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The Big Picture

- **Province job growth** rose 1.7% in November 2018 from a year ago; national job growth rose 1.2%.
- **Province unemployment** averaged 4.4% in November 2018; the national average was 5.6%.
- **Average weekly earnings** rose 2.7% to \$978 in September 2018 from a year ago.
- **Exports** rose 7.0% to \$35.7 billion in the first nine months of 2018 from a year ago.

Employment Data

Minimum wage of \$12.65 is above the national average.

British Columbia Unemployment and Job Growth Rates Nov 2018

	Unemployment Rate	Job Growth Rate
Canada	5.6%	1.2%
Cariboo	4.9%	-7.4%
Kootenay	4.1%	8.5%
Thompson	4.9%	-1.6%
Vancouver Island	3.7%	2.4%

Source: Statistics Canada

British Columbia Industry Growth Rates Nov 2018

	Job Growth Nov 2017 to Nov 2018
All Employment	1.7%
Agriculture	0.8%
Natural Resources	3.1%
Utilities	6.5%
Construction	1.8%
Manufacturing	-3.5%
Wholesale/Retail Trade	-1.9%
Transportation/Warehousing	5.3%
Finance/Insurance	-4.2%
Professional Services	5.4%
Business Services	8.9%
Educational	-0.1%
Healthcare	4.1%
Information	-3.6%
Accommodation/Food Services	7.0%
Public Administration	7.1%

Source: Statistics Canada

British Columbia Unemployment Rate vs. National Average



Source: Statistics Canada

British Columbia Job Growth Rates vs. National Average



Source: Statistics Canada

Major Industry Update

Mining

BC mining, oil and gas extraction industry includes about 2,200 companies, and employs approximately 43,000. Large mining sub-sectors include petroleum and natural gas (valued at \$5 billion); coal (\$5 billion); and minerals including copper (\$2.5 billion). BC mining contributes \$4.6 billion to Canada's gross domestic product, representing 9% of the national industry total. Issues impacting the mining industry include obtaining permits; safety, land, and pollution regulations; environmental lawsuits; fluctuations in commodity prices; and taxes on mined products. BC mining industry annual exports are about \$8.0 billion. BC is the second-largest natural gas producer in the nation, accounting for 25% of the Canadian total. Annual capital expenditures total \$9.1 billion.

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Construction & Real Estate

BC construction and real estate industries include about 93,800 companies, and employ about 192,900. Large sub-sectors include: residential construction (permits valued at \$6.7 billion); and nonresidential (\$4.0 billion). The real estate segment's operating revenues total about \$1.9 billion with a profit margin of 27%. BC construction contributes \$9.7 billion to Canada's gross domestic product, representing 13% of the national industry total. Issues impacting the construction and real estate industries include: material, equipment, insurance, and labor costs; land planning and acquisition; environmental regulations and building codes; worker safety; cash flow and liquidity management; and interest rate changes. Annual capital expenditures total \$2.3 billion.

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Manufacturing

The BC manufacturing industry includes about 11,400 companies, and employs about 179,200. Major manufacturing sub-sectors include paper and wood products (shipments valued at \$11 billion); food products (\$7 billion); and primary metals (\$2.5 billion). BC manufacturing contributes \$13 billion to Canada's gross domestic product, representing 8% of the national industry total. Issues impacting manufacturers include raw material, labor, and energy costs; foreign competition; labor, pollution, and foreign trade regulations; supplier and customer consolidation; capital equipment and facility expenses; quality control; and labor relations. BC manufacturing industry annual exports are about \$19 billion. Annual capital expenditures total \$1.9 billion.

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Wholesale & Retail

BC wholesale and retail industries include about 43,400 companies with combined annual revenue of \$115 billion. Wholesale and retail industries in the province employ approximately 356,600. Large sub-sectors include motor vehicle and parts wholesale and retail (valued at \$19 billion); building materials wholesale (\$12 billion); supermarkets (\$11 billion); machinery and equipment wholesale (\$10 billion); and food wholesale (\$9.7 billion). BC wholesale and retail contribute \$17 billion to Canada's gross domestic product, representing 12% of the national industries total. Issues impacting the wholesale and retail industries include: transportation costs, truck driver shortages, logistics, merchandising, inventory management, store advertising and promotions, consumer and business spending, interest rates, competition, and technology use (shipment tracking, GPS, point of sale and inventory control software, and credit card processing). Annual capital expenditures total \$1.8 billion.

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Transportation & Warehousing

BC transportation and warehousing industries include about 18,500 companies, and employ approximately 128,900. Issues impacting the transportation and warehousing industries include fuel, equipment, and building costs; port traffic and shipment flows; heightened security and vehicle pollution regulations; labor; licensing; technology for logistics, shipment tracking, and infrastructure and equipment maintenance. BC transportation and warehousing industries annual capital expenditures total \$2.4 billion. Annual transportation expenditures average \$11,000 per household.

