

VANDERHOOF AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



DISTRICT OF
Vanderhoof



SMITHERS | TELKWA | HOUSTON | GRANISLE
BURNS LAKE | FRASER LAKE | FORT ST. JAMES | **VANDERHOOF**

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Vanderhoof and Surrounding Area

The interior plateau of beautiful British Columbia is characterized by rolling hills, bluffs, wilderness waterfalls and many lakes and rivers. These surroundings are enjoyed by the 4,500 residents of Vanderhoof as well as 3,700 rural residents. The major industries in Vanderhoof and surrounding area are forestry and agriculture. The town is home to several lumber mills, both large scale and home-based. Forage crops and cattle production are the major agricultural products of the area.

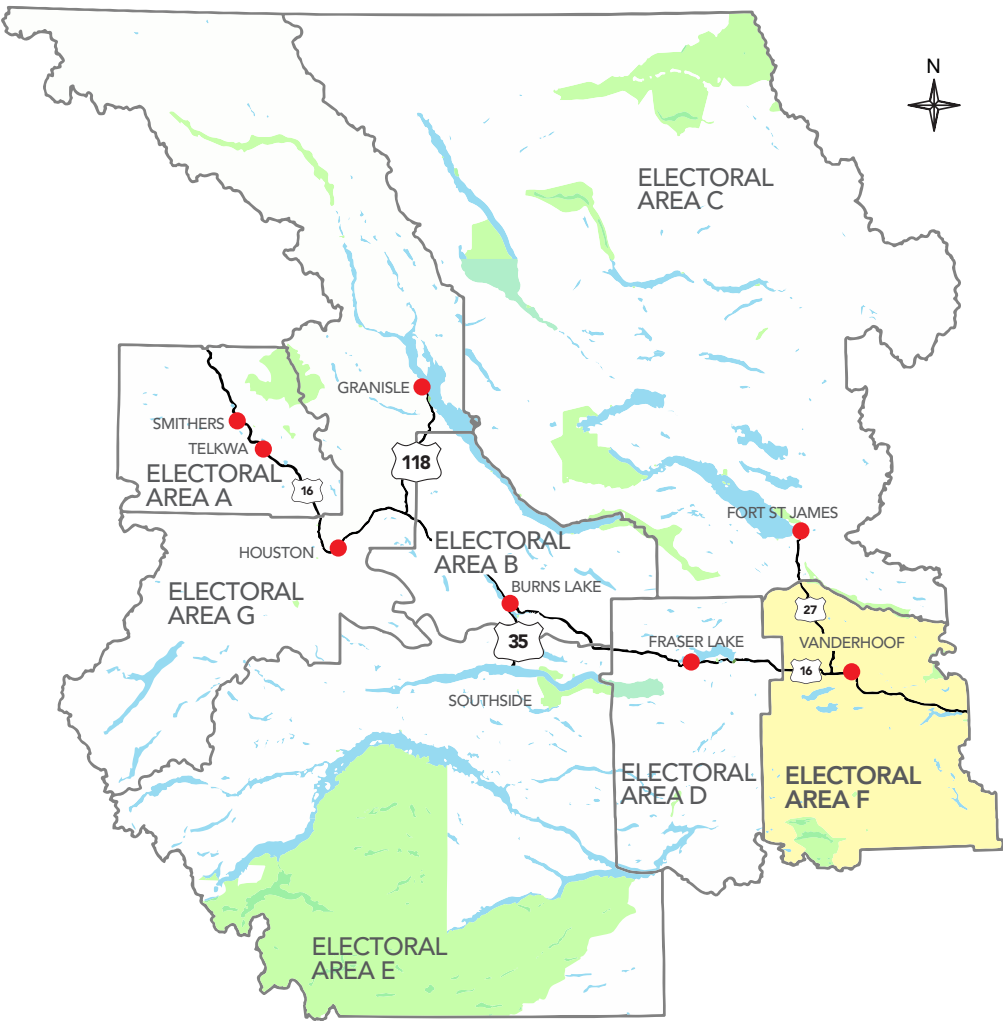
Throughout the year Vanderhoof offers visitors and citizens an array of community events, attractions, shopping and dining. There are plenty of opportunities for those interested in art, culture, history, sports, sightseeing, hiking, swimming, boating, and children's events.

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.

