



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF
BULKLEY-NECHAKO PROFILE

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Profile

Located in the heart of British Columbia and home to 8 unique municipalities, 7 electoral areas, and 13 First Nations, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) boasts extraordinary natural beauty, vibrant small town culture and exciting business opportunities.

Residents of RDBN enjoy the natural splendor of snow-capped mountains in winter, refreshing lakes and rivers in the summer, abundant and diverse wildlife, a wealth of community events, and all-season recreation create an abundance of activities for the outdoor enthusiast. Quality of life is highly valued; the natural amenities of the region and family values are an integral part of life in the RDBN.

Culture and history are an important part of life in the RDBN, where a strong agricultural heritage and natural resource economy are the foundations of its welcoming, family friendly communities. Cultural experiences enjoyed by residents include charming local museums, inspiring First Nations events and artwork, historic sites, galleries, theatres, and unique small businesses.

The Regional Profile

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) Regional and Community Profiles bring together current and detailed demographic data as well as information about workforce, transportation, energy, utilities, local government and quality of life. The information about the region is intended to inform potential investors, support decisions to establish or expand a business and provide opportunities to future residents. The Community and Surrounding Rural Area profiles provide the complete picture of each Electoral Area, as well as insight into why residents love to work, live and play in the RDBN.

Northern BC is used as a comparative area in many of the profile graphs. In this case, the area of Northern BC is defined as the three northern [federal electoral areas](#) in the province, including Skeena-Bulkley Valley, Cariboo- Prince George, and Prince George-Peace River.

More information about the businesses and organizations listed in this document is available on the RDBN website under *Bulkley-Nechako Directory*. Please use the Bulkley-Nechako Directory by inserting the following website in your browser: directory.rdbn.bc.ca.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in the RDBN and Northern BC, 2001-2011

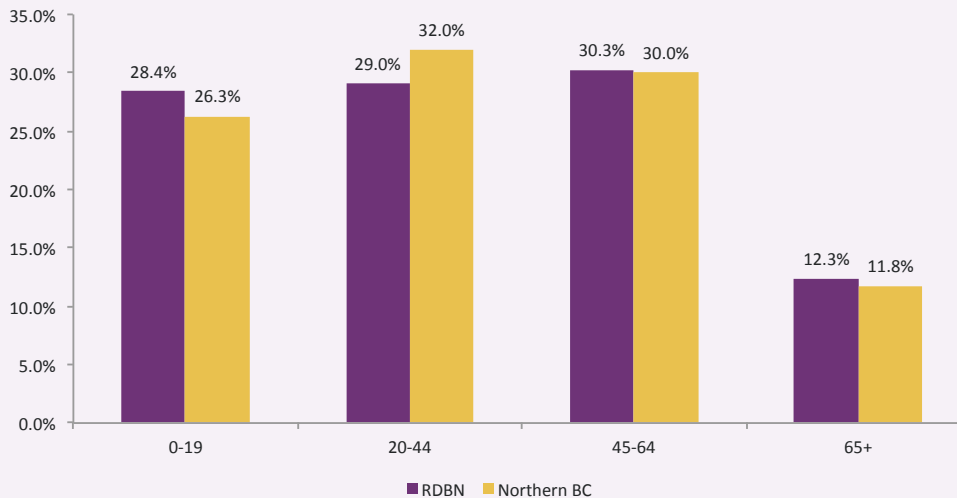
POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	40,856	38,243	39,208
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2001-2011

The population of the RDBN was 39,208 in 2011. From 2001 to 2006 the population of Northern BC decreased by 3.5%, while the RDBN's population decreased by 6.4%. However, the RDBN's population increased by 2.5% from 2006 to 2011, which outpaced the growth rate of 0.1% in Northern BC.

