

Fastest Growing Industries: Transportation

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Overview of the Transportation Industry

Introduction

There is high demand for workers in the Canadian transportation industry. Between 2010 and 2030 the industry will need over 26,000 qualified workers, an increase of 31%.

Canada could experience a shortage of 25,000 to 33,000 truck drivers by 2020

Source: Conference Board of Canada

The Canadian truck transportation sector alone is expected require at least 153,000 additional workers by 2021, an average of 14,100 per year.

Projected employment growth in BC [truck transportation]:

	2011 to 2012	2011 to 2017	2011 to 2021
British Columbia	4.6%	11.5%	13.7%

Source: Trucking Human Resources Canada

Employers report that it is difficult to recruit workers for all positions in the trucking industry, with transport trailer mechanics being the most difficult. There is also high demand for Class 1/AZ truck drivers.

Immigrants are seen as a key source of talent as transportation companies seek to meet their hiring needs in the years ahead.

The industry has responded by developing a number of programs to attract newcomers. These include:

- initiatives to attract newcomers to remote locations of the province
- corporate efforts to encourage diversity in the workplace
- strategies for streamlining foreign-credential recognition

One such initiative is the ***ITA's Immigrants in Trades Training*** program, which helps you overcome barriers to entering the trades, including jobs in transportation. This program can provide you with hands-on experience, financial assistance, safety training, English courses, and career counselling.

- More information:
<http://www.itabc.ca/immigrants-trades/overview>

The ***BC Trucking Association*** has developed a tool to assist employers when hiring newcomers to Canada. This guide helps employers compare your professional driving experience in your home country to Canadian driving standards.

- More information:
International Trucking Reference: Roads, Rules, and Drivers
<http://www.bctrucking.com/careers>

For more information on the transportation sector see:

- **Trucking Human Resources Canada**
<https://www.truckinghr.com/>

- **WorkBC Industry Profile: Transportation & Warehousing**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Information/Industry-Profiles/17>

- **BC Trucking Association**
<http://www.bctrucking.com/industry/economy>

- **Driver Shortage.ca**
<http://www.drivershortage.ca>

2. Occupations in the Transportation Sector

The transportation industry is made of up numerous occupations, each with its own unique set of experience and training requirements. It includes the following sectors:

- Truck transportation
- Air, rail, water, and scenic and sightseeing transportation
- Transit and ground passenger transportation
- Pipelines, and postal service and couriers

Occupations in greatest demand in BC are Class 1/AZ truck drivers and truck/trailer mechanics. Most jobs in the trucking sector (60%) are with firms that conduct short haul trips.

Employment by Occupation (Canada):

Occupation	2012	2017	2021
Truck Drivers (Class 1/AZ and 3/D)	174,500	196,200	209,200
Truck / Transport Mechanics	15,630	17,570	18,740
Transport Trailer Technician	6,150	6,910	7,370
Parts Technician	2,670	3,010	3,210
Shunt Drivers	48,060	54,030	57,610
Truck Cargo Workers	31,360	35,260	37,600
Trucking Dispatchers	12,850	14,450	15,400
Trucking Freight Claims	3,730	4,200	4,480
Trucking Foreman	12,740	14,330	15,280
Total	307,700	346,000	369,000

Source:

<http://www.truckinghr.com/sites/default/files/documents/Final%20Report%20for%20Industry%20-%202012.12-029.en.pdf>

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Vacancy and Retirement Rate in the Trucking Sector by Occupation (2011)

Occupation	Vacancy Rate	Retirement Rate
Company Truck Drivers (Class 1/AZ)	4.3%	2.2%
Company Truck Drivers (Class 3/d)	4.1%	1.3%
Owner/Operator Truck Drivers	6.2%	2.2%
Truck / Transport Mechanics	6.1%	0.9%
Transport Trailer Technician	5.1%	1.1%
Parts Technician	0.3%	0.7%
Shunt Drivers	0.3%	0.1%
Cargo Workers	1.7%	0.4%
Dispatchers	2.1%	1.0%
Freight Claims	3.1%	1.6%
Foreman	1.5%	1.2%
All Occupations	4.2%	1.8%

Source:

<http://www.truckinghr.com/sites/default/files/documents/Final%20Report%20for%20Industry%20-%202012.12-029.en.pdf>

BC Employment Outlook - Selected Occupations: 2010-2020

Transportation Trades	2010	2020	Annual Average Change
Machinery and Transportation Equipment Mechanics	21,210	23,610	1.1%
Automotive service technicians	25,110	28,710	1.3%
Crane Operators, Drillers, and Blasters	2,170	2,380	0.9%
Heavy Equipment Operators	13,700	15,270	1.1%
Other Mechanics	3,940	4,440	1.2%

Source: Tracking Trades Persons. Asia Pacific Gateway Skills Table

<http://www.apgst.ca/projects/pdfs/TrackingTradespersonsReportJuly2013.pdf>

For detailed information on any of the occupations in the transportation sector see:

- **WorkBC Career Profiles**
<http://www.workbc.ca/> [search by job title]
- **TruckingCareers**
<http://www.truckingcareers.ca/en/content/career-opportunity>
- **Industry Training Authority of BC**
<http://www.itabc.ca/discover-apprenticeship-programs/search-programs>

3. Hiring Forecast by Region

About 66% of jobs in the transportation industry are in the Mainland/Southwest region of BC. The next largest employment regions are Vancouver Island/Coast and Thompson-Okanagan.

