

Industry Profile: Oil & Gas

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Overview of the Oil & Gas Industry

Introduction

British Columbia's government forecasts a high demand for workers in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector. B.C.'s developing industry is projected to create up to 100,000 jobs over the next 10 years.

Employment in the oil and gas industry is very dependent on economic cycles. The sharp decline in oil prices is currently having a significant negative impact on Canada's industry.

A recent survey found that almost 60% of oil companies in Canada said they were reducing their workforce, with almost half saying that they've had to lay off between 11 and 25% of their employees.

Although the current downturn has affected BC's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) market, this sector has the potential for significant growth. BC's government estimates that the LNG sector may require up to 100,000 workers in construction and operations over the next decade.

Northern BC, in particular, will need to recruit numerous workers to meet construction and operations requirements.

The industry is in need of a more skilled and knowledgeable workforce. As energy projects resume and workers retire, BC's industry will require more people with specialized skills to work in an increasingly complex environment. Higher levels of reading, mathematical ability, communications and problem-solving skills are required to perform new tasks.

Immigrants are seen as a key source of talent as oil and gas 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 oil and gas. 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>

In recognition of the current demand for skilled professionals in northern BC, ***Immigrant Employment Council of BC*** (IEC-BC) has created a resource to connect you with jobs in three northern communities – Prince George, Prince Rupert and Fort St. John.

- More information:
www.northernbcjobs.com

For more information on the oil and gas sector see:

- **Careers in Oil & Gas.** Petroleum Labour Market Information Division of Enform
<http://www.careersinolandgas.com/>

- **Labour Demand Outlook for BC's Natural Gas Industry.** Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada
http://cynthiaaaasen.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2013-02-21_final_bc_natural_gas_labour_demand_to_2020_report.pdf

- **WorkBC Liquified Natural Gas Workforce Projections**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Information/Jobs-in-Demand/LNG-Jobs-in-B-C.aspx>

- **Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction.** WorkBC
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Industry-Profiles/13>

2. Occupations in the Oil & Gas Sector

The oil and gas sector is made of up numerous occupations. Each career has its own unique set of experience and training requirements.

For most jobs you should be able to read, write and communicate effectively in English in order to work safely and efficiently.

In BC, occupations involved in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector are in the greatest demand.

Top 10 LNG careers with highest workforce demand, 2018:

OCCUPATION	DEMAND
Construction trades helpers and labourers	11,800
Steamfitters and pipefitters	3,800
Welders	2,200
Concrete finishers	1,500
Transport truck drivers	1,500
Carpenters	1,400
Heavy equipment operators	1,110
Gas fitters	1,100
Purchasing agents and officers	875
Crane operators	800

Source: British Columbia 2022 Labour Market Outlook <https://www.workbc.ca/getmedia/0fe6f15a-dcd9-4316-b0fa-488b3fab9920/BC-LM-Outlook-2012-2022.pdf.aspx>

Across Canada, high demand occupations due to retirement include:

- Engineers
- Accounting & Finance Professionals
- Geoscientists
- Heavy Equipment Operators

Source: 2015 Industry HR Snapshot. Careers in Oil and Gas
<http://www.careersinoilandgas.com/media/243760/2015-industry-hr-snapshot.pdf>

For detailed information on any of the occupations in the oil and gas sector, including job description, training requirements, salary, and more see:

- **Careers in Oil & Gas. Petroleum Labour Market Information (PetroLMI) Division of Enform**
<http://www.careersinoilandgas.com/>
- **WorkBC Liquified Natural Gas Workforce Projections**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Information/Jobs-in-Demand/LNG-Jobs-in-B-C.aspx>
- **WorkBC Career Profiles**
<http://www.workbc.ca/> [search by job title]
- **Drilling Rig Work in Canada. RigTech**
http://www.rigtech.ca/live/Green_Hands/Drilling_Rig_Work_in_Canada
- **Working on Canada's Service Rigs. Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors**
<http://www.servicerigdrive.ca/live/>

3. Hiring Forecast by Region

Most of BC's oil and gas activity is in the northeastern part of the province.

Oil pipelines and rail deliveries to BC ports and LNG export facilities are also planned for the northwest coast, including Kitimat and Prince Rupert.

Companies involved in planning LNG exports from BC are opening offices and placing staff in Vancouver, Prince George, Prince Rupert and Kitimat, resulting in new employment opportunities. These are head office type jobs that are involved in the early stage planning of projects including regulatory, stakeholder relations and business development roles.

Additional information on oil and gas activities in specific regions can be found at:

- **Oil and Natural Gas. Invest in Northeast British Columbia**
<http://investnortheastbc.ca/sectors/natural-gas>
- **Liquefied Natural Gas & Petroleum. Invest in Northwest British Columbia**
<http://investnorthwestbc.ca/sectors/lng-petroleum>
- **Construction Map App: Mapping Canada's Major Construction Projects**
<http://www.constructionmapapp.ca/>

4. Finding Jobs

Online Job Postings

- **Northeastern BC Job Search**
<http://www.jobsearchonline.bc.ca/Job%20Search/oilandgasjobs.htm>

- **WorkBC Jobs**
<http://www.workbc.ca/JobSeekers/SearchResults.aspx>

- **Indeed.com**
<http://ca.indeed.com/>

- **Foreign Skilled Workers in BC**
<http://www.fswbc.com/>

Creating a List of Potential Employers

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

- **Energy Services BC Directory**
<http://www.energyservicesbc.org/directory/>

- **Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Members Directory**
<http://www.capp.ca/about-us/membership/producer-members>

- **Member Directory. Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors**
http://www.thehitch.ca/?page_id=32

5. Additional Resources

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

- **Pipeline News North**
<http://www.pipelinenewsnorth.ca/>
- **Welcome BC. 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>
- **Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants Program**
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-or-Study-in-B-C/Work-in-B-C/Employment-Language-Programs>
- **Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP)**
<http://www.stepbc.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/>.