Age Structure

Age structure in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011

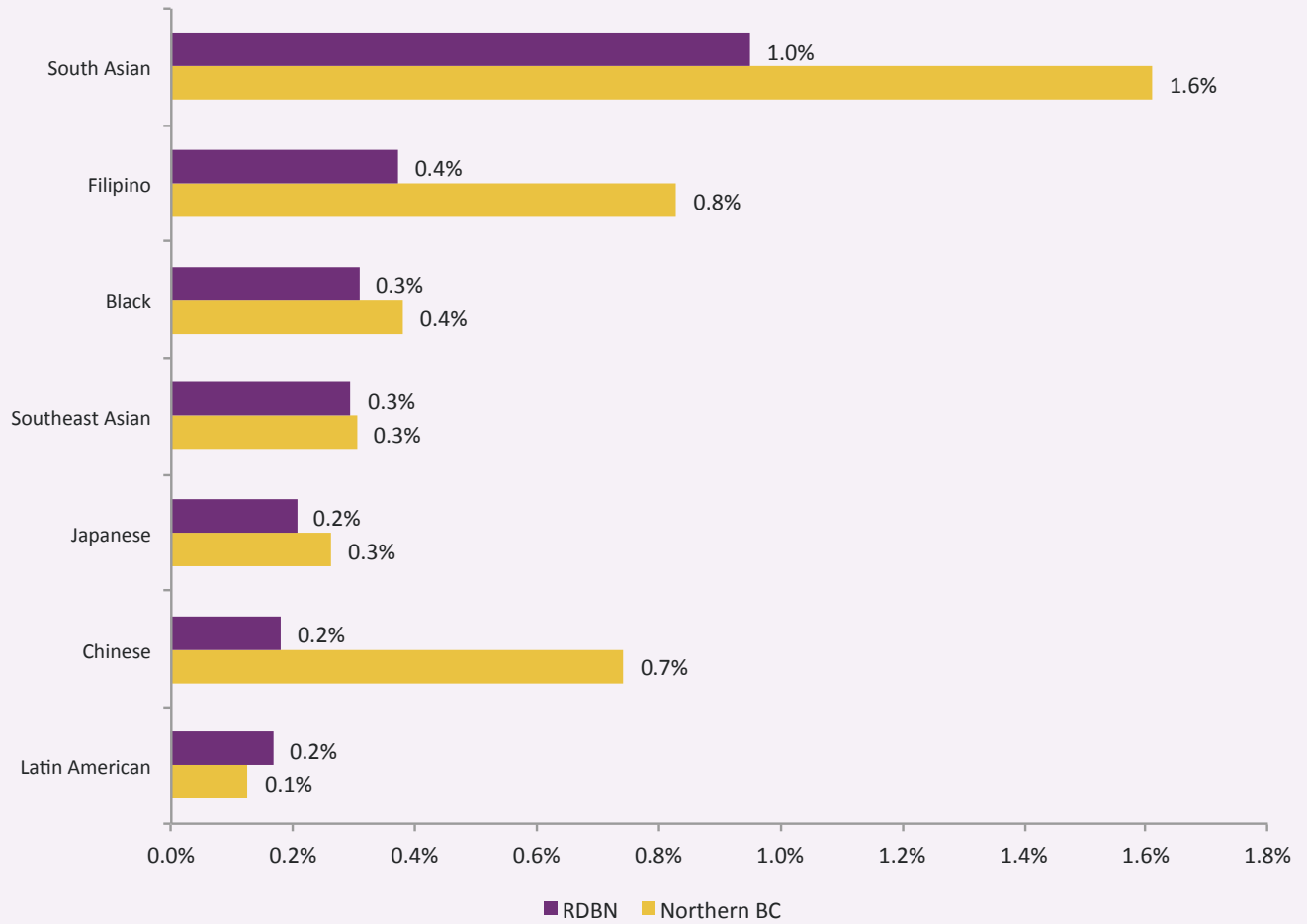


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

Residents of the RDBN and Northern BC had a median age of 39 in 2011. The age structure of the region reveals that the RDBN had a higher youth population (ages 0-19) when compared to Northern BC. A lower portion of the RDBN's population was between the ages of 20-44 as compared to Northern BC.

Ethnic diversity

Visible minority population in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

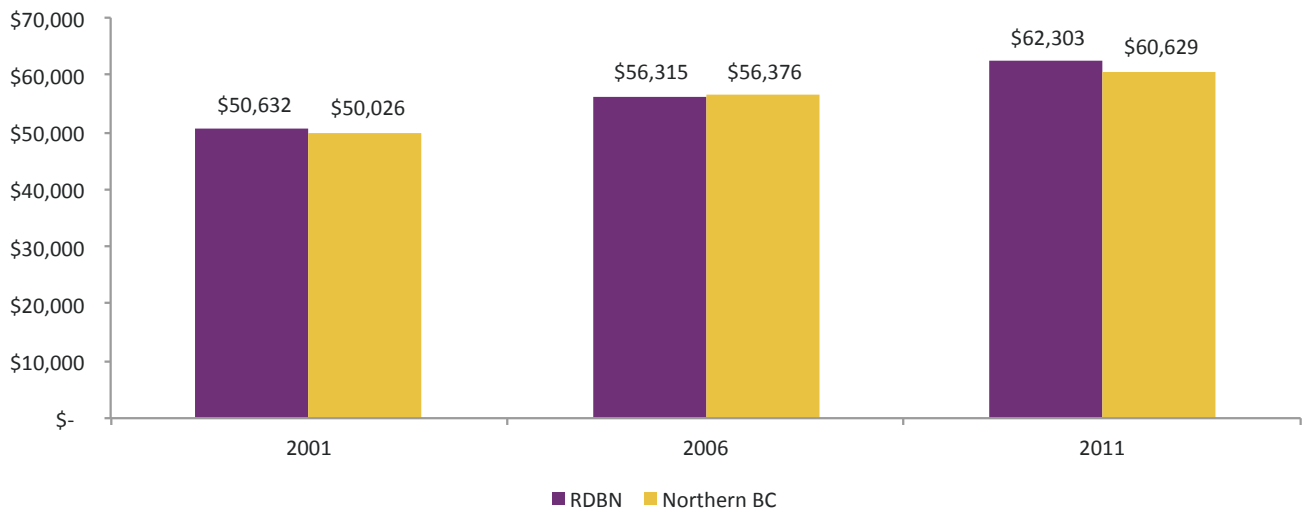
The total visible minority population of the RDBN was 2.5% of its total population, while Northern BC's proportion of visible minorities was higher, at 4.5%. The RDBN and Northern BC had a similar distribution of population amongst visible minority groups in 2011.





