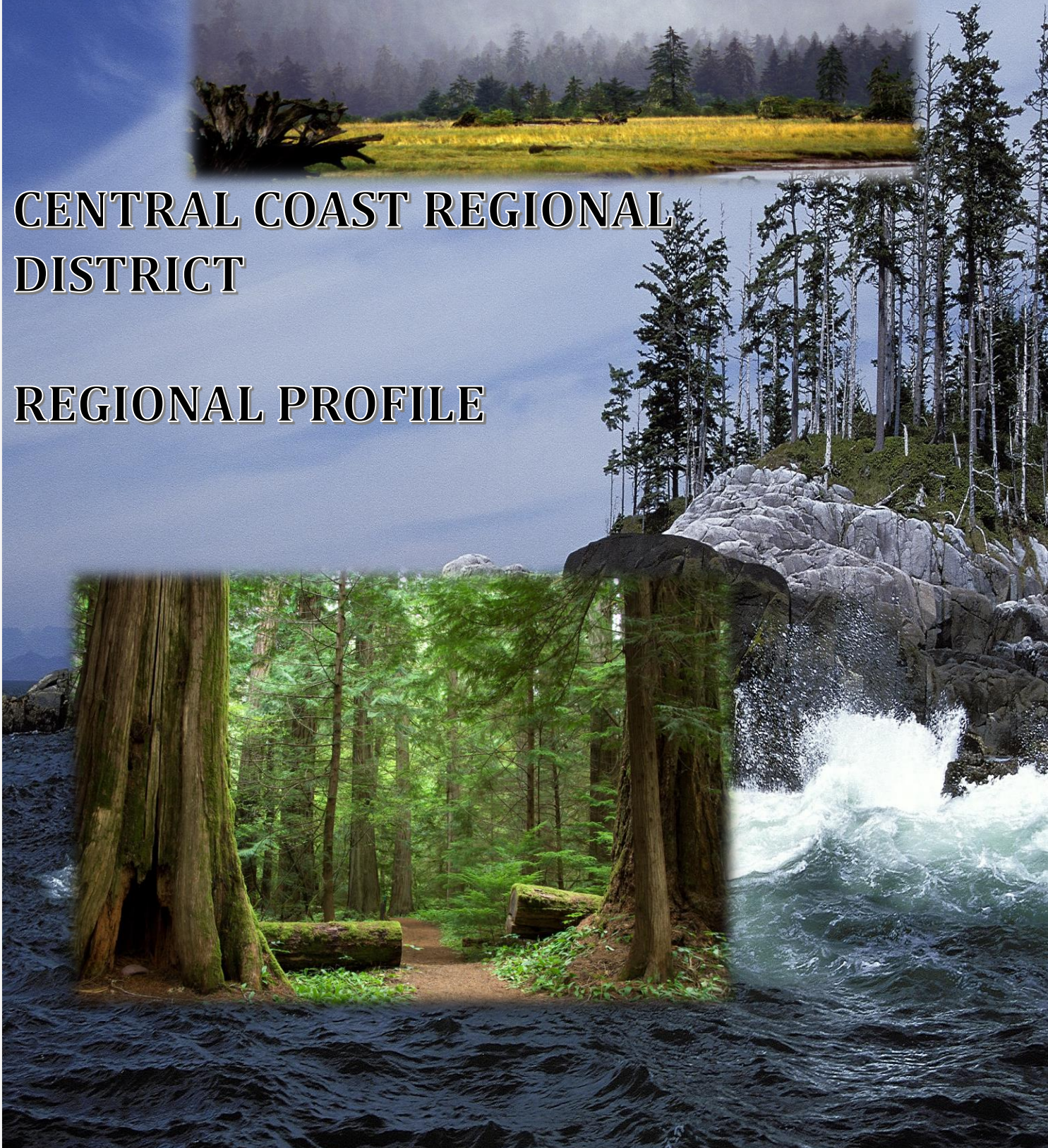




# CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

# REGIONAL PROFILE





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# Central Coast Regional District (CCRD)

## Regional Profile

### Introduction

Located in the heart of the coastal rainforest, British Columbia's Central Coast is a marvel of natural beauty, seclusion and culture. The Central Coast encompasses more than 24,000 square kilometres of misty glacial fjords, ancient cedar forests and soaring alpine peaks that jut from the Pacific Ocean like battlements that guard castle British Columbia.

