

Quick Facts About British Columbia

The Land



Geography

British Columbia, Canada's westernmost province, is located on the Pacific coast of North America, and has a land and freshwater area of 95 million hectares. It is Canada's third largest province and comprises 9.5 per cent of the country's total land area. The province is nearly four times the size of Great Britain, 2.5 times larger than Japan, and larger than any American state except Alaska.

The province is bounded by the U.S. states of Washington, Idaho and Montana in the south, Alberta on the east, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon on the north, Alaska on the northwest and the Pacific Ocean to the west. From south to north, B.C. stretches 1,200 kilometres, and from east to west as much as 1,050 kilometres. Its deeply indented, island-dotted coastline extends more than 25,000 kilometres.

British Columbia is characterized by mountainous topography, but also has substantial areas of lowland and plateau country. The province has four basic regions: a northwesterly trending mountain system on the coast, a similar mountain system on the east, an extensive area of plateau and mountain country between the two, and a lowland segment of the continent's Great Plains in the northeastern part of the province.

The province encompasses an abundance of waterways in the form of rivers, lakes and streams. Freshwater surfaces total 1.8 million hectares. Major river systems include the Fraser, Columbia, Skeena and Peace Rivers.

Climate

The climate of British Columbia, varying from marine to continental, is determined by prevailing westerly winds, the warm Pacific Ocean, mountainous topography and the province's northerly location.

The coastal region has abundant rainfall and mild temperatures associated with a marine climate, and enjoys Canada's longest frost-free periods. In the

interior, the climate is continental in nature. The southern interior has the province's driest and warmest climate.

Environment

British Columbia has a rich variety of habitats, including forests, grasslands, meadows, wetlands, rivers and inter-tidal and sub-tidal zones. They support the greatest diversity of plants and mammals of any province in Canada.

There are 1,138 species of vertebrates in BC, comprised of the following:

- 488 species of birds
- 468 species of fish
- 142 species of mammals
- 22 species of amphibians
- 18 species of reptiles

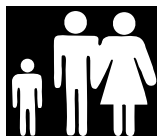
Over 250 bird species breed in the province, 162 of which (55%) breed nowhere else in Canada. Invertebrate species probably number between 50,000 and 70,000, including 35,000 species of insects.

British Columbia has an estimated 2,790 native vascular plants species, (nearly 27% are considered species at risk). Approximately 1,000 bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), 1,600 lichens, 522 species of attached algae and well over 10,000 species of fungi are present in the province.

Provincial parks, recreation areas and ecological reserves are protected within the province's Protected Areas System, for world-class conservation, outdoor recreation, education and scientific study. These areas now cover over 13.09 million hectares or 13.5 per cent of the province. The entire Tatshenshini-Alsek region, almost one million hectares in northwestern B.C., is now a Heritage Site. The Khutzeymateen Valley, also in the northwest, is permanently protected as a grizzly bear habitat.

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The People



Federal Government

Canada's federation has two levels of government: federal and provincial, each with its own law-making bodies, governing executive and judiciary.

At the federal level, the Canadian government has two law making bodies: the 308 seat House of Commons and the 105 seat Senate. B.C. residents are represented by 36 elected Members of Parliament (MPs) and six appointed senators.

The Prime Minister and appointed Ministers comprise the federal cabinet or governing executive. The federal judiciary includes the Supreme Court of Canada, the highest court of appeal for all cases.

Provincial Government

The structure of the British Columbia Government is rooted in British parliamentary tradition and precedent. Prior to 1866, B.C. was comprised of two British-controlled colonies, one on Vancouver Island and a second on the mainland. In 1866, the two colonies were officially united as the Crown Colony of British Columbia, with its capital at Victoria.

British Columbia became a province of Canada when it entered Confederation on July 20, 1871. Upon Confederation, B.C. came under the British North America Act (BNA Act), a British statute which defined the major national institutions and the division of authority between the federal and provincial governments.

In 1982, the BNA Act was incorporated into the Constitution Act, which ended the British parliament's legal right to legislate for Canada.

Legislative powers in B.C. are exercised by a single legislative chamber, which is elected for a four-year term. The legislature consists of the Lieutenant Governor and 79 elected members of the legislative assembly.

The provincial judicial system is composed of the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of B.C. and the Provincial Court of B.C., which includes Small Claims Court and Family Court.