Household Income

Median household income in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2001-2011



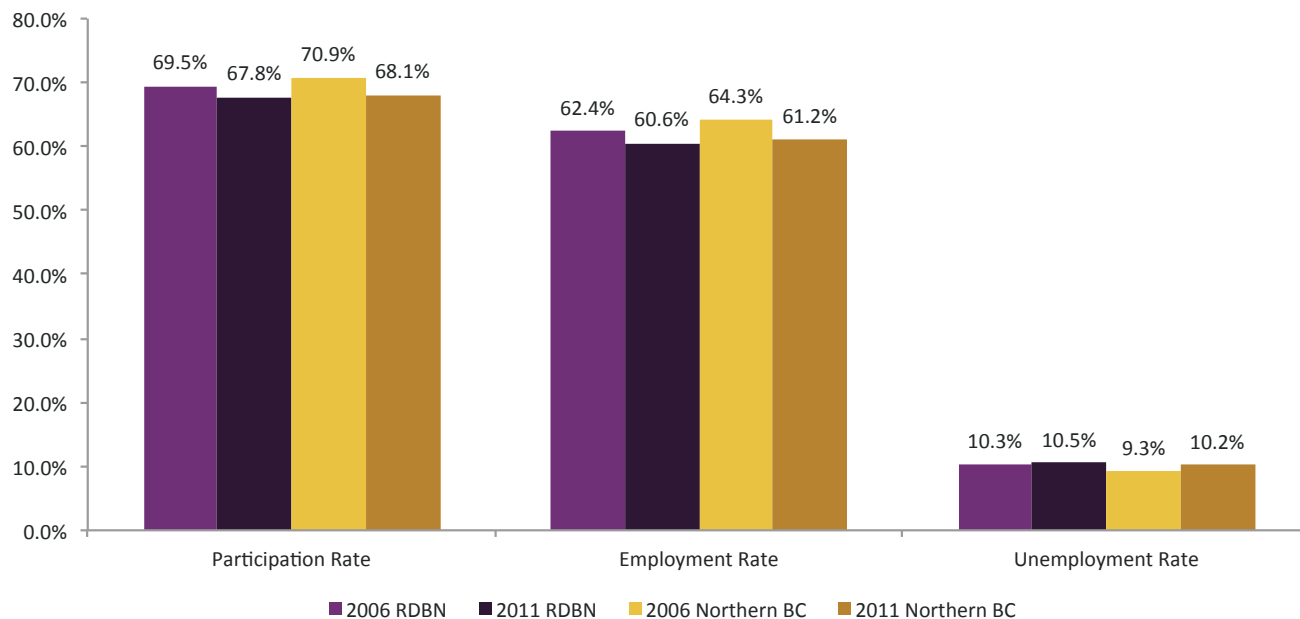
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2001-2006

The median household income in the RDBN has generally been similar to Northern BC with the exception of 2011 where it was slightly higher. The RDBN experienced an 11% increase in household income from 2001-2006, while in Northern BC incomes grew by 13%. From 2006 to 2011, the median household income in the RDBN grew by 11% while in Northern BC it grew by 8%.

WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

Employment data in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006-2011



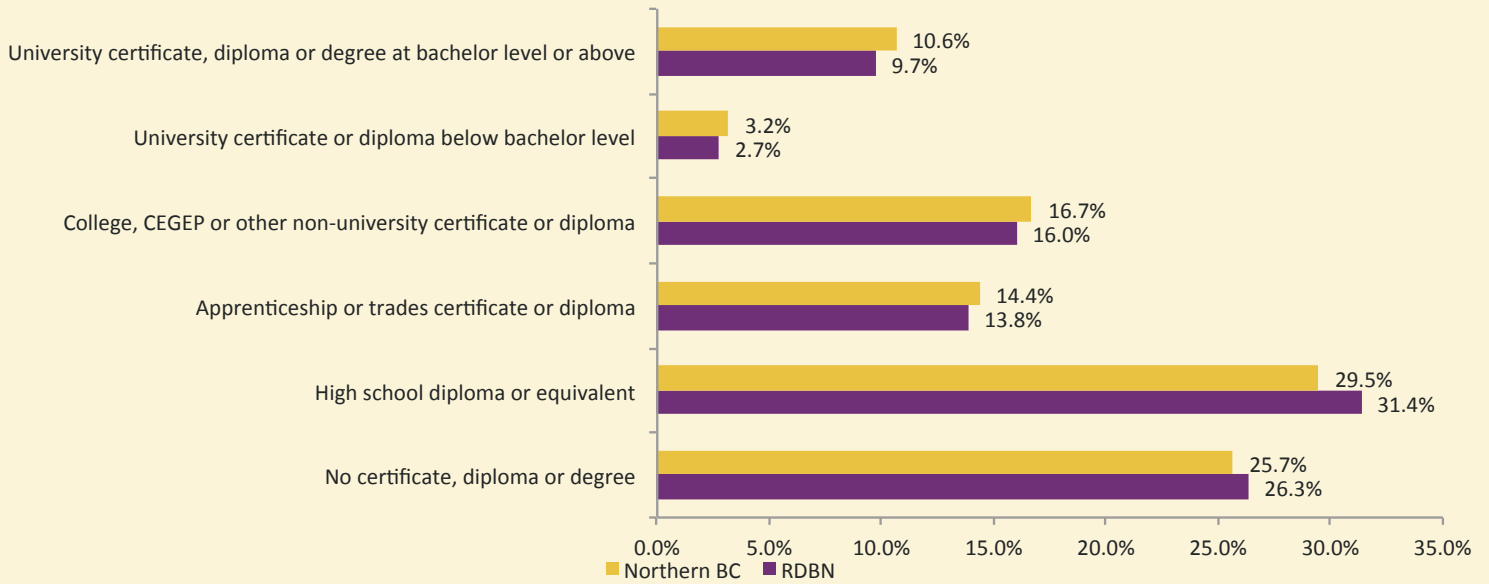
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006

The RDBN had a higher unemployment rate than Northern BC from 2006 to 2011. The unemployment rate in the RDBN remained relatively stable from 2006 to 2011 while in Northern BC the rate increased by 1%.



