

Small Business Profile 2016

Highlights

- **Small Business** – There were approximately 388,500 small businesses operating in British Columbia in 2015, representing about 98 per cent of all businesses in the province.
- **Micro Business** – 79 per cent of small businesses are micro businesses with fewer than 5 employees. Between 2014 and 2015, the growth rate for micro businesses in British Columbia was 1.4 per cent, or approximately 4,300 businesses.

- **Small Businesses Per Capita** – British Columbia ranked first in the country in terms of small businesses per capita in 2015, with 83.0 small businesses per 1,000 people. The national average was 70.3.
- The Northeast **region** recorded the fastest net growth in the number of small businesses between 2014 and 2015, at 16.0 per cent.

BREAKDOWN OF BUSINESSES
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2015

	Number of businesses	Per cent of total	Growth 2014-2015 (#)	Growth rate 2014-2015
MICRO BUSINESSES (0 TO 4 EMPLOYEES)	313,500	79%	4,300	1.4%
Self-employed without paid help†	204,000	51%	4,100	2.1%
Businesses with 1 to 4 employees	109,500	28%	200	0.1%
BUSINESSES WITH 5 TO 9 EMPLOYEES	37,100	9%	800	2.2%
BUSINESSES WITH 10 TO 19 EMPLOYEES	23,200	6%	500	2.0%
BUSINESSES WITH 20 TO 49 EMPLOYEES	14,800	4%	400	2.4%
TOTAL SMALL BUSINESSES**	388,500	98%	5,900	1.5%
TOTAL LARGE BUSINESSES	7,700	2%	100	1.3%
TOTAL ALL BUSINESSES	396,300	100%	6,000	1.5%

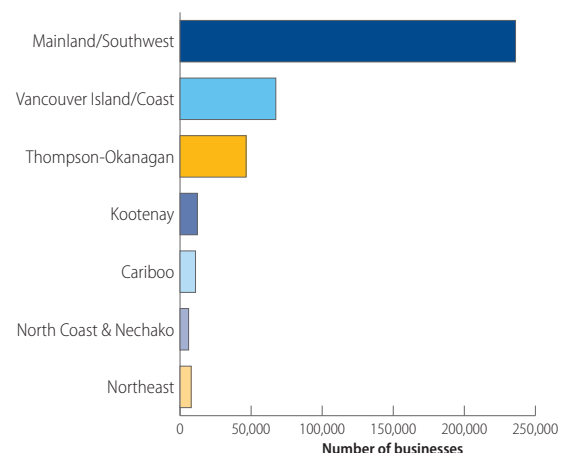
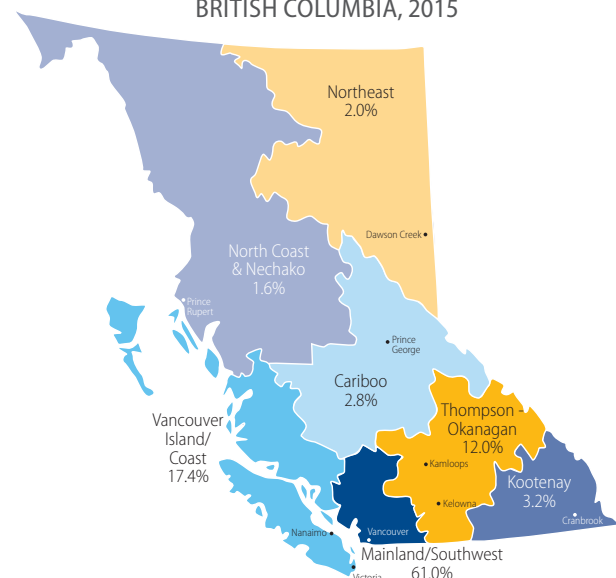
† Incorporated self-employed are not included in this figure to avoid double-counting, since they are already included in the count of businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

**Figures do not add due to rounding

Note: Due to a data break in 2014, growth rates can only be calculated from 2014-2015

Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

SMALL BUSINESS DISTRIBUTION BY REGION,
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2015



Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada



Ministry of
Small Business and
Red Tape Reduction

BCStats

The Small Business Highlights 2016 document is available at:
www.resourcecentre.gov.bc.ca/publications.html

The Small Business Profile 2016 is available at:
www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca
www.resourcecentre.gov.bc.ca/publications.html

Highlights 2016, continued

- **Employment** – In 2015, an estimated 1,030,200 people worked in small businesses in British Columbia. These jobs accounted for 55 per cent of private-sector employment in the province, well above the national average of 49 per cent and enough to rank British Columbia second in the country.
- **Employment Change** – There was a 1.9 per cent boost in employment in British Columbia's small business sector between 2014 and 2015. Both the numbers of self-employed (+4.4 per cent) and employees of small businesses in British Columbia (+0.3 per cent) increased.

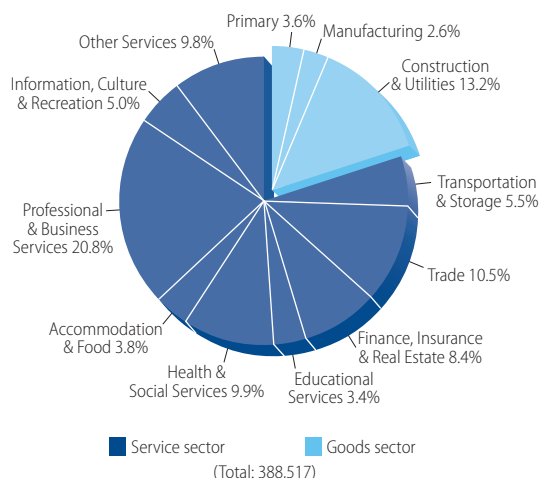
PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
BY SIZE OF BUSINESS, 2015

	Employment	Per cent of total
TOTAL SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT	1,030,200	55%
Self-employed	413,500	22%
Employed by small business	616,700	33%
LARGE BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT	851,600	45%
TOTAL PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT	1,881,800	100%

Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

- **Industry** – The accommodation and food services industry was the largest provider of new small business jobs in British Columbia between 2010 and 2015, with a net addition of 11,360 jobs. The fastest rate of employment growth was seen in the information and cultural services sector, which saw a 26.6 per cent increase in employment (a net addition of 1,930 jobs) over the five-year period.

TOTAL SMALL BUSINESSES WITH 0-49 EMPLOYEES, 2015



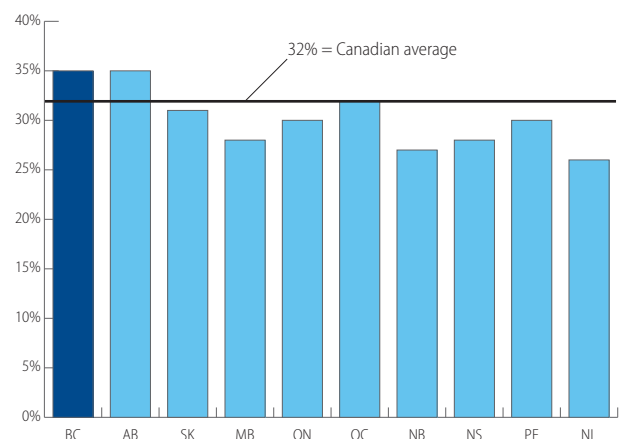
Note: "Primary" is comprised of the agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas industries.

Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada



- **Self-Employed** – Approximately 38 per cent of the self-employed in British Columbia are women, above the national average.
- On average, the **self-employed** tend to be older, male, and more likely to work longer hours than paid employees.
- **Gross Domestic Product** – British Columbia small businesses generated approximately 35 per cent of the province's gross domestic product in 2015, well above the Canadian average of 32 per cent.

SMALL BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION TO GDP BY PROVINCE, 2015



Source: BC Stats

- **Earnings** – In 2015, small business provided almost 32 per cent of all wages paid to workers in British Columbia, the highest share of all provinces. The national average was 27 per cent.
- **Exports** – Small business exporters in British Columbia shipped almost \$12.9 billion worth of goods to international destinations in 2014, accounting for 36 per cent of the total value of goods exported from the province.