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Information

The BC information industry includes about 5,600 companies, and employs about 116,000. Large information industry sub-sectors include: software and computer services (valued at \$3.4 billion); software publishing (\$1.3 billion); motion picture and video production (\$485 million); and periodical publishing (\$152 million). Issues impacting the information industry include government regulations; industry consolidation; advertising revenue; viewership and readership; business, education, and consumer spending; technology and infrastructure shifts. Annual capital expenditures total \$1.2 billion.

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Finance & Insurance

BC finance and insurance industries include about 19,800 companies, and employ approximately 85,200. Issues impacting the finance and insurance industries include consumer income and investing, weather-related property damage claims, reimbursement costs, payment negotiation with health care providers, government regulations and codes, interest rates, industry consolidation, technology use, fraud and security, service differentiation, and client base expansion. Annual capital expenditures total \$1.2 billion.

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Professional Services

The BC professional services industry includes about 48,600 companies, and employs approximately 173,000. Large professional services sub-sectors include: engineering (valued at \$3.3 billion); accounting (\$1.9 billion); advertising (\$580 million); architecture (\$495 million); and specialized design (\$390 million). Issues impacting the professional services industry include government regulations and codes, industry consolidation and business divestiture, corporate spending, technology use, service differentiation, client base expansion, corporate in-sourcing, and serving international clients. Annual capital expenditures total \$560 million.

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Healthcare

The BC health care industry includes about 20,800 companies, and employs approximately 274,500. Expenditures for health services and products include: hospitals (valued at \$7.7 billion); physicians (\$3.9 billion); drugs (\$3.4 billion); other health professionals (\$3.5 billion); and other health institutions (\$1.9 billion). BC health care and social assistance contributes \$11 billion to Canada's gross domestic product, representing 13% of the national industry total. Issues impacting the health care industry include government regulation, Medicare and insurance reimbursement for care, doctor/nurse shortages, litigation, emergency room overcrowding and length of wait for treatment, information technology and patient records, expansion of facilities and services, rural care deficiencies, and capital cost of new equipment. Annual capital expenditures total \$1.2 billion. Annual health care expenditures average \$2,511 per household.

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Tourism

The BC tourism industry includes about 15,800 companies; the accommodations and food service sub-sectors employ about 171,600. Large sub-sectors include: hotels and motels (valued at \$2.6 billion); full-service restaurants (\$3.3 billion); and limited-service eating places (\$2.7 billion). Issues impacting the tourism industry include visitor numbers, hotel occupancy and labor shortages, international visitors' needs, tourism advertising funds, visitor traffic and revenue fluctuations due to US airline industry restructuring, and real estate prices to buy hotels and land. Accommodation and food service annual capital expenditures total \$434 million. Annual recreation expenditures average \$3,987 per household.

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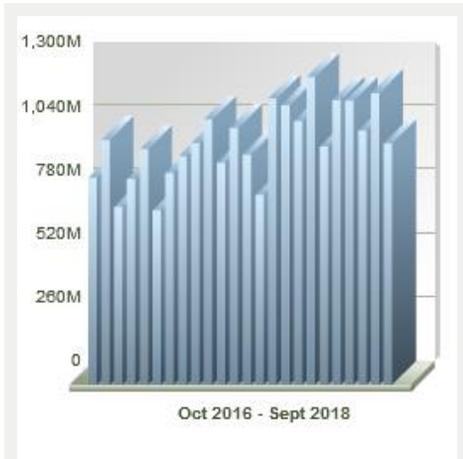
Agriculture

BC agriculture and related industries include 8,000 farms with combined annual revenue of \$3.9 billion. The average farm size 143 hectares. The agriculture sector employs about 26,000. Major agriculture products include: beef cattle, poultry, dairy products, and vegetables. Issues impacting the agriculture industry include volatile energy and market prices, international trade, chemical and feed costs, equipment and technology, animal and plant diseases and pests, droughts, and changes in government regulation and aid. BC agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries contribute \$4.1 billion to Canada's gross domestic product, representing 14% of the national industry total. Annual industry exports are about \$1.7 billion. Annual capital expenditures total \$380 million.

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Local Real Estate Summary

British Columbia New Housing Permits -



Source: Statistics Canada

British Columbia Annual Home Price Changes -

Source: Statistics Canada

Website Resources

[Province of British Columbia](#)

[City of Vancouver](#)

[Ministry of Labor and Citizens' Services](#)

[CBC Business News – British Columbia](#)

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