Education

Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



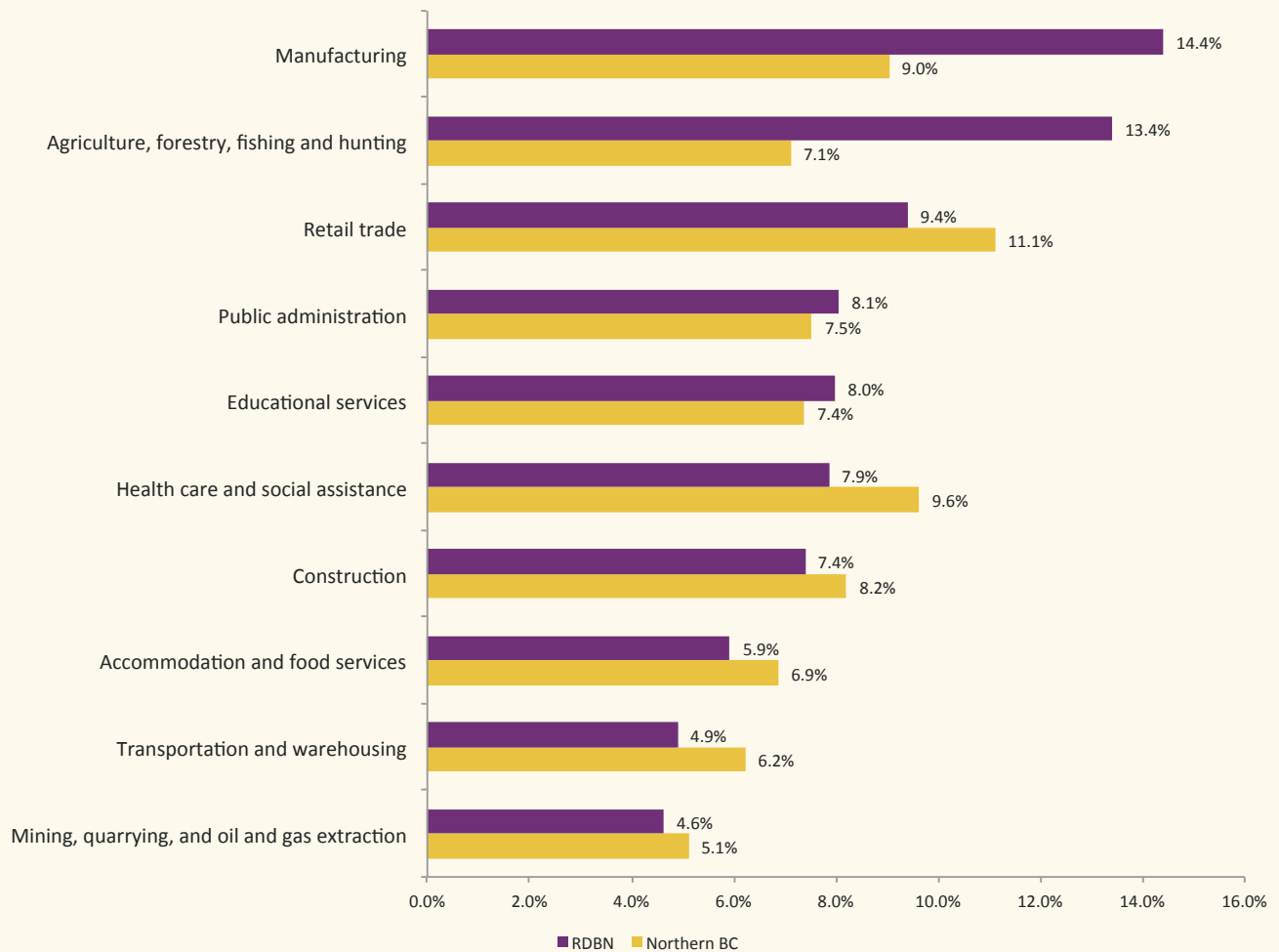
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

The population of Northern BC had a similar level of education as the RDBN in 2011. Although a higher proportion of Northern BC's population held a college or university diploma or degree, or an apprenticeship or trades certification compared to the RDBN, the differences are not substantial.



Labour Force By Industry

Labour force by industry in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

In 2011, the RDBN labour force numbered 20,430 people and the agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and manufacturing sectors were the leading sources of employment. These two major sectors both employed a greater portion of the labour force than is the case across Northern BC.

Some of the major employers in the RDBN include the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	LOCATION
School District No. 91	725	Regional
Thompson Creek Mining – Endako Mines	379	Fraser Lake
Canadian Forest Products - Houston Sawmill	343	Houston
Canadian Forest Products – Plateau Mills	317	Vanderhoof
West Fraser – Fraser Lake Sawmills	300	Fraser Lake
Huckleberry Mine	280	Houston
School District No. 54	270	Smithers
Pacific Inland Resources	240	Regional
Sinclar Group Forest Products	200	Vanderhoof
St John Hospital	200	Vanderhoof
Hampton Affiliates Babine Forest Products	200	Burns Lake
Hy-Tech Diamond Drilling	171	Smithers
Apollo Forest Products	156	Fort St. James
Northern Health	150	Regional
Bulkley Valley Credit Union	100	Regional
College of New Caledonia	100	Burns Lake
DH Manufacturing	100	Houston
Conifex	91	Fort St. James

