

High Opportunity Occupations in B.C.

Service Canada and the Ministry of Advanced Education

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Introduction

B.C.'s rapid economic growth has created a quarter-million new jobs since December 2001, bringing the province's unemployment rate to records lows. As a result, there are excellent opportunities for job seekers to find employment. That can also mean labour shortages for employers looking to hire.

Shortages of workers are becoming more prevalent in construction, health care, high technology, and other highly skilled occupations.

Details

Various indicators are used to assess the labour market situation for each of the 522 occupational groups in the "National Occupational Classification System". See the Appendix for a detailed listing of the indicators used. Based on these indicators, the following occupational groups are showing a combination of high or increasing demand from employers as well as a low or decreasing supply of workers:

NOC	Occupational Title
0013	Sr Managers - Financial, Communications Carriers And Other Business Services
0112	Human Resources Managers
0311	Managers In Health Care
1221	Administrative Officers
1228	Immigration, Unemployment Insurance And Revenue Officers
1243	Medical Secretaries
1461	Mail, Postal And Related Clerks
2131	Civil Engineers
2133	Electrical And Electronics Engineers
2151	Architects
2211	Applied Chemical Technologists And Technicians
2212	Geological And Mineral Technologists And Technicians
2223	Forestry Technologists And Technicians
2281	Computer and Network Operators and Web Technicians
3131	Pharmacists
3152	Registered Nurses
3211	Medical Laboratory Technologists And Pathologists' Assistants
3413	Nurse Aides And Orderlies
4121	University Professors
4122	Post-Secondary Teaching And Research Assistants
5125	Translators, Terminologists And Interpreters
7244	Electrical Power Line And Cable Workers
7414	Delivery Drivers
9213	Supervisors, Food, Beverage And Tobacco Processing
9511	Machining Tool Operators

Above-average construction activity, especially residential construction, has increased the demand for experienced skilled Trades workers. In some cases, projects in local markets are being delayed due to the unavailability of qualified workers.

Also, the increase in demand for highly qualified workers with technical and scientific skills is primarily the result of growth and strong investment in B.C.'s high-tech service and manufacturing industries (e.g. architectural, engineering, computer and related, and medical and other health laboratories).

Employment demand is increasing due to industry growth and replacement needs of aging workforces. In many cases, employers are having difficulty finding workers who meet the rising skills and education requirements that result from increased use of technology in the workplace.

Additional Information

Some recommended resources to consult include: *B.C. Work Futures*; *B.C. Work Futures for Trades and Technical Occupations*; *A Guide to the B.C. Economy*; and, *What's Key in LMI*. These publications can all be found at <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/labourmarketinfo/>

Note that this list is intended as a guideline only. Job seekers are encouraged to do more exploration and research before making career and work decisions, particularly as labour market conditions vary across regions in B.C.

Appendix

Methodology for Selecting B.C.'s High Opportunity Occupations

The *B.C. High Opportunity List* does not represent a "Top Ten" list. Rather, the diverse set of occupations represents a range of education and skill requirements and corresponds to some of the key and growing sectors of employment.

Labour pressures exist when the demand for workers does not match the supply of those who are willing and able to work at existing market conditions. The various indicators of labour demand and supply, which were analyzed to assess labour market imbalances and short-term job prospects, are as follows:

Labour Market Demand

Various indicators of current and emerging labour market demand were analyzed, including current and expected job growth, hiring activity and earnings growth.

Job Vacancies

Vacancy data from Service Canada's JobBank were analyzed to identify the occupations experiencing above average increases in vacancy levels over the last year.

Employment Growth

Annual employment data from Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey* were analyzed to identify occupations experiencing above average employment growth.

Employment Projections

Data from the *COPS B.C. Unique Scenario* employment projections model were used to determine above average projected employment growth and attrition levels.

Foreign Worker Activity

Foreign worker data from Service Canada provides some indication of current hiring difficulties. The data were analyzed to identify occupations experiencing increases and/or high levels of foreign worker activity.

Changes in Wage Levels

Wage data from Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey* were analyzed to identify the occupations experiencing above average increases in wage levels over the last year.

Labour Market Supply

When developing the *B.C. High Opportunities List* consideration was also given to the availability of unemployed workers who are qualified to work in the occupation.

Employment Insurance (EI) Claimload

EI claimant data from Service Canada was used to identify where claim levels represent a small or declining proportion of the experienced workforce in this occupation.