The Central Coast is home to three First Nations who have lived in the region since time immemorial – the Nuxalk, the Heiltsuk and the Wuikinuxv. The Bella Coola Valley is also home to a settler population, largely of Norwegian descent. The Central Coast is also the only regional district in British Columbia without any incorporated municipalities. The region's boundaries are divided into five electoral areas. Electoral Area A, referred to as the Outer Coast, includes the communities of Ocean Falls, Denny Island, Oweekeno and all points in between. Electoral Area B is located on Campbell Island and is also known as Bella Bella, a community primarily comprised of First Nations residents. Electoral Area C encompasses the eastern portion of the regional district at the upper end of the Bella Coola Valley. Electoral Area D includes the community of Hagensborg in the Bella Coola Valley. Electoral Area E centres on the oceanside town of Bella Coola and contains the majority of commercial activity in the valley.

Some 3,200 people call the Central Coast home. The region is rife with potential for an economy driven by adventure, cultural, and eco-tourism, scale agriculture initiatives, and a retail/service sector. Travellers from all over the world visit the Central Coast to experience its unparalleled sportfishing and heli skiing resorts, as well as pristine natural environment and wildlife viewing that includes grizzly bears, bald eagles, whales and other species common to the area.

The CCRD is a regional government serving a population of less than 4,000 residents. The regional district provides local and regional protective, recreational, environmental and transportation services to area ratepayers.

The regional and community profiles provide detailed information regarding demographics, workforce, transportation, utilities, and services. This collection of information should be used by potential investors and future residents as a tool in the decision making process when looking to expand or establish themselves in the region. Due to the natural geographical distances and differences between our communities, individual community profiles will give an additional glimpse into details about 3 sub-regions and what makes them great in their own way.

*\*Individual community profiles coming soon.*

# Demographics

Statistics for the CCRD indicate that the population is beginning to recover following the near 20% decrease it saw between 1996 and 2006. The region has seen a modest 0.5% increase in population between 2006 and 2011 (when the last census was completed), however, this is well below the 7% provincial population growth average.

Population Growth	1996	2001	2006	2011
CCRD	3,921	3,781	3,189	3,206
British Columbia			4,113,487	4,400,057

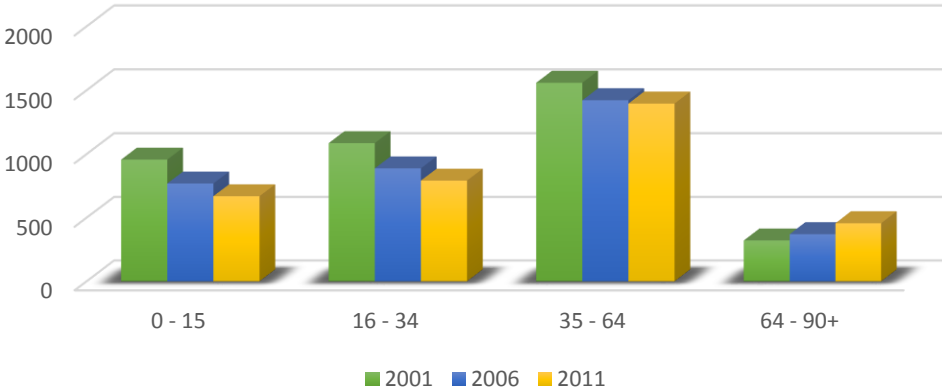
*Government of Canada, National Household Survey (2011)*

## Population Structure

An overview of the structure of the population, based on a 2011 census data:

- 19% of the population fall under the age of 15. (Provincial average: 15%)
- Median age increased to 40 years from 37.5 years (2006). (Provincial average: 42)
- Life expectancy increased to 76 from 71 years (2006). (Provincial average: 82)