Post-Secondary Education Facilities

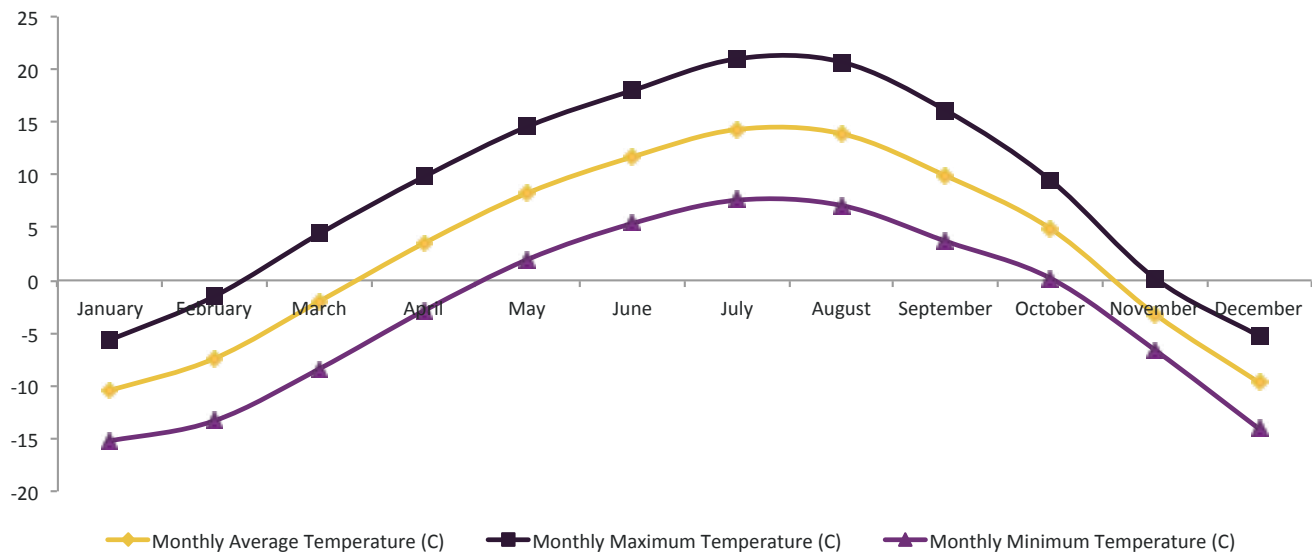
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION	CAMPUS
Northwest Community College	Smithers, Houston
College of New Caledonia	Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake

CLIMATE

Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

The warmest months of the year in the RDBN are between June and August, when temperatures reach above 20°C. The coldest months of the year occur between December and January, when temperatures drop below -15°C.