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Map



Distance from Vanderhoof to:

PLACE	DISTANCE (KM)	DRIVING TIME (HR)
Prince George, BC	100	1 hr 10 min
Kitimat, BC	531	6 hr 18 min
Prince Rupert, BC	619	7 hr 24 min
Edmonton, AB	838	9 hr 26 min
Vancouver, BC	880	9 hr 42 min
Calgary, AB	884	10 hr 40 min
Seattle, WA	994	10 hr 58 min
Portland, OR	1,274	13 hr 42 min
Whitehorse, YT	1,521	19 hr 43 min
Yellowknife, NT	1,704	20 hr 28 mn
Anchorage, AK	2,652	34 hr

Legend

- Municipalities
- Parks
- Lakes
- Electoral Area Boundary
- Regional District Boundaries
- Highway

1: VANDERHOOF AND SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Vanderhoof, 2006-2016

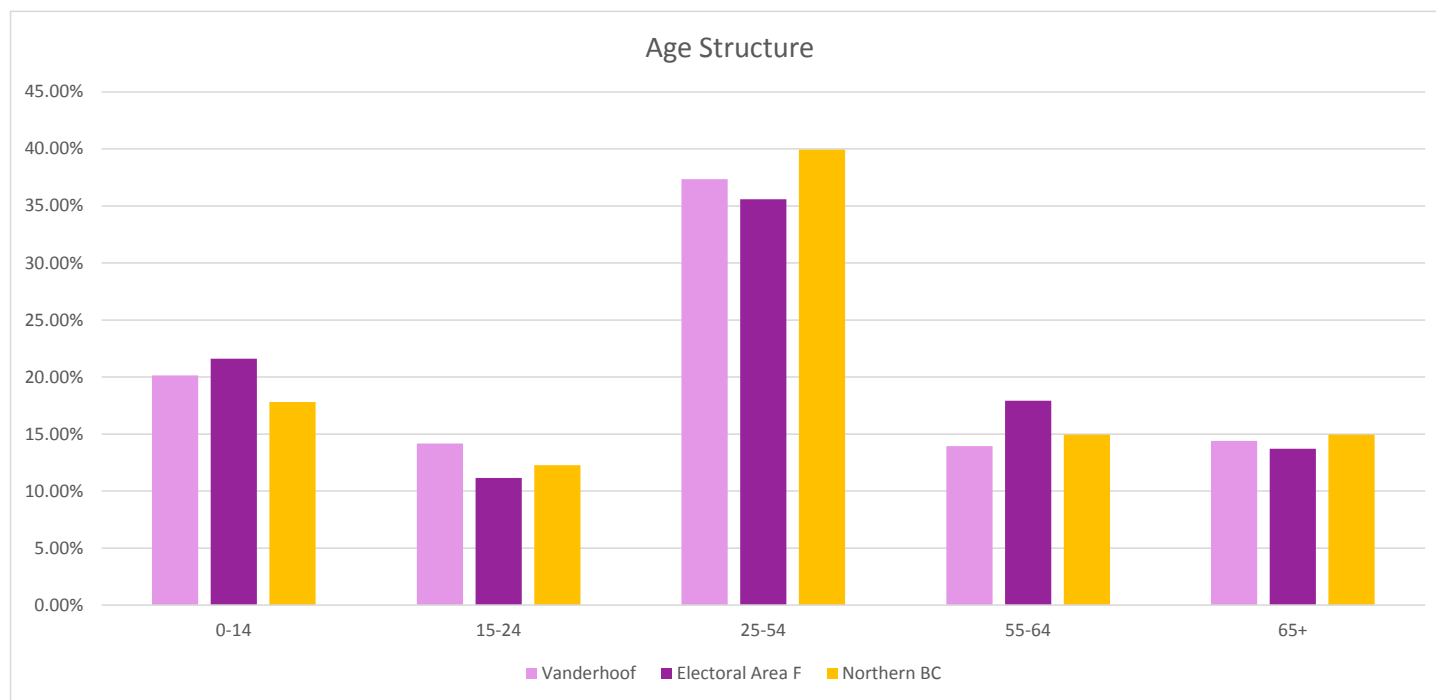
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Vanderhoof	4,064	4,480	4,439
Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)	3,137	3,702	3,665
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

In 2016 Vanderhoof had a population of 4,439. Between 2006 and 2011 its population increased by 10%, which was greater than the percentage of population growth in Northern B.C and smaller than the surrounding Electoral Area F during the same period.