### Population Age Trend 2001-2006-2011

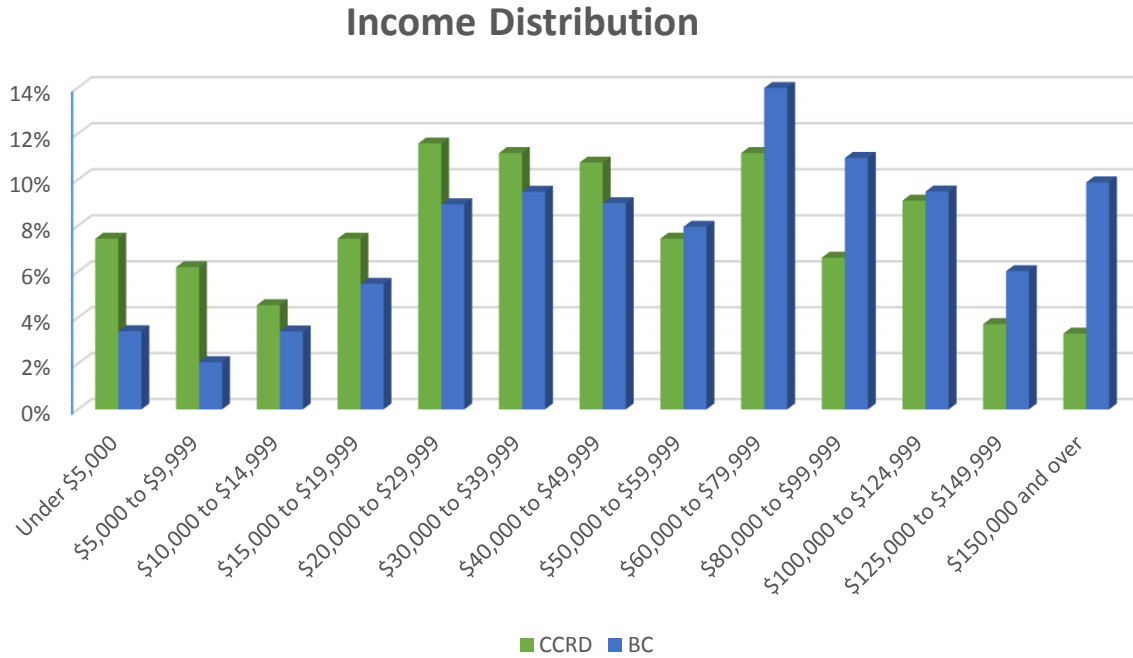


*Government of Canada, National Household Survey (2011)*

Considering the above information and the regions historically high fertility rate, it can be concluded that the low population growth is due to the level at which the CCRD is experiencing outflows of residents to other regions of British Columbia, provinces, and countries. Future growth in the region will most likely be attributed to the high birth rate. Additionally, considering the increase in life expectancy it is can be assumed that the ratio of residents falling in the elderly (64+) category will continue in an increasing trend.

## Household Income

- Since 2005, the median income per household has increased from \$35,000 to \$40,990 (2010). (Provincial median: \$60,333)



*Government of Canada, National Household Survey (2011)*

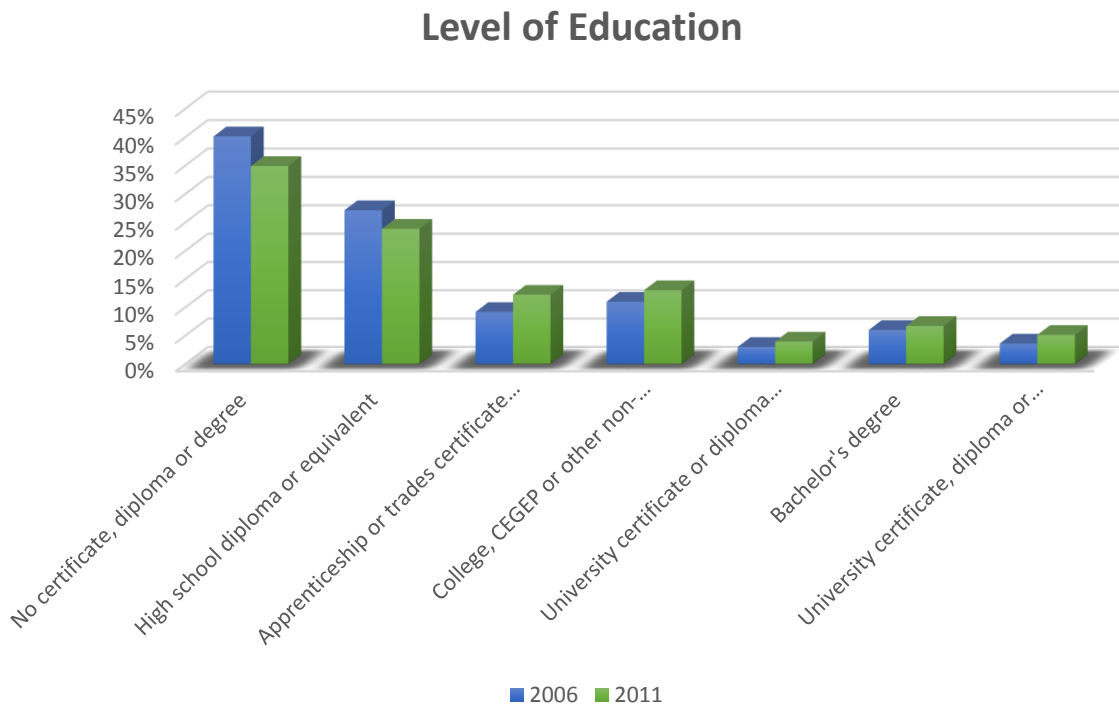
The household income is the sum of the incomes for all members of the household. When compared with provincial norms, the median income does not reflect the disproportionate amount of CCRD households whose total income falls below \$40,000.

