over the past 30 years, the relative role of these sectors in the region's economy has shifted. The finance, insurance and real estate sector went from 24% of the GDP in 1987 to 30% in 2017. Professional, scientific and technical services went from 4% to 7% of the region's GDP over that same time period. In contrast, manufacturing; primary resources and utilities; health care; and public administration have decreased as a percentage of the region's GDP over time (See Figure 3).

FIGURE 3: METRO VANCOUVER HISTORICAL GDP BY SECTOR



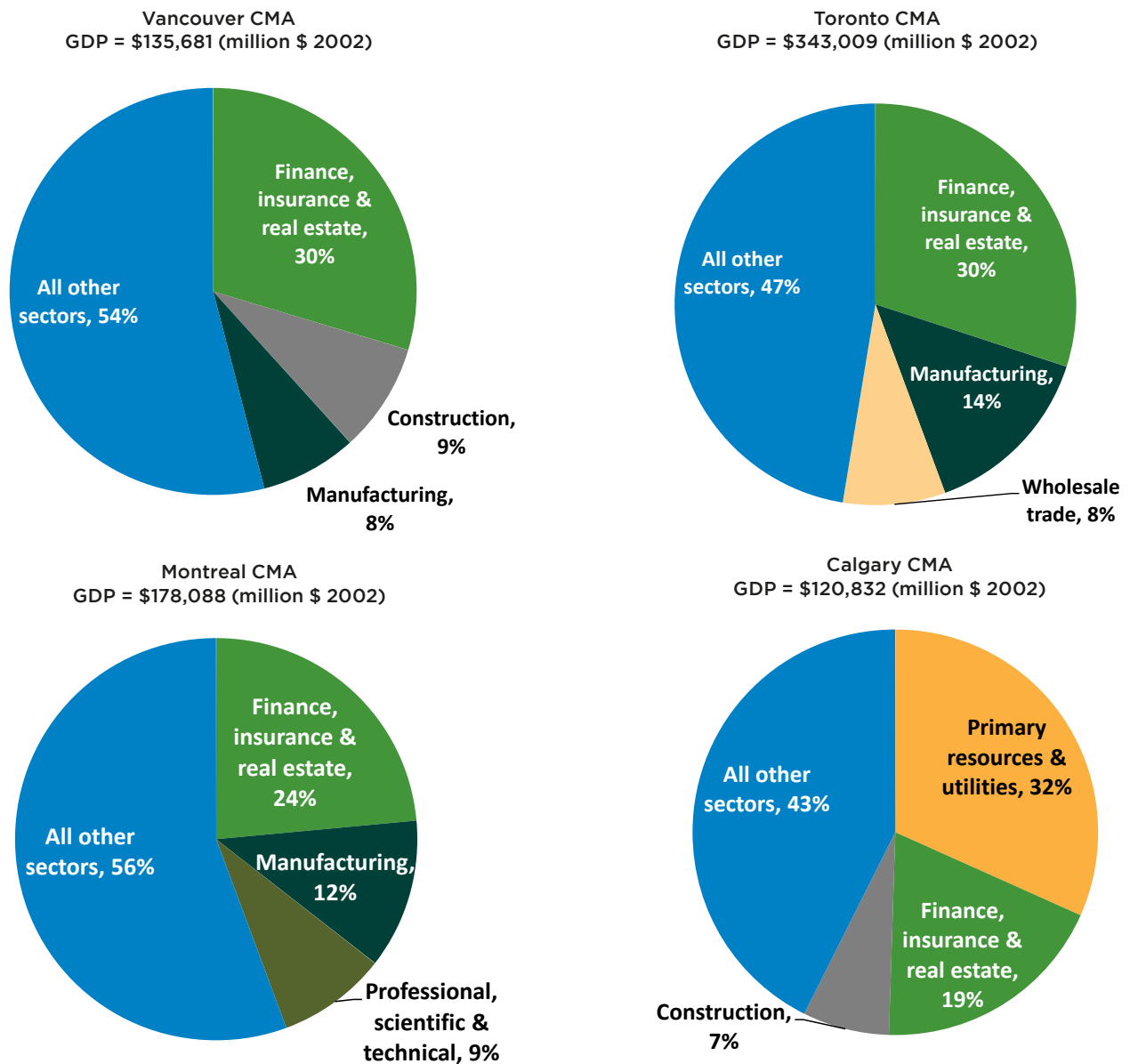
Source: Conference Board of Canada, January 2019. Gross Domestic Product by Industry in 1987 and 2017 (millions of 2007 dollars).

**Metro Vancouver’s GDP Compared to Other Canadian Metropolitan Regions**

Metro Vancouver has the third largest GDP in Canada, behind the metropolitan regions of Toronto and Montreal, but ahead of Calgary. In Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, the largest sector as a percentage of GDP is finance, insurance and real estate. In contrast, the largest economic sector in Calgary is

primary resources and utilities. Manufacturing plays a larger role in Toronto and Montreal than it does in Vancouver.

**FIGURE 3: COMPARISON BY SECTOR IN CANADA’S LARGEST METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2017**



Source: Conference Board of Canada, 2019; Calgary Economic Development; 2019; City of Toronto, GDP Estimates, 2017; The Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal, 2018.

Metro Vancouver experienced the highest GDP growth rate of all metropolitan regions in Canada over the past 4 years. Between 2013 and 2017, the Metro Vancouver GDP grew by 3.9%, which is higher than the national GDP growth rate of 2.1% (See Table 1).

**TABLE 1. AVERAGE ANNUAL GDP GROWTH RATE IN SELECTED METROPOLITAN REGIONS IN CANADA, 2013 - 2017**

METROPOLITAN REGION	GROWTH RATE (%)
Vancouver	3.9
Toronto	3.2
Winnipeg	2.7
Saskatoon	2.6
Hamilton	2.6
Victoria	2.3
Regina	2.2
Calgary	2.2
Canada	2.1
Montreal	2
Edmonton	2
Ottawa	1.8
Halifax	1.3
Quebec	1.3

Source: 2018 Greater Vancouver Economic Scorecard. Greater Vancouver Board of Trade.

## GDP Per Capita in Metro Vancouver Compared to Other Metropolitan Regions

GDP per capita measures a country or region's economic output per person. It can be used to make comparisons of average living standards and economic well-being between regions.

Metro Vancouver had a GDP per capita of \$39,914 in 2015. This is higher than Montreal but lower than Toronto and Calgary and other major cities on the west coast of North America.

Between 2011 and 2015, Metro Vancouver experienced the highest average annual GDP per capita growth rate of major Canadian and US West Coast cities, with a growth rate of 2.3%.

**TABLE 2. GDP PER CAPITA IN MAJOR CANADIAN AND US WEST COAST CITIES**

METROPOLITAN REGION	GDP PER CAPITA IN 2015 (\$)	AVERAGE ANNUAL GDP PER CAPITA GROWTH RATE FROM 2011 - 2015 (%)
San Francisco	82,349	1.5
Seattle	74,589	1.4
Calgary	65,755	0.8
Portland	62,953	-0.2
Toronto	42,021	1.4
<b>Vancouver</b>	<b>39,914</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Montreal	33,229	0.6

Source: 2018 Greater Vancouver Economic Scorecard. Greater Vancouver Board of Trade.