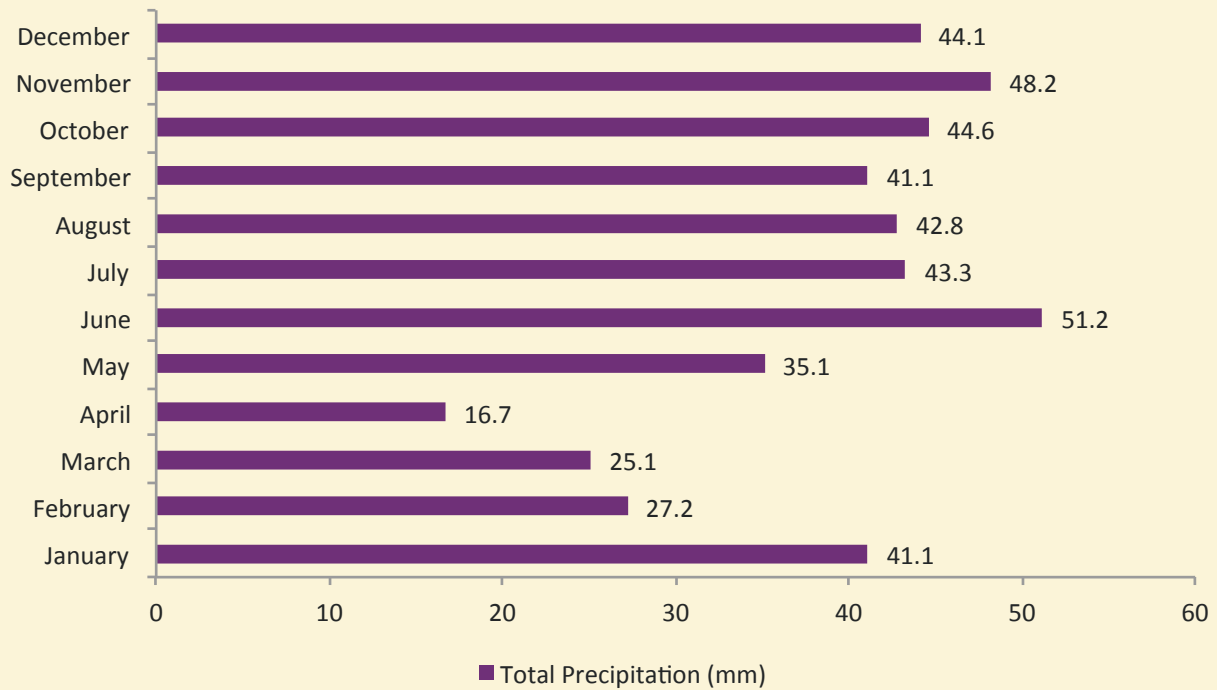
Wind Speed

LOCATION	PERIOD	MEAN WIND SPEED	MEAN WIND ENERGY	WEIBULL SHAPE PARAMETER (K)	WEIBULL SCALE PARAMETER (A)
Burns Lake Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.216, longitude = -125.751	Annual	2.54 m/s	20.50 W/m ²	1.59	2.83 m/s
Houston Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.395, longitude = -126.653	Annual	1.71 m/s	8.75 W/m ²	1.29	1.85 m/s
Smithers Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.785, longitude = -127.163	Annual	2.20 m/s	12.88 W/m ²	1.64	2.46 m/s
Telkwa Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.668, longitude = -127.060	Annual	2.66 m/s	22.13 W/m ²	1.67	2.98 m/s
Fraser lake Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.062, longitude = -124.558	Annual	2.60 m/s	23.38 W/m ²	1.53	2.89 m/s
Vanderhoof Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 53.727, longitude = -123.656	Annual	3.09 m/s	26.75 W/m ²	2.12	3.49 m/s
Fort St James Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.467, longitude = -124.298	Annual	3.37 m/s	42.50 W/m ²	1.74	3.78 m/s
Granisle Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.903, longitude = -126.245	Annual	2.67 m/s	24.25 W/m ²	1.57	2.97 m/s
Electoral Area E Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 53.939, longitude = -125.361	Annual	4.47 m/s	99.63 W/m ²	1.74	5.02 m/s

Data Source: <http://www.windatlas.ca/en/nav.php?no=52&field=EU&height=30&season=ANU>

Precipitation

Precipitation in the RDBN in 2010



Source: Environment Canada, 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

The RDBN experienced the lowest amount of precipitation during the months of February to April in 2010, as little as 17mm per month. In contrast, the most precipitation fell during June and November, surpassing 50mm per month.



TRANSPORTATION

Road

Highway 16 is the main paved transportation route running east to west through the RDBN. Highway 16 is the transportation route for goods being shipped in and out of the region.

The following provincial highways connect communities to the Highway 16 corridor:

- Highway 27 to Fort St. James from Highway 16 (Vanderhoof)
- Highway 35 to Francois Lake/Southbank from Highway 16 (Burns Lake)
- Highway 118 to Granisle from Highway 16 (Topley)

Rail

The Canadian National Railway follows the Highway 16 corridor from Prince George to Prince Rupert, with service through the RDBN. Currently, CN Rail is upgrading the rail line to accommodate an increase in traffic due to goods being shipped to Asia. Prince George, to the east of the RDBN, is the regional trading centre for Northern BC, where CN Rails Intermodal Terminal is located. The Intermodal terminal is designed to support customers shipping to and from Asia through the Port of Prince Rupert.

VIA Rail operates ‘The Skeena’ passenger train, running from Jasper to Prince Rupert and back again, with stops in many of the communities within the RDBN. Passengers are able to disembark and take in the splendor of the communities on route. The journey passes through some of Canada’s most scenic areas.

Airport

Airports are an integral part of the RDBN economy. Air services support the region’s economic drivers of forestry, mining, tourism, and agriculture. Charter, passenger, and cargo services are available. The following airports operate within the region:

NAME	LOCATION	OPERATOR
Smithers Regional Airport	Smithers	Town of Smithers
Vanderhoof Airport	Vanderhoof	District of Vanderhoof
Baker Airport	Burns Lake	Lakes District Airport Society
Fort St James Perison Airport	Fort St. James	District of Fort St. James
Fraser Lake Airport	Fraser Lake	Village of Fraser Lake
Houston Airport	Houston	District of Houston

The Smithers Regional airport is located 5 kms north of the Town of Smithers. This airport is the only airport in the region with scheduled passenger flights. Three commercial passenger airlines operate at the Smithers Airport:

- Air Canada—Daily service to Vancouver.
- Central Mountain Air—Service to and from Terrace, Prince George, Kamloops, and Kelowna.
- Hawkair—Service to and from Terrace and Vancouver.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Electricity and Gas Service Providers

The following businesses provide electricity and gas services:

- [BC Hydro](#)
- [Pacific Northern Gas](#)

Commercial and Residential Rates for Electricity and Gas

BC Hydro electricity rates:

(The electricity and gas providers are the same throughout the RDBN)

BC Hydro residential rates are listed as follows:

- 6.90 cents per kWh for the first 1,350 kWh
- 10.34 cents per kWh after first 1,350 kWh

BC Hydro commercial rates are listed as follows:

SERVICE RATE	BASIC CHARGE	ENERGY CHARGE	MINIMUM CHARGE
Small General Service Rate	\$0.1953 per day	\$0.0928 per kWh	\$0.1953 per day (equal to the Basic Charge)
Medium General Service Rate	\$0.1953 per day	\$0.00 per kW for first 35 kW \$4.76 per kW for next 115 kW \$9.13 per kW for remaining kW	Part 1 \$0.0885 per kWh for last 14,800 kWh \$0.0549 per kWh for remaining kWh up to baseline Part 2 \$0.0956 per kWh for usage up to 20% above baseline \$0.0956 per kWh for savings down to 20% below baseline (credit) Usage or savings beyond 20% of baseline are based on Part 1 prices
Large General Service Rate	\$0.1953 per day	\$0.00 per kW for first 35 kW \$4.76 per kW for next 115 kW \$9.13 per kW for remaining kW	Part 1 \$0.0961 per kWh for last 14,800 kWh \$0.0462 per kWh for remaining kWh up to baseline Part 2 \$0.0956 per kWh for usage up to 20% above baseline \$0.0956 per kWh for savings down to 20% below baseline (credit) Usage or savings beyond 20% of baseline are based on Part 1 prices

Small General Service (SGS) accounts have an annual peak demand less than 35 kW.

Medium General Service (MGS) accounts have an annual peak demand between 35 kW and 150 kW and use less than 550,000 kWh of electricity per year.

Large General Service (LGS) accounts have an annual peak demand equal or greater than 150 kW or total annual energy usage of at least 550,000 kWh.

BC Northern Gas: Residential and Commercial Gas Rates

	BASIC MONTHLY CHARGE	DELIVERY CHARGE	COMPANY USE RIDER	RSAM RIDER	INTERIM RATE ADJUSTMENT RIDER	TOTAL DELIVERY CHARGE	COMMODITY CHARGE	GCVA RIDER	TOTAL COMMODITY CHARGE	DELIVERY + COMMODITY CHARGE
Rate Class	\$/Month	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ
Residential	10.75	11.732	-0.017	-0.633	-0.188	10.894	3.5	0.07	3.57	14.464
Small Commercial	25	9.925	-0.017	-0.633	-0.132	9.143	3.481	0.07	3.551	12.694
Large Commercial	150	8.001	-0.017	N/A	-0.139	7.845	3.481	0.07	3.551	11.396



Business and Workforce Support Services and Funding Programs

Business Support Services

The following business support services are available for businesses and residents located within the RDBN:

ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
Community Futures Nadina	Assistance with Building a Business Plan, Startup steps, or planning for existing businesses
Community Futures Stuart Nechako	Business Start-up Assistance
Burns Lake Native Development Corporation	Technical Services Including Business Plan Assistance, Training and Project Development Assistance
Small Business BC	Business Start-Up / Growth Assistance
Doing Business in BC	BC One-Stop -Business Start-Up and Registration Site.
Business & Investing Services	Resource for Business Owners

Business Funding and Tax Credit Programs

ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
Community Futures Nadina	Small Business Loans
Community Futures Stuart Nechako	Business Loans Program
Burns Lake Native Development Corporation	Small Business Loans Program
Northern Development Initiative Trust	Capital Investment and Training Rebate Program
Northern Development Initiative Trust	Competitiveness Consulting Rebate
BC Hydro	PowerSmart Programs for Business
Investment Agriculture Foundation	Funding to support innovative projects that support the Agri-food industry in British Columbia.

Regional Employment Service Providers

The following employment service providers are available within the RDBN.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	MUNICIPALITY
Community Living BC	Smithers
Smithers Community Services Association	Smithers
Fort Outreach Employment Services	Fort St. James
Progressive Employment Services Ltd	Vanderhoof
Targeted Skills Shortage Program	Vanderhoof
Northern Skills Training	Vanderhoof
Transitions Career Consultants	Vanderhoof
Community Futures Nadina	Smithers, Burns Lake, Telkwa, Granisle, Houston
WorkBC Employment Services Centre	Smithers, Burns Lake, Houston

Local Economic Development Services

The RDBN is engaged in the following economic development projects:

- [Mining in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako](#)
- [Bulkley-Nechako Directory](#)
- [Visit Bulkley-Nechako - Tourism Site](#)
- Regional Skills Gap Analysis
- Annual RDBN Business Forum
- Annual RDBN Start-up Business Contest
- Industrial Land Inventory Reports
- Grant writing services for nonprofit organizations

RDBN supports the following initiatives:

- [Beyond the Market](#)
- [Invest Northwest](#) and [Invest North Central](#) Web Portals
- [Geoscience BC's Quest-West projects](#)

For any further assistance with local economic development services please contact the Regional Economic Development Department:

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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Email: corrine.swenson@rdbn.bc.ca
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A World of
Opportunities
Within Our Region

www.rdbn.bc.ca

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FRASER LAKE | FORT ST. JAMES | VANDERHOOF