## Labour Force

Historically, the region has been dependent on a resource based economy. However, the forestry industry in the region has been steadily declining since the 1990's. With this in mind and the relative stability of the other sectors, it can be concluded that much of the out-migration we see in the population is workers seeking employment in other regions.

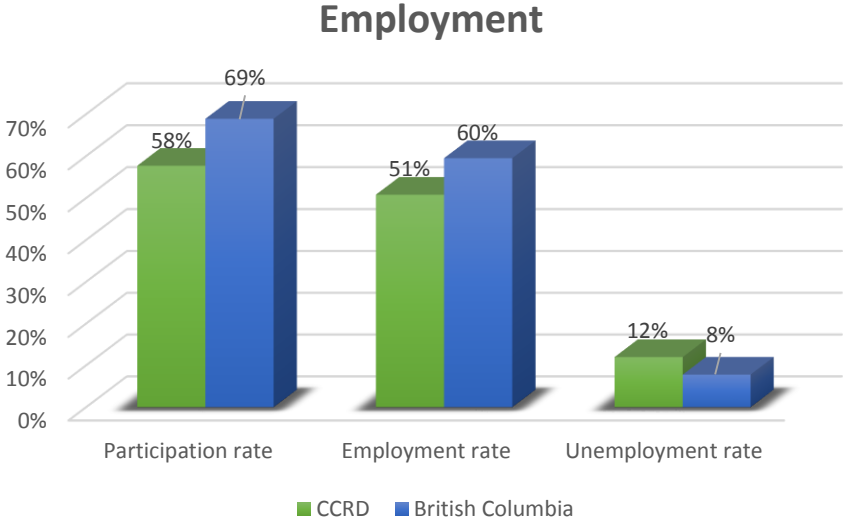
## Education

There was a 5% decrease (from 40% to 35%) in the number of individuals (15 years or older) who hold no certificate, diploma, or degree. Though this is a positive change, the number of individuals who hold no certificate, diploma, or degree is still double that of the provincial average. Since 2006, the region has seen an increase in the number of individuals who are acquiring at least a trades certificate or some post-secondary education.



Government of Canada, National Household Survey (2011)