Representation in the B.C. Legislative Assembly (July 2007)

Political Party	Seats
Liberal	46
New Democratic Party	33
Total	79

Source: *Elections BC*

2007/08 Budget Operating Statement (\$ Millions)

	Updated Forecast	Budget Estimate
Taxpayer-supported programs and agencies:		
Revenue	35,464	34,887
Expenditure	(34,600)	(36,240)
Taxpayer-supported Balance	574	(1,353)
Commercial Crown Corporation	2,576	2,503
Net Income		
Surplus before forecast allowance	3,150	1,150
Forecast Allowance	(300)	(750)
Surplus	2,850	400

Source: *BC Budget, Budget and Fiscal Plan 2007/08*

Government Expenditure by Function 2007/8 Budget Estimate

Function	\$Millions	Percent
Health	14,215	39.2
Education	9,837	27.1
Social services	3,106	8.6
Protection of persons and property	1,418	3.9
Transportation	1,351	3.7
Natural resources & economic development	1,566	4.3
Other	1,335	3.7
Contingencies	399	1.1
General government	668	1.8
Interest	2,345	6.5
Total Expenditure	36,240	100.0

Source: *BC Budget, Budget and Fiscal Plan 2007/08*

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Government Revenue by Source 2007/08 Budget Estimate

Source	\$Millions	Percent
Taxation	17,671	47.3
Natural resources	4,628	12.4
Other revenue	7,045	18.8
Federal government contributions	5,543	14.8
Taxpayer-supported programs And agencies	34,887	93.4
Commercial Crown corporations	2,503	6.7
Total Revenue	37,390	100.0

Source: BC Budget, Budget and Fiscal Plan 2007/08

Local and Regional Government

Local governments in B.C. consist of incorporated municipalities, regional districts, school districts, regional hospital districts and special purpose improvement districts.

Incorporated municipalities—cities, districts, towns and villages—provide facilities such as roads, waterworks and sewers, as well as a wide range of social, recreational and protection services. Regional districts provide common services on a shared basis over a large area. Revenue for municipal and regional services is derived mainly from property taxation and grants from the provincial government.

Municipalities by Type—July, 2006

Type	Number
Cities	48
Towns	15
Villages	42
Districts	50
Indian Government District	1
Island Municipality	1
Total Municipalities	157

Source: BC Stats

Population

British Columbia's population of 4.3 million is growing more diverse with an influx of newcomers from other parts of Canada and around the world. B.C. is home to a culturally diverse and geographically dispersed aboriginal population.

General Population Statistics – 2006

Population July 1, 2006 (thousands)	4,310
Compounded Avg. Annual growth rate 2000 to 2005 (%)	1.11
Percent of Canada (July 1, 2006)	13.21
Population per sq. km	4.6
Median age (July 1, 2006)	39.8
Total net migration (000's) July 1, 2005/06	41.7

Source: BC Stats

The age structure of British Columbia is shaped mainly by the postwar baby boom and subsequent drop in birth rates, which has resulted in a bulge in the population of the 42 to 60 year age group.

Population by Selected Age Groups—2006 (thousands)

Age Group	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%
0 to 4	106.2	5.0	100.6	4.6	206.7	4.8
5 to 14	249.0	11.7	234.5	10.8	483.5	11.2
15 to 24	301.1	14.1	286.8	13.2	587.8	13.6
25 to 34	286.3	13.4	285.4	13.1	571.6	13.3
35 to 44	332.4	15.6	337.2	15.5	669.6	15.5
45 to 54	338.1	15.8	345.1	15.9	683.1	15.8
55 to 64	251.1	11.8	255.4	11.8	506.5	11.8
65 to 74	152.8	7.2	158.4	7.3	311.3	7.2
75 +	120.0	5.6	170.3	7.8	290.3	6.7
Totals	2136.9	100.0	2173.6	100.0	4310.5	100.0

Source: BC Stats

Over the past ten years, net migration has accounted for 70 per cent of the province's population growth, with natural increase (births minus deaths) contributing the remaining 30 per cent. The origin of immigrants has changed. Historically, the bulk of the immigrant population came from Europe; more recently, however, Asia has become the predominant source.

Lifestyles range from cosmopolitan in the metropolitan areas of Vancouver and Victoria to rural in the interior regions and along the Pacific coast.

Please visit the BC Stats website for more information on the population of B.C.

Population of Municipalities, 1996–2006
<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estpop.asp>

Components of Population Change
<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp>

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Labour and Income

In 2006 British Columbia's employed workforce consists of almost 2.2 million workers—53 per cent male and 47 per cent female. Most of the work force—79 per cent—is employed in the provision of services, as opposed to 21 per cent employed in the goods-producing sector.