Age Structure

Age structure in Vanderhoof and Electoral Area F, 2016

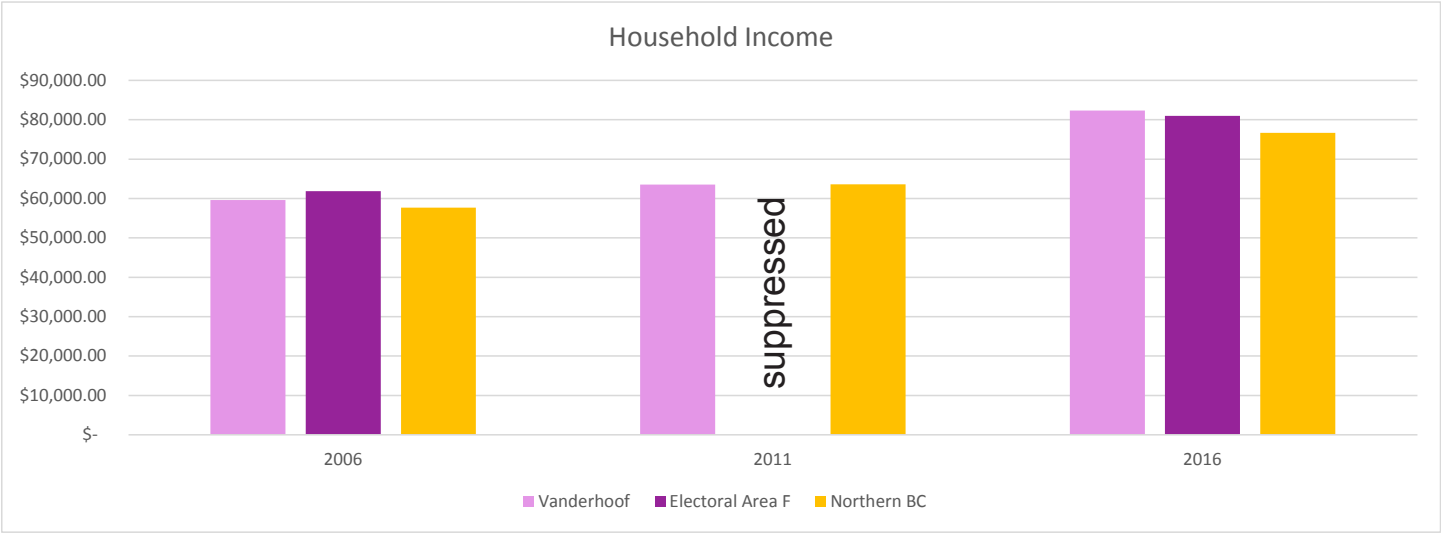


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

The median age in Vanderhoof is 36 while in the Electoral Area and Northern BC the median is 40 and 39. The age structure reveals that Vanderhoof has a larger youth population (ages 0-14) and lower proportion of people between the ages of 55-64 as compared to Northern BC.

Household Income

Median household income in Vanderhoof and Electoral Area F, 2006-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

The median household income in Vanderhoof was higher than Northern BC in 2016. However, when compared to the surrounding Electoral Area, Vanderhoof had a lower household income in 2006.