# Employment

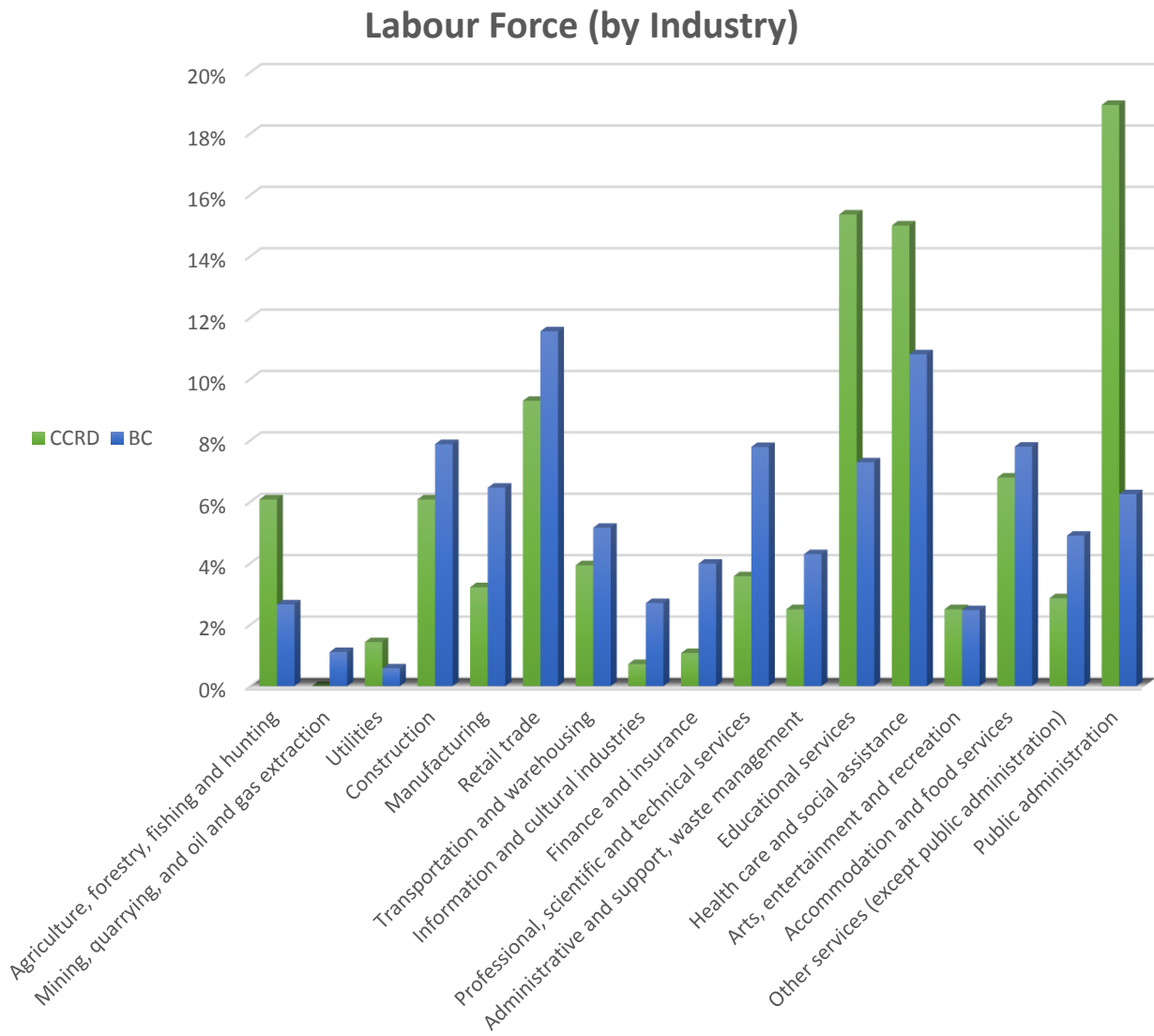


Government of Canada, National Household Survey (2011)

The unemployment rate in the region is 4% higher than that of the province. However, the rate is a marked improvement since the 2006 census which recorded unemployment in the CCRD at 19.6%.

## Industry

Due to the lack of an urban core, employment in the professional, scientific, managerial, and finance industries are underrepresented in the region. The agriculture and forestry sector has been steadily declining since 1996, dropping an additional 8% between 2006 and 2011. The region's largest industries (education, health services, and public administration) make up nearly 50% of the labour force and are projected to increase between 2011 and 2016.