Labour Market Activity

	2004	2005	2006
Labour Force (000's)	2,222	2,263	2,305
Employment (000's)	2,063	2,131	2,196
Unemployment (000's)	159.2	133	110
Participation rate (%)	65.5	65.6	65.7
Unemployment rate (%)	7.2	5.9	4.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2005, 34 per cent (561,000 people) of the province's paid workers were unionized or were covered by a collective agreement or a union contract. The largest unions are Canadian Union of Public Employees, B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union and affiliates, and B.C. Teachers' Federation.

Labour relations in the province are governed by the Labour Relations Code, which encourages the orderly resolution of any labour dispute. The Employment Standards Act regulates conditions of employment including hours of work, payment of wages, minimum wages, annual holidays, maternity benefits and terminations.

WorkSafe BC compensates injured workers for loss of earnings and medical expenses and provides rehabilitation for disabling injuries.

Average After-Tax Income (2005 constant dollars)

Family Type	2003	2004	2005
All family units	47,900	49,300	51,300
Elderly families	44,700	49,600	55,200
Non-elderly families	63,200	64,700	66,800
Married couples	61,400	63,600	66,200
Two-parent families with children	69,900	71,200	72,600
Married couples with other relatives	83,000	83,000	78,600
Lone-parent families	32,200	29,700	36,000
Unattached individuals	26,000	26,600	27,600

Source: Statistics Canada, Income Trends

Employment by Industry (based on NAICS) (thousands)

Industry	2004	2005	2006
Goods-producing	437	453	464
Agriculture	37	39	35
Forestry	22	22	22
Fishing and trapping	3	2	3
Mining	11	14	19
Utilities	9	10	9
Construction	144	168	179
Manufacturing	211	198	198
Services-producing	1,626	1,678	1,732
Trade	316	335	354
Transportation, warehousing	117	119	120
Finance and related	129	133	138
Professional, scientific, technical	146	164	168
Management, admin., support	82	90	99
Education	136	146	156
Health care and social assistance	219	217	232
Information, culture, recreation	115	112	113
Accommodation and food	175	176	171
Other services	94	91	91
Public administration	97	95	91
Total	2,063	2,131	2,196

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Average Weekly Wage Rate (dollars)

Industry	2004	2005	2006
Goods Producing Industries	794	808	836
Agriculture	495	507	489
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil, Gas	1,019	1,047	1,089
Utilities	999	1,056	1,089
Construction	784	779	824
Manufacturing	791	803	827
Service Producing Industries	659	679	698
Trade	522	522	561
Transportation and warehousing	789	839	854
Finance and related	721	733	768
Professional, scientific, technical	841	930	954
Management, admin., support	538	556	545
Education	826	852	848
Health care & social assistance	733	727	749
Information, culture, recreation	668	674	691
Accommodation and food	363	386	375
Other services	577	602	634
Public administration	912	952	990
Industrial Aggregate	687	704	726

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

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Health Care

In 2005/06, the Ministry of Health invested over \$11.4 billion to meet the health needs of British Columbians.

The Medical Services Plan insures medically required services provided by physicians and health care practitioners. The Pharmacare Program subsidizes eligible prescription drugs and designated medical supplies, with access based on families' ability to pay.

Hospitals and diagnostic and treatment centres located throughout the province deliver acute care services. As of 2004/05, there were approximately 8,267 acute care and rehabilitation beds in British Columbia hospitals, providing an estimated 2.39 million acute/rehabilitation patient days per year.

Education

British Columbia government expenditure estimate for education programs in 2005/06 was \$5.1 billion. The Ministry of Education is responsible for primary and secondary education, while the Ministry of Advanced Education is responsible for post-secondary education.

The provincial public school system is a fully funded, universal, non-sectarian system covering all grades from kindergarten to grade 12. Attendance is compulsory for children between 5 and 16 years of age. The system is currently made up of 59 school districts and one Francophone Education Authority. Each district has an elected board of trustees under the School Act.

Schools—September 2006		
Type	# of Schools	Headcount
Public Schools	1,665	587,819
Independent Schools	355	67,885
Total	2,020	665,704

Source: Ministry of Education

British Columbia offers a wide range of post-secondary options for those wanting to study in this province. Over 1,900 programs are offered at 26 public post-secondary institutions.

Six universities offer an array of undergraduate degree programs and a range of programs at the graduate level. Some also offer diplomas and certificates in a variety of professional fields, as well as continuing education programs.

Three university-colleges offer undergraduate and master's degrees, often in specialized subject areas, as well as courses and programs in trades, vocational, and career technical studies leading to certificates and diplomas. They also provide developmental programs that prepare adult learners for post-secondary studies.

12 colleges offer developmental programs that prepare adult learners for post-secondary studies and provide courses and programs in trades, vocational, career technical and academic studies leading to certificates, diplomas, associate degrees and applied degrees.