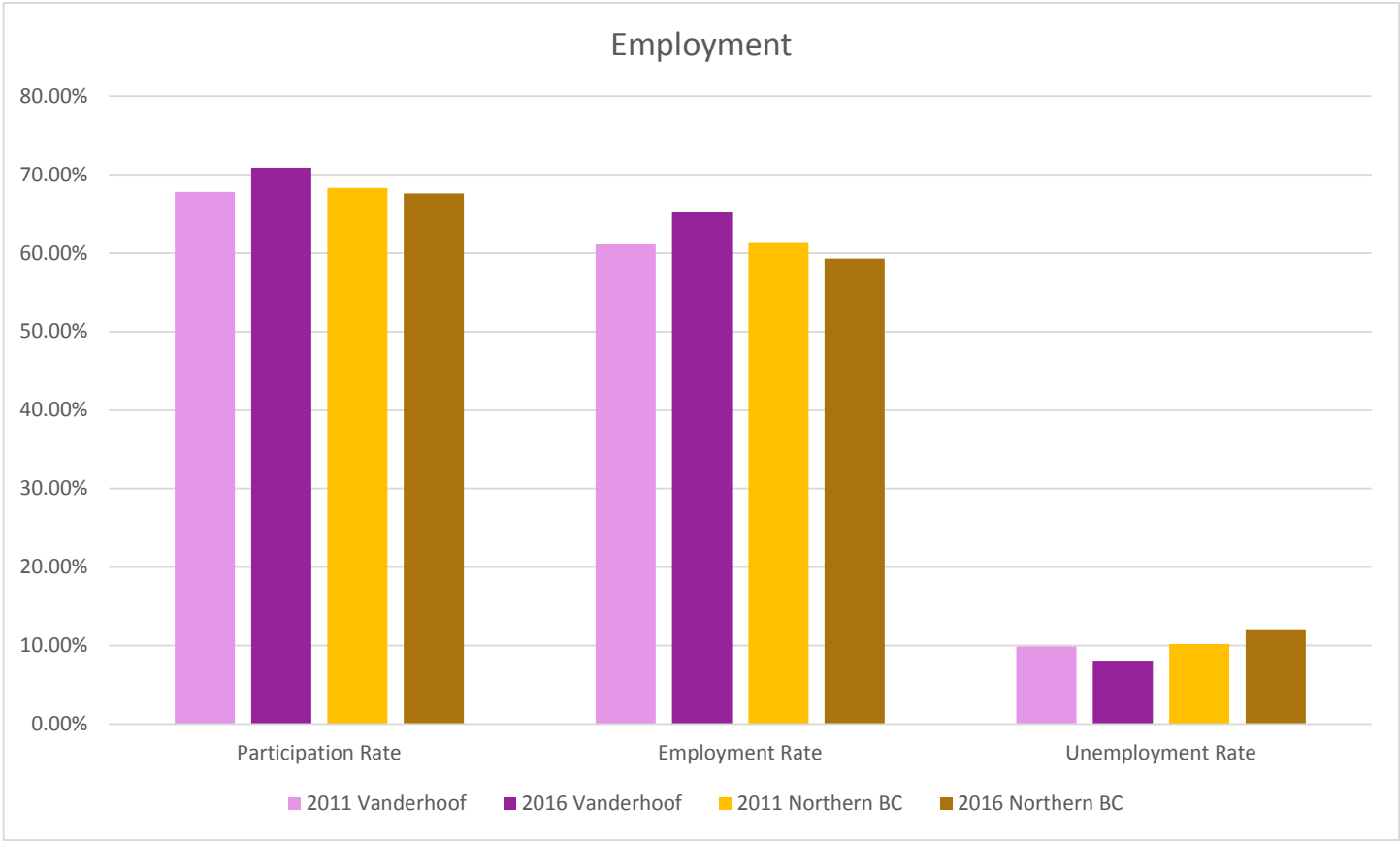
Please note that income data for Electoral Area F in 2011 was unavailable as it was suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

Employment data in Vanderhoof and Northern BC 2011-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