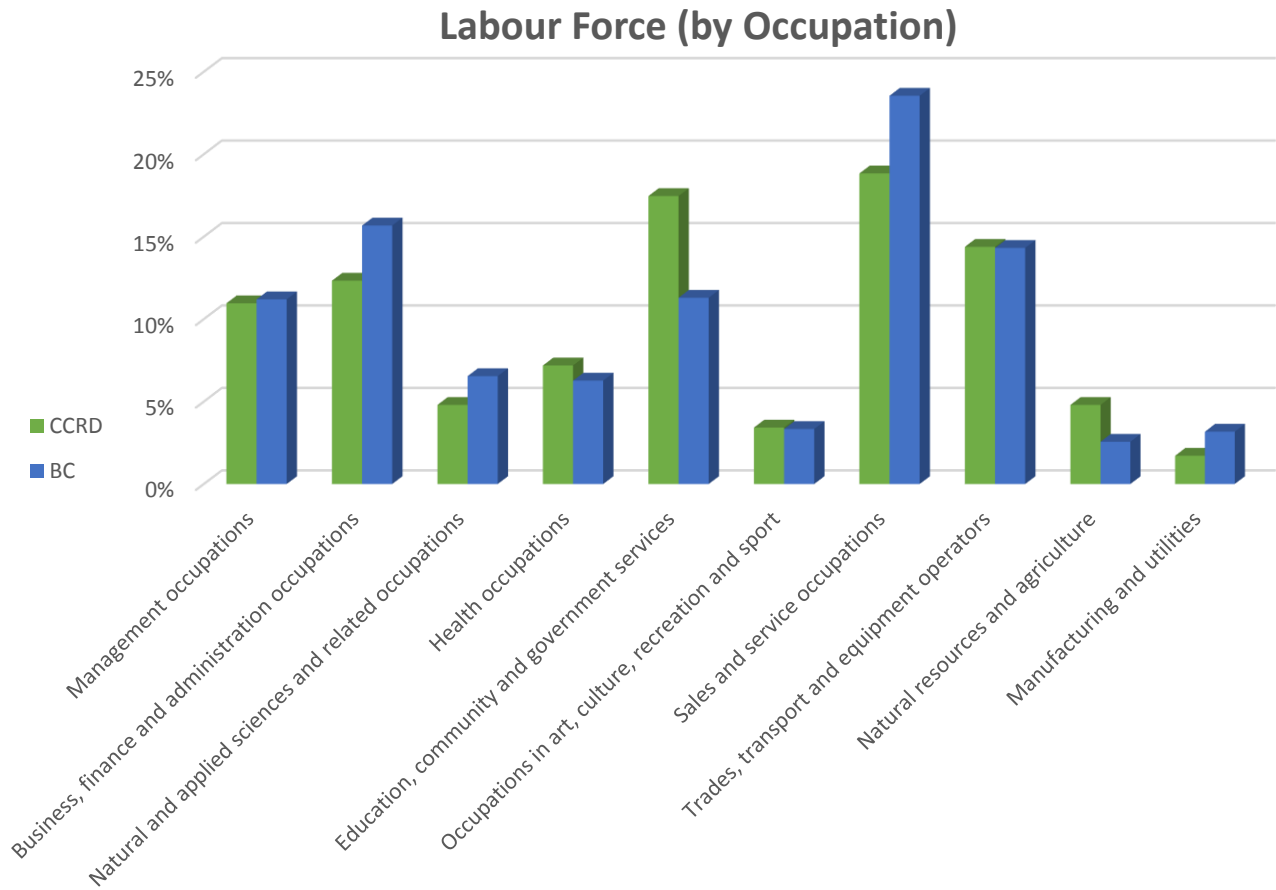


Government of Canada, National Household Survey (2011)



## Occupation

The distribution of labour force by occupation reflects the regional characteristics that were noted in the industry profile above. Relative to provincial norms, employment in government, education, and healthcare are notably higher, while employment in the service and business sector are lower.



Government of Canada, National Household Survey (2011)

## Transportation

The varying geography of the region has created a necessary reliance on multiple forms of transportation. The movement of goods, resources, and people throughout the region often takes a combination of land, sea, and air.

### Land

The Bella Coola Valley is accessible via Highway 20. It is 450 km from Bella Coola to Williams Lake (the nearest community with over 10,000 people). The highway is paved except between Anahim Lake and the base of Heckman's Pass ("The Hill"). Once in the valley, the outer coast communities (Bella Bella, Denny Island, Ocean Falls, and Oweekeno) are accessible via plane or boat.