Five institutes are organized according to career, vocational and technical specialties, covering a variety of occupations. They may offer credentials from certificates to degrees. Two institutes have an aboriginal focus.

BCcampus is a distance and online learning agency and a collaboration of all B.C.'s post-secondary institutions to offer one-stop access to online learning in the province.

University Fall Headcount—2006/07

University of British Columbia	48,293
Simon Fraser University	24,842
University of Victoria	19,372
University of Northern B.C.	3,672
Thompson Rivers University	4,711
Royal Roads University	N/A
Universities	110,890

Source: TUPC Fact & Figures

Post-Secondary Student Headcounts—2005/06

Type of Institution	Enrolment
Colleges	159,335
University-Colleges	65,063
Institutes	79,801
Open Learning Agency	10,010
Total Institutional Headcounts	314,209

Source: Ministry of Advanced Education

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The Economy

Natural resource extraction and processing industries provided the foundation upon which British Columbia's economy was first built, and are still the dominant industries in many rural areas and smaller centres of the province. However, in the larger urban centres, these industries have given way to an increasingly important service sector and some fast-growing manufacturing industries which have no direct connection with natural resources.

A more liberal continental trading environment under the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has encouraged the diversification of the British Columbia economy, as have the low Canadian ex-change rate and a rapidly expanding domestic market and labour pool within the province. These forces have brought with them a greater degree of urbanization, as new manufacturing and service employment is being created in urban centres faster than forestry, mining, fishing or agricultural jobs are becoming available in the rest of the province.

This diversification indicates that British Columbia's economy is maturing into a more broadly based structure that is less vulnerable to changes in international markets for natural resource commodities. However, the process still has a long way to go before the economy can be considered fully diversified. Half of the province's goods production is still based on the extraction or processing of agriculture, fishing, forestry or mining products.

Despite a shift to other types of products, wood, pulp and paper production continue to dominate the province's manufacturing sector. Lumber, natural gas and coal are the province's three main exports, but there has been a considerable diversification of the export mix. In 2006, agriculture, fishing, forestry and mining products accounted for 78 per cent of total exports.

Gross Domestic Product at Chained 1997 Prices—2006

	\$Millions	%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	5,287	3.9
Crop and Animal Production	1,033	0.8
Forestry and Logging	3,846	2.8
Fishing, Hunting and Trapping	99	0.1
Support Activities for Agr. & Forest	424	0.3
Mining, and Oil and Gas Extraction	3,514	2.6
Utilities	2,560	1.9
Construction	8,758	6.4
Manufacturing	15,031	11.0
Food Manufacturing	1,483	1.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	4,701	3.5
Pulp and Paper Manufacturing	1,471	1.1
Primary & Fabricated Metal Mfg.	1,963	1.4
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	965	0.7
Wholesale Trade	7,853	5.8
Retail Trade	8,562	6.3
Transportation and Warehousing	8,944	6.6
Information and Cultural Industries	5,969	4.4
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	31,006	22.8
Professional, Scientific, Technical	5,482	4.0
Administrative and Waste Mgt	2,564	1.9
Educational Services	6,341	4.7
Health Care and Social Assistance	8,403	6.2
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,419	1.0
Accommodation and Food Services	4,035	3.0
Other Services	3,755	2.8
Public Administration	6,961	5.1
All Industries	136,050	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada

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Forestry

Approximately 49.9 million hectares are considered productive forest land, of which 48.0 million hectares are provincial Crown land managed by the Ministry of Forests. About 96 per cent of the forested land is coniferous, giving British Columbia approximately half of the national softwood inventory.

British Columbia's topography and climate divides the province into two distinct forest regions: the coast and interior. Coastal forests contain more hemlock than any other species, while lodgepole pine and spruce are the major interior species.

In 2006, the timber scaled was 80.3 million tonnes. Coastal forests provided 30 per cent of the harvest while 70 per cent came from the interior.

Softwood (coniferous) products such as lumber, pulp, newsprint, paper products and shingles and shakes are in demand throughout the world.

