



High Opportunity Occupations in British Columbia

Introduction

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development is responsible for providing labour market information to British Columbians. This report outlines high opportunity occupations for employment in the near future, and considers recent changes to world economic conditions as they have affected Canada and British Columbia.

Until 2008, British Columbia experienced several years of strong economic growth and the province's unemployment rate reached record lows. Beginning in mid-2008, however, the labour market in British Columbia showed that it was not immune to the effects of the global economic downturn. Employment in the province dropped in each consecutive month in the latter half of 2008, with job losses largely concentrated in the Manufacturing and the Primary industries.

Despite recent economic uncertainties, the labour market in the province will still face demographic challenges due to an aging workforce and an increasing need for workers of various skill sets when economic growth returns.

The methodology used to develop the *B.C. High Opportunity List* has been revised from the previous version published in May 2007. In this version, only employment demand is taken into consideration. Given the fact that employment supply is not incorporated in the process to develop the list, the *B.C. High Opportunity List* is not intended to indicate occupations where labour pressure is expected in the near future. The occupations on the list are expected to have above-average opportunities for job seekers in the near future, due to a combina-

tion of above average job openings and above average growth. The list is produced by Service Canada and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development.

Occupations in Demand

Various indicators are used to assess the labour market situation for each of the 522 occupational groups in the "National Occupational Classification (NOC)¹ system". See the Appendix for a detailed listing of the indicators used. Based on these indicators, the occupations listed below, among the

NOC Code	Occupational Group
0911	Manufacturing Managers
6261	Police Officers (Except Commissioned)
0013	Senior Managers—Financial, Communications Carriers and Other Business Services
2171	Information Systems Analysts and Consultants
2174	Computer Programmers and Interactive Media Developers
0713	Transportation Managers
7242	Industrial Electricians
0015	Senior Managers—Trade, Broadcasting and Other Services
0314	Managers In Social, Community and Correctional Services
2122	Forestry Professionals
3131	Pharmacists
7217	Contractors and Supervisors, Heavy Construction Equipment Crews
4163	Economic Development Officers and Marketing Researchers and Consultants
2173	Software Engineers
0311	Managers In Health Care
7351	Stationary Engineers and Auxiliary Equipment Operators
1212	Supervisors, Finance and Insurance Clerks
6462	Correctional Service Officers
3152	Registered Nurses
7215	Contractors and Supervisors, Carpentry Trades
1441	Administrative Clerks
2147	Computer Engineers

522 occupational groups, are showing a combination of a larger number of projected job openings and higher projected growth in the near future.

The occupations on this list reflect a range of education and skill requirements. The projected above average demand for these occupations is driven by a combination of demographic challenges and economic growth. For example, replacement demand due to permanent attrition (retirement) may outweigh expansion demand due to economic growth for many manager positions on the list.

This is a result of a relatively higher percentage of older workers in these occupations. Some occupations on the list reflect primarily the increased need for skilled workers in some growing sectors, such as high-technology and health sectors.

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.

For more information on the *B.C. High Opportunity Occupation List*, please contact Yu Li (yu.li@gov.bc.ca) or Robert Mattioli (robert.mattioli@servicecanada.gc.ca).

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 reflects a range of education and skill requirements and corresponds to some of the key and growing sectors of employment.

Note that only labour demand is considered in the process of developing the list. The various indicators of labour demand, which were analyzed to assess 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, employment size, earnings and job stability.

- **Employment and Employment Growth Projections**

Data from the *COPS B.C. Unique Scenario (2007-2017)* employment projections model were used to determine above average job openings due to economic growth and attrition, as well as projected employment growth rate.

- **Employment Size**

Employment data comes from the 2006 Census, which provides a proxy for employment opportunities due to turnover.

- **Earnings**

Full-time, full-year average earnings for a particular occupation from the 2006 Census are used to identify occupations with above average employment earnings.

- **Job Stability**

Full-time, full-year status from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey was analyzed to identify the occupations which have above average percentage of workers who work full-time, full-year.



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¹ <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2006/Welcome.aspx>