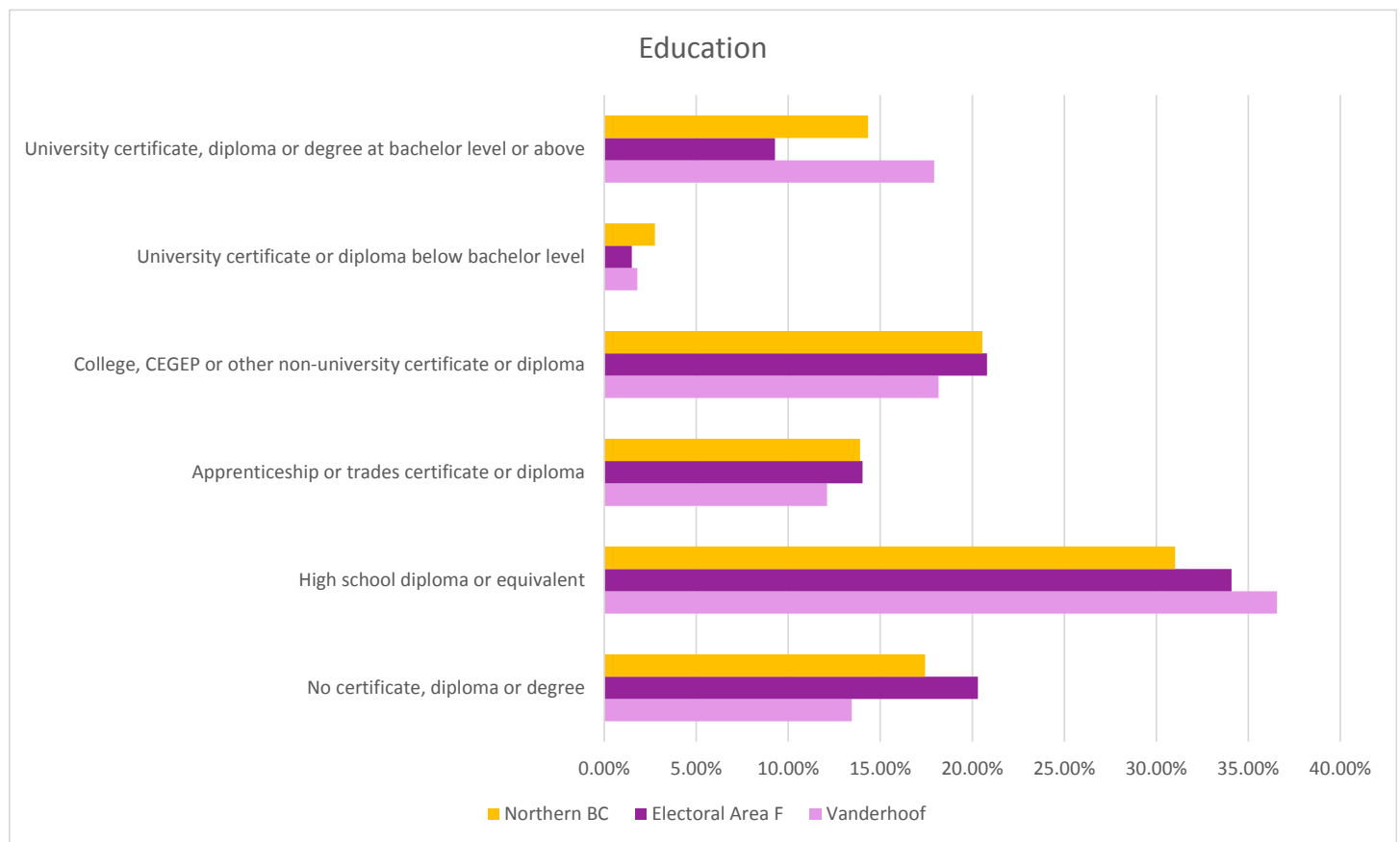
The District of Vanderhoof has had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011 and 2016. Vanderhoof had similar labour market participation rate as Northern BC in 2011.