Timber Scaled by Species—2006 (million tonnes)

Species	Volume	Percent
Lodgepole pine	36.7	45.6
Douglas fir	9.9	12.3
Spruce	11.8	14.7
Hemlock	7.4	9.2
Cedar	5.4	6.7
Balsam	4.9	6.1
Other species	4.4	5.5
Total Scaled Harvest	80.5	100.0

Source: *Min. of Forests, BC Financial & Economic Review*

Forest Products Exports—2006

Commodity	\$Millions	Percent
Lumber (softwood)	5,849	43.1
Pulp	2,887	21.3
Paper and paperboard	1,133	8.4
Selected value-added wood products	855	6.3
Other panel products	701	5.2
Newsprint	603	4.4
Plywood and veneer (softwood)	400	2.9
Cedar shakes and shingles	253	1.9
Other	886	6.5
Total Forest Product Exports	13,568	100.0

Source: *BC Origin Exports, BC Stats & Statistics Canada*

Output of Forest-based Products—2006

Product	Quantity
Lumber (million cubic metres)	4.1
Plywood (million cubic metres)	1.8
Pulp (million tonnes)	4.7
Newsprint, paper and paperboard (million tonnes)	3.0

Source: *Canada Pulp & Paper Assoc. and Statistics Canada*

British Columbia's forest industries recorded factory shipments of \$15.1 billion in 2006, or 36 per cent of total provincial manufacturing shipments.

The provincial government owns more than 90 per cent of the province's forest land. For management purposes, the forest resource is divided into units known as timber supply areas and tree farm licences. Timber harvesting in these units is delegated to private operators under a variety of licensing agreements.

Non-timber uses of British Columbia's forest lands, such as for range and grazing, recreation, watershed protection, wildlife habitat and visual enjoyment, are part of a continuing emphasis by the provincial government on integrated resources management.

Recreational use of forest and wilderness area is an important component of the tourism industry. Forest land generates revenue from cattle-grazing and community watershed fees, and from licences for guiding, outfitting, hunting and fishing, while government recreation and silviculture programs create employment opportunities.

Mining

Most of British Columbia lies within the Western Cordillera, a geological formation known to contain a wide variety of valuable minerals. Over the past three decades, mineral products production, including oil and natural gas, have significantly increased due to technological advances in exploration and mining and new domestic and foreign markets.

During 2006, the value of mineral production in British Columbia was \$5.6 billion. Coal, which is mined in the northeastern and southeastern regions, was valued at \$1.7 billion. In 2005 natural gas production, from the northeastern part of the province, was worth \$8.9 billion.

Copper, which is mined in the interior and on Vancouver Island, was the most valuable metal, followed by gold and zinc.

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Mineral Production 2006 (preliminary estimate)

Metals	Units	Shipments (Millions)	\$Millions
Gold	Kilograms	15,594	339
Silver	Tonnes	356	147
Copper	Tonnes	292,276	2,262
Lead	Tonnes	2,605	4
Zinc	Tonnes	32,858	115
Molybdenum	Tonnes	7,042	n/a
Others			678
Total Metals			3,298
Total Non Metals			673
Fuel			
Coal	Kilo tonnes	21,180	1,650
Total Solid Minerals			5,620

Source: Natural Resources Canada; Mineral Production

Oil and Gas 2005 (preliminary)

	Units	Shipments	\$Millions
Oil	m3	1,697,507	667
Natural Gas	m3	27,163,807,700	5,827
By-products (no sulphur)	m3	1,403,829	456
Gas by-product (sulphur)	103 t	791	N/A
Total Oil and Gas			8,896

Source: Ministry of Energy and Mines, Oil and Gas Statistics

Tourism

British Columbia's scenic attractions, combined with its clean, safe image, serve to make it an attractive destination for Canadian as well as international tourists.

In addition, there are a wide variety of urban and cultural attractions, ranging from the performing and visual arts, to professional sports, amusement parks and shopping.

Tourism is a major part of the provincial economy. During 2005, \$9.7 billion was spent by 22.8 million overnight visitors traveling in the province.

British Columbia's national, provincial, regional and local parks provide a spectrum of natural beauty, breathtaking scenery and opportunities for outdoor enjoyment and recreation.

Tourism Revenue and Overnight Visitors—2005

Origin	Revenue		Visitors	
	\$Millions	% Chg 2004-05	000's	% Chg 2004-05
North America				
Canadian	2,852	4.1%	4,864	2.6%
US	2,347	-2.0%	4,828	-3.4%
Mexico	65	14.0%	88	12.3%
Overseas				
Asia Pacific	997	0.0%	880	2.4%
Europe	716	9.6%	668	8.4%
Other overseas	76	7.9%	141	6.3%
Non-Residents	7,052	2.6%	11,468	0.4%
British Columbians				
	2,734	4.5%	11,418	3.0%
Total Visitors	9,786	3.1%	22,886	1.7%

Source: Toursim BC 2005, Preliminary Estimate

The 893 protected areas (provincial parks, ecological reserves, recreation areas and other protected areas), covering over 13.09 million hectares, are diverse in their features and facilities. There are more than 340 campgrounds, 11,125 campsites, 263 day-use areas and 7,000 km of hiking trails within the provincial parks.