There is a basic transit system that runs throughout the Bella Coola Valley. For information regarding schedules, fares, and routes please visit [bctransit.com/bella-coola-valley/home](http://bctransit.com/bella-coola-valley/home)

### Sea

The ferry service from Port Hardy stops in Bella Bella where passengers wishing to continue on to Bella Coola, Denny Island, and Ocean Falls can switch to a connecting ferry services. The frequency of the services varies depending on the season. A complete current schedule offered via BC Ferries is available at [www.bcferrries.com/schedules/discovery/](http://www.bcferrries.com/schedules/discovery/)

Management of Bella Coola port facilities/services are performed by the Bella Coola Harbour Authority. Bella Coola Harbour facilities include recreational/commercial moorage, trailer storage, parking, and a boat launch. Some services that are available at the harbour include a fuel station, 20 amp power, non-potable water, toilets, and garbage/waste oil drop.

The Ocean Falls Harbour Authority manages the government dock in Ocean Falls on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Some services and facilities that are available at the government wharf include moorage, hydro, a breakwater, garbage drop, floats, and parking.

### Air

There are 3 regional airports – Bella Bella (CBBC), Bella Coola (CYBD), and the Denny Island aerodrome (CYJQ). With the exception of Bella Bella (which is administered by the Heiltsuk Nation), the airports are managed by the CCRD.

Pacific Coastal Airlines services the region with regular scheduled flights. Chartered flights can be booked through Bella Coola Air Ltd. and Pacific Coastal Airlines. Private helicopter services can be found throughout the region.

For additional information regarding airport specifications and other details please see the CCRD website or contact the CCRD office.

# Services

## Waste Management

Waste management services are administered by the CCRD in the Bella Coola Valley (Electoral Areas C, D, and E). The CCRD manages solid waste through the Thorsen Creek Waste & Recycling Centre. Details regarding acceptable items can be found on the CCRD website.

In the community of Bella Bella solid waste management is administered by the Heiltsuk Nation, Ocean Falls is managed as a function of the Incorporated Ocean Falls Improvement District, and Denny Island is managed through a private company.

*\*Additional information regarding specific solid waste management practices can be found in the community profile.*

## Health

The CCRD falls within the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. There are two hospitals in the region: R.W Large Memorial Hospital in Bella Bella and Bella Coola General Hospital in Bella Coola.

Additional information regarding local facilities can be found at [www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca).

## Fire Protection

Fire protection services in the region are provided based on location. The Heiltsuk Nation and Wuikinuxv Nation provide protection for Bella Bella and Oweekeno respectively, while the Ocean Falls Improvement District provides fire protection for Ocean Falls townsite. A mutual aid agreement has been established by service providers in the Bella Coola Valley such that the Hagensborg and Noosatsum Improvement Districts work with the Nuxalk Nation and Bella Coola Fire Departments to provide electoral areas C, D, and E with fire protection.

## Utilities

Modern utilities are available in all major Central Coast communities. The scope of these services varies depending on location. Natural gas services are not available in the CCRD.

### Water

Water services are offered by the following:

- Hagensborg Waterworks District
- Noosatsum Waterworks District
- CCRD (Bella Coola Townsite)
- Ocean Falls Improvement District
- Heiltsuk Nation

Water on Denny Island is provided privately either through private water license or Shearwater Marine Group.

Due to the boundaries that have been established for water districts in the CCRD, the Bella Coola Valley community profile will show multiple service providers. Additionally, many properties in the region receive their water from private wells.

### Energy

Energy is provided throughout the electoral areas via either diesel generators, hydro-electric power, or a combination of the two.

BC Hydro provides power to the Bella Coola Valley via a combination of hydroelectric power (generated through Clayton Falls) and diesel generators.

Link Lake Dam (Ocean Falls), administered by the Central Coast Power Corporation, provides power to the communities of Denny Island and Ocean Falls.

### Telecommunications

Available to all communities in the CCRD:

- Telus Telephone
- Telus dial-up internet services
- Broadband internet system through Central Coast Communication Society
- Satellite Services (Xplornet/Bell)
- VHF

Availability of cellular reception is dependent on the provider and at times may be intermittent and/or non-existent. Contact your service provider for details.

## Local Support

For additional information, support, or assistance please contact the following:

Tanis Shedden  
Community Economic Development Officer  
Central Coast Regional District  
Box 186, Bella Coola, BC V0T 1C0  
Phone: 250 799-5291  
Fax: 250 799-5750  
[www.ccrd-bc.ca](http://www.ccrd-bc.ca)