Education

Education in Vanderhoof and Bulkley-Nechako, 2016

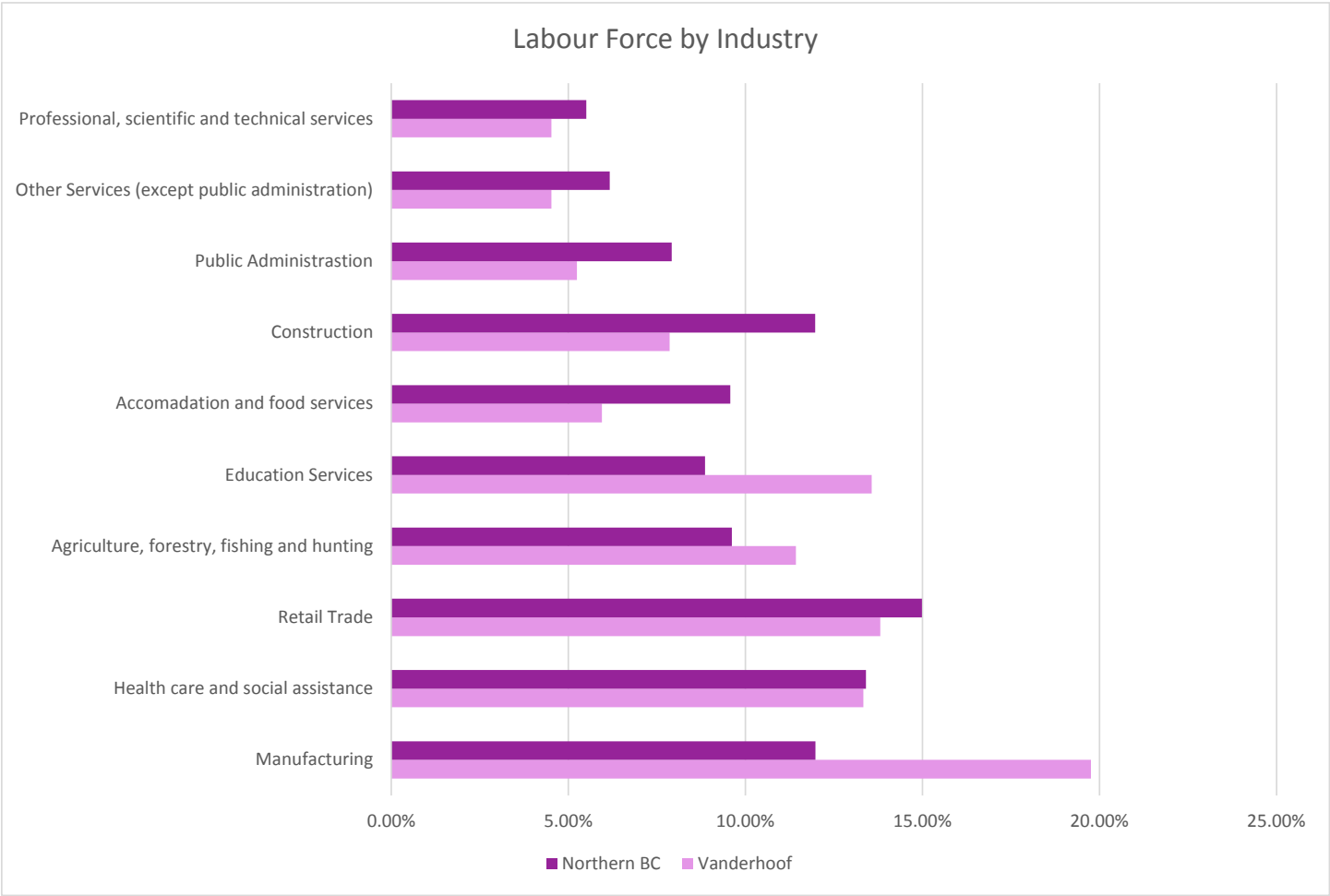


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

A high percentage of Vanderhoof's population had a university degree or diploma as compared to Northern BC in 2016. Vanderhoof also has a similar percentage of population with a college education as compared to Northern BC.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Vanderhoof and Northern BC, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

In 2016, Vanderhoof, agriculture, manufacturing, retail trade, educational service, and health care and social assistance sectors were the major sources of employment in Vanderhoof. The two largest sectors in Vanderhoof were manufacturing and retail trade, which employed a greater portion of the labour force than in Northern BC.

Some major employers in Vanderhoof include the following:

EMPLOYERS	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
School District #91	725
Canadian Forest Products – Plateau Mills	317
Sinclair Group Forest Products	200
St. John Hospital	200
BID Group	163
Vanderhoof and District Co-operative Association	126
Ministry of Forests - Government of British Columbia	70

Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
College of New Caledonia	Post-Secondary Institution
Progressive Employment Services Ltd	Employment Service
Targeted Skills Shortage Program	Employment Service
Northern Skills Training	Employment Service
Transitions Career Consultants	Employment Service

TRANSPORTATION

NAME	CATEGORY
Vanderhoof Airport	Airport
Via Rail	Rail
CN Rail	Rail
BC Bus	Bus
BC Transit - Bulkley Nechako Regional Transit System	Bus
Vanderhoof Community Bus	Bus