Nearly one-tenth of the province's parks are wilderness, largely untouched and frequented mostly by back-packers and mountaineers. Inland and coastal waters are dotted with marine parks intended primarily for water-borne users.

The abundance and variety of wildlife in British Columbia reflect the great diversity of the province's environment. There are more species in total, and more unique species of birds and mammals than in any other Canadian province.

In British Columbia, the salt and fresh water resources of the province provide both recreational and tourism opportunities for such activities as sport fishing, boating, sailing and wildlife viewing.

Agriculture

Agriculture in British Columbia is characterized by its diversity. Some of the activities carried out by provincial farmers include: dairy farming, cattle-ranching, poultry-raising, and the growing of grain, tree fruits, vegetables, berries, grapes, greenhouse vegetables, mushrooms, bulbs, ornamental flowers and shrubs.

Only three per cent of the total provincial land area is considered arable or potentially arable. Farm holdings

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(20,290 in 2001) cover 2.6 million hectares with an average size of 127 hectares.

However, farm size varies by type of activity, from thousands of hectares in grain or ranching enterprises, to less than five hectares in mushroom, greenhouse and poultry businesses.

Food processing in British Columbia is largely confined to the Vancouver area, Fraser Valley, Okanagan Valley and southern Vancouver Island. The estimated value of food and beverage production in 2006 was \$6.7 billion.

Farm cash receipts were an estimated \$2.3 billion in 2006, led by floriculture and nursery products valued at \$402 million, dairy products and vegetable valued at \$395 million.

Agricultural Production—2006

Product	\$Millions	Percent
Dairy products	395	17.0
Poultry and eggs	359	15.5
Other livestock products	395	17.0
Livestock and Products	1,150	49.5
Floriculture and nursery	402	17.3
Vegetables, including potatoes	395	17.0
Fruits	212	9.1
Other crops	60	2.6
Crops	1,069	46.0
Other Receipts	105	4.5
Total Farm Cash Receipts	2,324	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada

Fisheries

More than 90 species of finfish, shellfish and marine plants are grown, harvested and marketed by B.C.'s seafood industry. The industry is highly cyclical. Landings vary with fluctuations in stocks of individual species.

In 2005, the landed value of the seafood harvest was \$700 million, while the processed (wholesale) value of these products reached \$1.2 billion. Salmon, derived from both wild and farmed sources, generated 49% of the wholesale value of seafood products, followed by shellfish, groundfish and halibut.

Fishery Statistics - 2005 (estimate)

Species	Wholesale Value	
	\$ millions	Percent
Wild salmon	212.0	17.6
Farmed salmon	371.1	30.9
Shellfish	210.4	17.5
Groundfish	188.4	15.7
Halibut	97.0	7.1
Herring	85.8	8.1
Tuna	30.0	2.5
Other	7.0	0.6
Total Wholesale Value	1,201.7	100.0
Total Landed Value	700.0	

Source: 2005 BC Seafood Industry Review, Min. of Environment

The seafood industry operates all along the provincial coast. The major concentrations of the province's 230 processing operations are in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Prince Rupert areas.

Oceanographic conditions along the province's coastline create an ideal setting for the cultivation of marine plants, shellfish and fish, primarily farmed salmon. The total farmgate value of aquaculture production was \$338.4 million in 2005.

Transportation

British Columbia's large highway network provides all-weather access to most regions of the province. This network supports the efficient movement of resource products and opens up the province to residents and tourists.

Licensed Motor Vehicles (thousands)

	2004	2004	2006
Passenger	1,871	1,918	1,947
Commercial	603	617	639

Source: Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

British Columbia has several ice-free ports. Vancouver is the province's major seaport and the largest dry cargo port on the North American Pacific coast. Most international shipping is handled by Vancouver, Prince Rupert and ports on the Fraser River. Other deep-sea ports include Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Campbell River, Powell River, Kitimat, Stewart and Squamish.

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Port of Vancouver - Shipping Statistics

Cargo Handled (million tonnes)	2004	2005	2006
Bulk	56.2	58.7	58.6
General cargo (breakbulk)	3.3	3.4	3.2
Containers	14.1	14.4	17.6
Total Cargo (tonnage)	73.6	76.5	79.4
Cruise Passengers (000's)	930	910	837

Source: Vancouver Port Authority

BC Ferries operates one of the largest ferry systems in the world. The fleet consists of 36 vessels serving up to 47 ports of call between the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and other coastal points. In 2005/06, it carried almost 22 million passengers and over 8 million vehicles.