Employment by Region:

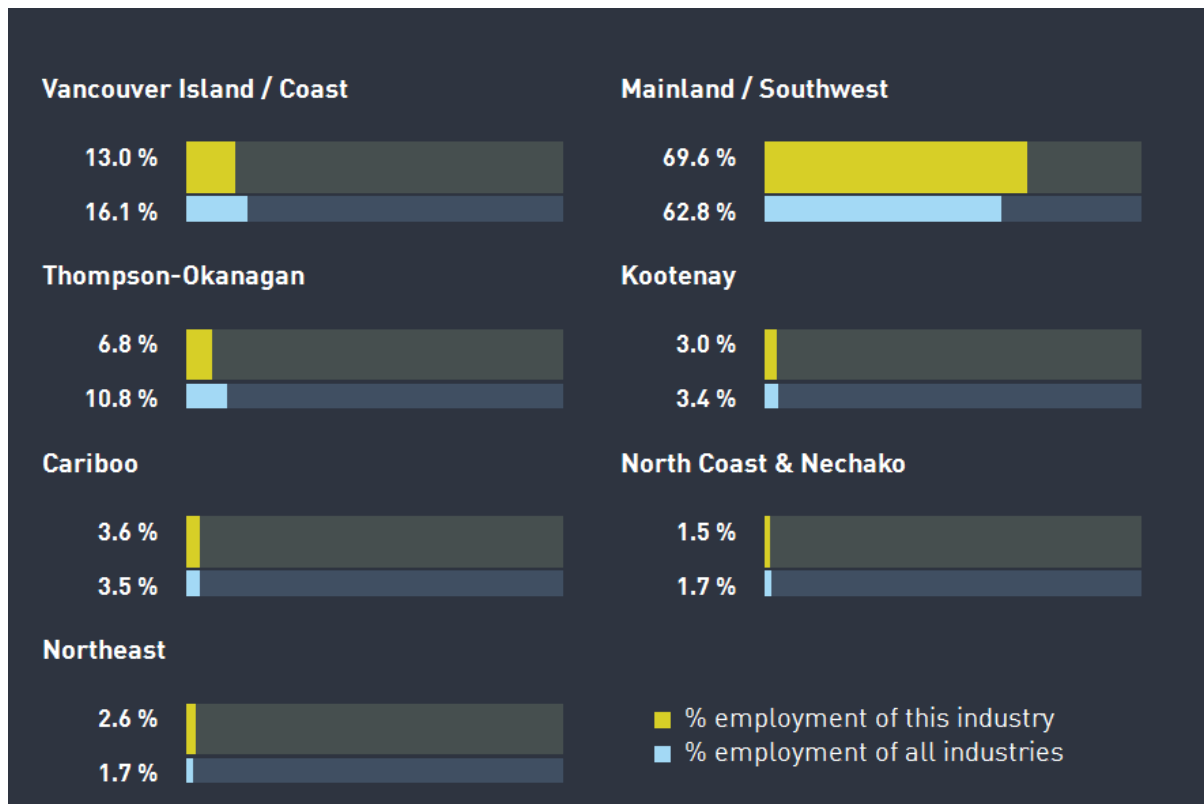


Chart from WorkBC Industry Profile: Transportation & Warehousing

<http://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Industry-Profiles/17>

4. Finding Jobs

Online Job Postings

- **BC Trucking Association Jobs**
<http://www.bctrucking.com/careers/job-postings>
- **Today's Trucking Magazine Job Postings**
<http://www.todaystrucking.com/jobs>
- **WorkBC Jobs**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Find-Jobs.aspx>
- **Indeed.com**
<http://ca.indeed.com/>

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in the transportation industry in British Columbia. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **BC Trucking Association Directory**
<http://www.bctrucking.com/services/find-a-transporter/trucking>
- **Fleet Directory.com**
<http://www.fleetdirectory.com/bylocation/canada/britishcolumbia.htm>

5. Additional Resources

Still looking for more information? Try looking at the following resources:

- **Trucking HR Canada**
<https://www.truckinghr.com>
- **Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants Program**
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-or-Study-in-B-C/Work-in-B-C/Employment-Language-Programs>
- **WelcomeBC Job Profiles for Immigrants**
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-or-Study-in-B-C/Job-profiles-for-immigrants>
- **Industry Training Authority of BC**
<http://www.itabc.ca/>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.