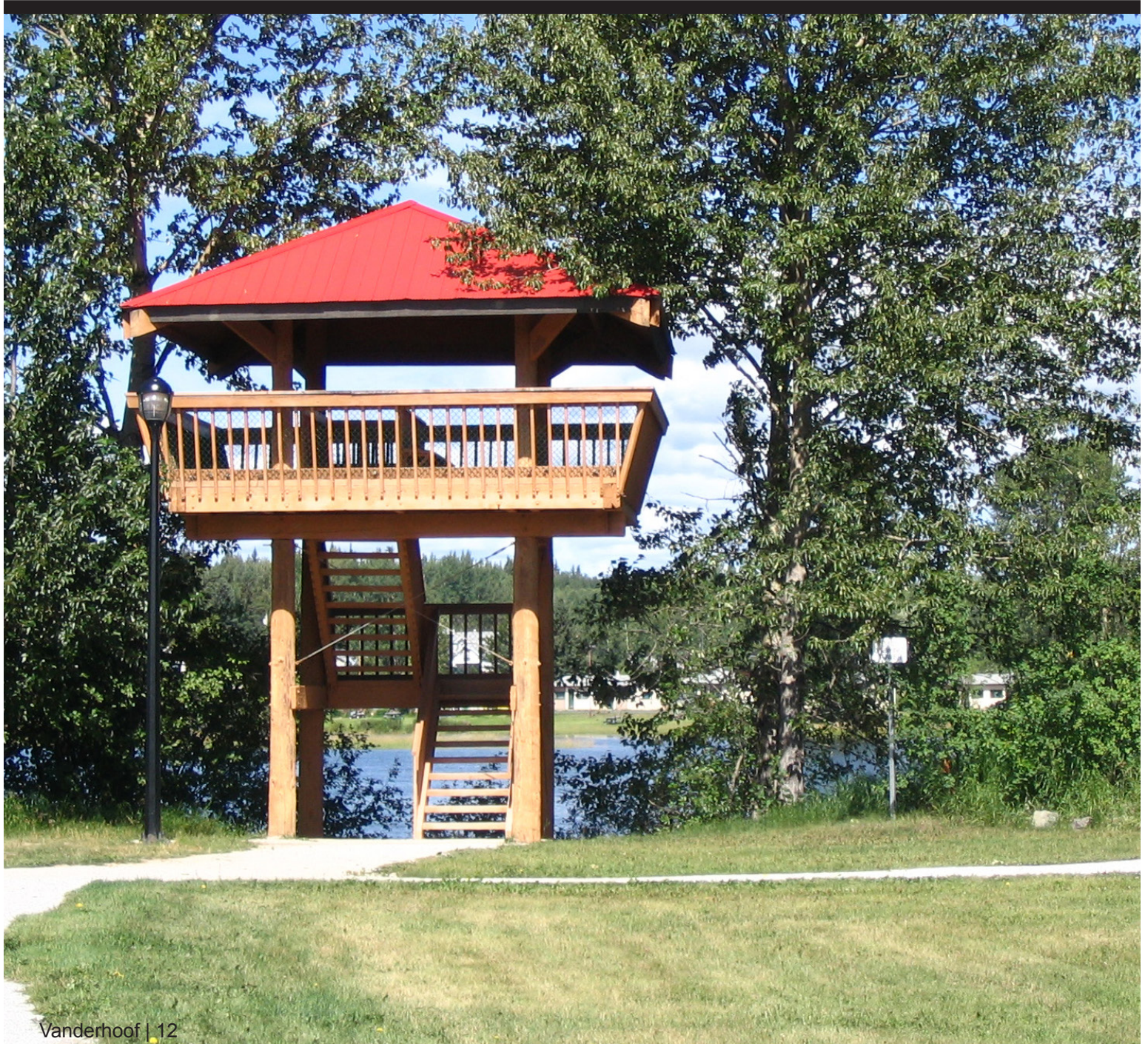
Vanderhoof Airport

The Vanderhoof Airport is located 2 kms north of Vanderhoof. The Vanderhoof Airport has three runways and offers charter air service and a flying school.



COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Telus
- Shaw Communications Inc.
- Bell
- Hwy 16 Internet
- Mascon Cable
- Evolve Communication
- Citywest



WATER AND WASTE

Water

Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

The District of Vanderhoof is responsible for the distribution of Vanderhoof’s water supply to areas where lines currently exist. Water originates from an underground artesian water source more than 600 feet below the earth’s surface. Vanderhoof’s water treatment system was upgraded in 2010 and consists of a pump and a gravity fed system. Water treatment consists of the removal of iron and manganese and meets or exceeds the Canadian drinking water standards. The water volume is projected to be sufficient for the next 20 years.

Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

Rated Capacity	1 million gallons/day
Average Daily Demand	0.3 million gallons per day
Peak Demand	1 million gallons/day

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

Residential Cost	\$233/year
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Solid Waste Disposal Services

Commercial garbage is picked up twice a week and residential waste is picked up once a week.

Capacity of Waste Disposal Site vs. Projected Demand

Landfill Name	Clearview Landfill
Location	22 km North of the junction of highway 16 and 27
Capacity Left at Current Site	90%/95 years
Plans for New Capacity	None
Transfer Station	650 Dump Rd, Vanderhoof

Recycling

Although no curb side recycling is available at this time several recycling options are available to residents of Vanderhoof. For more information go to www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/environmental-services/recycling

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Taxes

The following chart summarizes 2019 tax rates in Vanderhoof. For up to date information contact the municipality. Tax rates are calculated in dollars of tax per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.

PURPOSE OF TAX RATE	RESIDENTIAL	UTILITIES	MAJOR INDUSTRY	LIGHT INDUSTRY	BUSINESS / OTHER	MANAGED FOREST LAND	RECREATION / NON-PROFIT	FARM
Municipal	5.3651	36.0535	47.8777	27.9522	16.2563	0.0000	6.7600	1.5559
Regional District	0.9652	3.3784	3.2818	3.2818	2.3649	0.0000	0.9652	0.9652
Hospital District	1.3732	4.8062	4.6689	4.6689	3.3643	0.0000	1.3732	1.3732
School	3.4000	13.2000	3.7000	3.7000	3.7000	1.9000	2.3000	7.1000
Other	0.3745	1.6576	1.6241	1.2493	0.9305	1.2330	0.3745	0.3745
Total	11.4780	59.0957	61.1525	40.8522	26.6160	3.1330	11.7729	11.3688

Development Processes and Fees

Business licenses in Vanderhoof are normally \$150, with a seasonal retail option available for \$75.