The provincial railways are operated by VIA Rail Canada, BC Railway Company and CN Rail. Amtrak runs between Seattle, Washington and Vancouver. The SkyTrain, a light rail rapid-transit system, and West Coast Express provide commuter rail services in the Greater Vancouver area.

Local, regional and national air carriers operating throughout British Columbia provide scheduled and charter services to domestic and foreign destinations. They use a network of more than 150 land-based airports, water-based facilities and heliports.

Vancouver International Airport Enplaned & Deplaned Passengers (thousands)

	2004	2005	2006
Domestic	7,986	8,348	8,712
Transborder (U.S.)	3,965	4,106	4,257
International	3,775	3,965	3,959
Total Passengers	15,726	16,419	16,929

Source: Vancouver International Airport Authority

Victoria International Airport Enplaned & Deplaned Passengers (thousands)

	2004	2005	2006
Domestic	1,102	1,172	1,246
Transborder (U.S.)	143	133	125
International	6	13	19
Total Passengers	1,250	1,318	1,390

Source: Victoria International Airport Authority

Major domestic and international service is provided through by Air Canada and WestJet. International and transborder flights are provided through Vancouver International Airport by 85 foreign and domestic airlines. In 2006, 16.9 million passengers arrived at or departed from the airport.

Manufacturing

The province's manufacturing industries are largely resource-based, with a major emphasis on forest products, food, refined petroleum products and metal products.

In 2006, the manufacturing sector had shipments valued at \$42 billion and employed 197,500 persons.

Manufacturing Shipments by Industry—2006

Industry	\$Millions	Percent
Wood	9,378	22.3
Paper	5,673	13.5
Food	5,653	13.4
Primary metal	3,258	7.7
Fabricated metal products	2,307	5.5
Machinery	2,303	5.5
Plastics and rubber	1,401	3.3
Computer and electronic products	1,396	3.3
Chemicals	1,313	3.1
Transportation equipment	1,207	2.9
Beverages	1,056	2.5
Furniture and related	1,020	2.4
Printing and related	874	2.1
Other	5,211	12.4
Total	42,049	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada

Because domestic markets are limited, manufacturers must look to export markets in order to prosper. Manufacturing sectors that are cost competitive with the United States include chemicals, clothing, furniture, machinery, metal fabricating and plastics. In addition, many manufacturers are also establishing markets in Europe and the Pacific Rim.

High Technology Sector

The high technology sector includes a variety of manufacturing industries, such as electronics, telecommunications equipment and pharmaceutical industries, as well as services such as those provided by engineering and computer service firms.

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This sector employed 70,490 people in British Columbia in 2005, with 80 per cent providing high tech services and the remainder working in manufacturing. In 2005 high tech gross domestic product grew 2.4% from the level achieved in 2004, to over \$8.7 billion (1997 constant dollars). This accounted for approximately 5.1% of British Columbia's overall economic output in 2005.

Retail Trade

The value of retail trade in British Columbia reached almost \$53.1 billion in 2006. On a per capita basis, retail sales in the province were \$12,340 compared to the Canadian average of \$12,010 per person.

Retail Trade—2006

Trade Group	\$Millions	%
New car dealers	9,408	17.7
Supermarkets	9,273	17.5
Gasoline stations	5,965	11.2
Pharmacies & personal care stores	3,035	5.7
Home centres & hardware stores	2,733	5.1
Beer, wine & liquor stores	2,632	5.0
Clothing stores	2,268	4.3
Used & recreational vehicle & parts dealer	2,037	3.8
Home electronics and appliance stores	1,886	3.6
Sporting goods, hobby, music & book stores	1,741	3.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	1,481	2.8
Furniture stores	1,206	2.3
Convenience & specialty food stores	1,022	1.9
Home furnishings stores	893	1.7
Specialized building materials & garden stores	827	1.6
Shoe, clothing accessories & jewellery stores	705	1.3
Computer & software stores	226	0.4
Department stores	NA	
Other general merchandise stores	NA	
Total, all trade groups	53,113	

Source: Statistics Canada

Metropolitan Vancouver is the major trading area in British Columbia, and accounts for one-half of total provincial retail sales. The second largest market area is Greater Victoria; the Kelowna, Kamloops and Nanaimo areas are also major retailing centres.

Energy

The province has a diverse and abundant energy resource base and is self-sufficient in all energy sources except oil.

Most of the province's oil supply is imported, mainly from Alberta, but these imports are more than offset by exports of coal, natural gas and electricity, making British Columbia a net exporter of energy.

The northeastern part of the province is an extension of the Great Plains region, and the only sedimentary basin in British Columbia that is currently producing oil and gas.

