



2009 BC Wage & Salary Survey

BC Stats has released the results of its [2009 BC Wage and Salary Survey](#), produced in partnership with the BC Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development (ALMD). Conducted by Statistics Canada, the survey collected information on wages, hours of work, and skills shortages for the most common occupations across BC.

Establishments having 10 or more employees were selected for the survey, which was designed to target the most common jobs in each of BC's Development Regions.¹ In total, the survey provides information on the 97 most common occupations in BC, and the 30 most common occupations in the Cariboo Development Region.

¹ Average hourly wages in the region's most common occupations ranged from \$11.55 to \$31.69 for full-time employment. The majority of the occupations surveyed were either Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators & Related Occupations, Business, Finance & Administrative Occupations. Jobs related to logging operations and wood processing were also surveyed.

Typically, full-time Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators & Related Occupations paid more in the region than in the province as a whole over the survey period, with the notable exception of mechanical occupations. Full-time Automotive Service Technicians, Truck & Bus Mechanics & Mechanical Repairers in the region tended to earn 15.3% less than their counter-parts elsewhere in the province: the region's Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics earned 4.0% less.

Similar wage variations existed in the other major occupational categories surveyed: some full-time Business Finance & Administrative Occupations tended to pay less in the region, although General Office Clerks, Secretaries and Financial Auditors & Accountants were paid slightly more in the region than in BC as a whole.

Sales Service Occupations were general pay about the same in the region and across the province, with the exception of Janitors, Caretakers and Building Superintendents, who were paid about 13.0% more than their provincial counterparts.²

In the forest industry, occupations related to harvesting in the region tended to pay about 10.7% less than in the province a whole, while occupations in processing paid slightly more (2.3%) than the provincial average. Although Labourers in Wood, Pulp and Paper Processing earned more in the region, the difference was not significant.

There are certain sectors in which fulltime occupations pay more in the region than in the province. However, a variety of occupations pay a relatively lower wage, enhancing the competitiveness of businesses operating in the region. This is also true for Prince George.

Although the city has historically had a higher average labour force income than the province as a whole, other data indicate that with growth in the city's annual income mirroring growth rates in the province over the last five years, there is a trend toward equalization of wages in Prince George and BC as well. The equalization of labour costs complements the many other advantages of the city to improve Prince George's competitive position.

1. Common occupations are those that employed the largest number of persons at the time of the 2006 Census.
2. For this occupation, the data is considered less reliable and should be used with caution.

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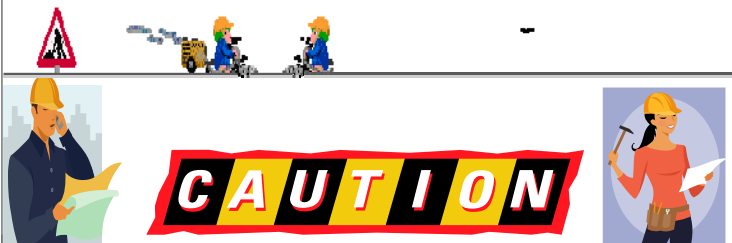
Gold Seal

The Prince George Construction Association would like to congratulate Brad Popoff for obtaining his Gold Seal Certification



Prince George Construction Office

The Prince George Construction office is in the next stages of construction. The Education Office and Classroom are now being utilized. Upstairs is in the early stages of construction, and we ask that everyone be patient with us as we work through the renovation process.





Provincial 2010 Budget Recap

BCCA is pleased to provide some of the details of Budget 2010 recently presented by Finance Minister Colin Hansen.

Overall we believe the government has done an exceptional job of balancing the needs of BC families and those least able to assist themselves while making significant commitments to maintain economic activity in a number of vital sectors of the economy.

We all recognize that government revenue has been sharply reduced over the past months; we should be encouraged with the Ministry of Finance's forecasts which predict the economy to grow by 2.2 per cent in 2010, 2.3 per cent in 2011, and return to more normal growth of 2.8 per cent in the medium term. The upgraded B.C. forecast for 2010 reflects the emerging economic recovery in the U.S. and throughout the world, stabilizing commodity and financial markets, and improved domestic demand in British Columbia. This is all good news for the BC Construction industry.

This government recognizes that a competitive economy requires a modern transportation system to move people and goods efficiently. Budget 2010 allocates \$2.7 billion over three years to the transportation investment plan and leverages an additional \$1.3 billion through federal cost-sharing and other partnerships.

The following are key areas of interest to the Construction Sector:

- *Budget 2010* continues B.C.'s commitment to accelerated infrastructure spending to keep British Columbians working and stimulate the economy. \$5.3 billion has been committed to accelerated infrastructure investments throughout British Columbia.
- This is an increase of \$1.9 billion since the *September Update 2009*. Accelerated infrastructure funding is provided through a number of sources, primarily by the provincial and federal governments, as well as by local governments and other third parties.
- Over the next three years, capital spending on schools, hospitals, roads, hydro-electric projects and other infrastructure in B.C. is expected to total \$20.7 billion. This assumes federal contributions of \$1.5 billion.

It is evident that Minister Hanson and his government have done an exceptional job of balancing the interests of British Columbians with the interest of the engines of BC's Economy including the Construction Sector.

We should all be aware of the changes in government staffing levels that will accrue over the next 3 years. This budget projects the reduction in staffing equal to 3500 full time equivalents. This will be sliced and diced in many different ways; the end result will be fewer people to do the work inside government. This will have an impact on the way the construction industry does business with the provincial government. One such change is the demise of the Homeowners Protection Office. The HPO will be moved into BC Housing Authority and will carry out statutory responsibilities under the *Homeowner Protection Act* as Registrar of builder licensing and owner builder exemptions, and ensures compliance with the Act. Additionally BCHA will monitor and facilitate the performance of the third-party home warranty.

Despite the staffing challenges we can see this government's commitment to maintaining jobs in our industry. Hundreds of accelerated infrastructure projects are now underway across British Columbia as part of the plan to create jobs while building social housing, hospitals, schools, roads and community facilities. \$5.3 billion has been committed to over 850 accelerated capital projects across B.C. to generate and protect approximately 34,000 jobs in the construction sector over the life of the projects.

Government Announces Proposed changes to place of Supply Rules for the HST

The Department of Finance has announced proposed changes to the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) to place of supply rules in the regulations made pursuant to the Excise Tax Act. These rules specify whether, and at what rate, suppliers must charge the provincial component of the HST on their supplies of taxable property and services in Canada. There are also changes proposed to the related rules that, in certain circumstances, require self-assessment or provide for rebates of the provincial component of the HST on property or services where the property or services are brought into a province or are acquired for consumption, use or supply outside that province. To read more go to www.nbcca.bc.ca