Canada has one-quarter of the world's fresh water supply, one-third of which is located in British Columbia. This has led to the development of an extensive hydroelectric generation system. The availability of competitively priced electrical energy continues to be a strong incentive for new energy-intensive industries to locate in B.C.

Most electric power consumers are supplied by the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, a provincial Crown Corporation.

Electric Power Generation	2005	2006
Generation	Gigawatts	
Hydro	60,605	66,132
Other	7,207	8,480
Total Generation	67,811	74,613
Receipts from:		
Other provinces	953	632
United States	6,274	13,611
Total Receipts	7,226	14,244
Deliveries to:		
Other provinces	989	1130
United States	8,259	6,336
Total Deliveries	9,247	7,467
Total Electricity Available	65,790	81,390

Source: Statistics Canada

Quick Facts About British Columbia

Statistical Appendix

Capital Expenditures by Sector, 2006 (Preliminary) and 2007 (Intentions)

Sector	\$Millions		%
	2005	2006	
Housing	12,975	13,347	34.4
Mining, oil and gas extraction	5,085	4,365	11.3
Public Administration	3,120	3,197	8.3
Transportation and warehousing	2,694	3,114	8.0
Utilities	1,674	2,126	5.5
Real estate, rental and leasing	2,100	2,154	5.6
Manufacturing	1,472	1,804	4.7
Finance and insurance	1,497	1,568	4.0
Retail trade	1,117	1,070	2.8
Educational service	1,079	963	2.5
Information and cultural industries	984	951	2.5
Health care and social assistance	935	883	2.3
Construction	465	507	1.3
Wholesale trade	549	480	1.2
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting	394	402	1.0
Accommodation & food services	661	n.a.	n.a.
Professional, scientific, technical serv.	282	288	0.7
Arts, entertainment, recreation	168	n.a.	n.a.
Admin support, waste management	127	135	0.3
Other services	172	133	0.3
Mgmt of companies, enterprises	32	29	0.1
Total	37,576	38,748	100.0
Private Investment	30,519	30,559	78.9
Public Investment	7,057	8,189	21.1

Source: Statistics Canada

Building Permits—2006 (Preliminary)

Urban Area	\$Millions	Percent
Greater Vancouver RD	6,609	57.3
Capital RD	780	6.8
Kelowna, C	400	3.5
Abbotsford, C	320	2.8
Nanaimo, C	218	1.9
Chilliwack, C	208	1.8
Kamloops, C	201	1.7
Victoria, C	188	1.6
Port Moody, C	179	1.6
Coquitlam, C	178	1.5
Vernon, C	167	1.4
Central Okanagan, RDR	141	1.2
Penticton, C	137	1.2
Fort St. John, C	136	1.2
Langford, C	128	1.1
Campbell River, DM	116	1.0
Other Areas	1,435	12.4
Total Building Permits	11,541	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Produced by BC Stats

External Trade (Imports*), Top 10 Countries 2006—Imports Through B.C. Ports*

United States (U.S.)	15,497	39.9
China	8,540	22.0
Japan	5,120	13.2
Korea, South	1,658	4.3
Mexico	994	2.6
Taiwan (Taipei)	863	2.2
Germany	508	1.3
Thailand	442	1.1
Malaysia	437	1.1
Australia	388	1.0
Other countries	4,440	11.4
Total Imports	38,887	100.0

Source: Strategis, Industry Canada

*includes imports destined to other parts of Canada.

External Trade (Exports)—2006

B.C. Origin Exports	\$Millions	Percent
United States	20,358	61.1
Japan	4,706	14.1
People's Republic of China	1,487	4.5
South Korea	1,365	4.1
Taiwan	521	1.6
Germany	447	1.3
United Kingdom	386	1.2
Mexico	185	0.6
Hong Kong	199	0.6
India	346	1.0
Australia	172	0.5
Other countries	3,135	9.4
Total Exports	33,306	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada

Personal Income		British Columbia		Canada
		Personal Income	Personal Income	
Millions of dollars	1996	92,661	687,203	
	2006	139,867	1,087,823	
Millions of chained 1997 dollars	1996	93,977	698,377	
	2005	122,048	936,971	
Personal Income Per Capita				
Dollars	1996	23,917	23,208	
	2006	32,448	33,345	
Chained 1997 dollars	1996	24,257	23,585	
	2006	28,314	28,721	
Disposable Income Per Capita				
Dollars	1996	18,221	17,824	
	2006	25,194	25,624	
Chained 1997 dollars	1996	18,480	18,114	
	2006	21,984	22,070	

Source: Statistics Canada