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Vanderhoof's official community plan and zoning bylaw are available at www.vanderhoof.ca:

- [Official Community Plan](#)
- [Zoning Bylaw](#)
- Amendments:
 - [Bylaw No. 1041](#)
 - [Bylaw No. 1063](#)

Incentive Programs

Business Support Service

- [Community Futures Stuart-Nechako](#)
- [Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce](#)

Business Funding Programs

- [Community Futures Stuart-Nechako](#)

Local Economic Development Services

For any further assistance with local economic development services please contact the Community Development Coordinator and Chamber of Commerce:

Hilary Irvine

Community Development Coordinator

District of Vanderhoof

Email: hilaryirvine@district.vanderhoof.ca

Phone: 250-567-4711

Lesley Chaisson

Chamber Manager

Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce

Email: manager@vanderhoofchamber.com

Phone: 250-567-2124

Mayor Contact

Mayor Gerry Thiessen

160 Connaught, PO Box 200

Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0

Email: mayor@district.vanderhoof.ca



QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Housing

Housing in Vanderhoof is primarily residential, with several apartment buildings, town houses, three senior’s complexes, and several areas with duplexes/triplexes. The housing stock in the municipality consists of the following:

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2016 census)	1,831
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2016 census)	1,752
Single detached houses (2016 census)	1,210
Other attached dwellings (2016 census)	370
# of owned dwellings (2016 census)	1,255
# of rented dwellings ((2016 census)	495

The typical cost for a single family home is as follows:

TYPE OF HOUSING	COST
Average value of dwelling (2016 census)	\$273,079.00



Accommodations

- Coachlight Motel and RV
- Nechako River Motel
- North Country Inn
- Siesta Inn
- Hillview Motel
- Homestead Inn & Suites
- Vanderhoof Inn

Restaurants

- North Country Inn
- New Pagoda
- Roshell's Restaurant
- Cozy Corner
- The Reid Stone Grill Pub
- A&W Restaurant
- KFC
- Subway
- Tim Horton's
- Scott's Grille & Pizzeria
- Tasty Tandoori Grill

Shopping

Shopping District: Downtown Vanderhoof
Shopping Mall: Co-op Mall

Financial Services

- Integris Credit Union
- CIBC
- Royal Bank of Canada

Legal Services

- Daniel Lyons Law Corporation
- James Swales
- Micheal P.F. Reed
- Nechako Valley Legal Document Services
- Wingham Law Corporation
- Hope Heinrich

Media

- Omineca Express
- The Valley Wolf
- The Gander

Local Community Organizations

- Nechako Valley Festival of the Performing Arts
- Vanderhoof Children's Theatre
- Vanderhoof Community Theatre Society
- Northern Orchestra
- BC Trappers Association
- Braeside Community Recreation
- Elks Club of Vanderhoof
- Girl Guides of Canada
- Kinette Club of Vanderhoof
- Vanderhoof Kinsmen Club
- Knights of Columbus
- Vanderhoof Masonic Hall
- Nechako Dairyman's Association
- Nechako Quilters Guild
- Connexus
- Carrier Sekani Family Services
- Good Neighbours Committee
- Nechako Valley Exhibition Society
- Nechako Valley Food Network
- Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association
- Nechako Valley Sporting Association - Wilderness Watch
- Nechako View Seniors Home Society
- NeighbourLink
- Nechako Healthy Community Alliance
- Order of the Eastern Star
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- 899 Vanderhoof Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron
- Scouts Canada - Vanderhoof
- Yellowhead Draft & Driving Horse Association
- Vanderhoof Flying Club
- Arena Riders Club
- Masters Running Club
- Moores Motocross Track
- Nechako Valley Saddle Club
- Vanderhoof Farmers' Market
- Nechako Valley Search and Rescue

Local Community Assets

- Omineca Golf Course
- Vanderhoof Health and Fitness
- Vanderhoof Arena
- Nechako Valley Exhibition Grounds
- Rip'N North Bike Park
- Nechako Valley Sporting Association
- Vanderhoof Sportsfield
- Vanderhoof Curling Rink
- Vanderhoof Tennis Courts
- Vanderhoof Aquatic Centre
- YMCA
- Skateboard Park

Health Services

Health services available in Vanderhoof include:

- St. John Hospital
- Omineca Health Unit
- **Omineca Medical Clinic**
- Vanderhoof Dental Health Centre
- Nechako Valley Dental Clinic

Schools

- Evelyn Dickson Elementary (K-6)
- Mapes Elementary (K-6)
- EBUS Academy (K-12)
- Nechako Valley Secondary (7-12)
- Sinkut View Elementary (K-6)
- W.L. McLeod École Elementary (K-6)
- Northside Christian School (K-12)



St. John Hospital

The St. John Hospital opened in 1941. The hospital is part of the Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District, servicing a region with a population 5,000 in Vanderhoof and the surrounding area.

St. John Hospital is a 24 acute care bed and eight bassinet facility with a staff base of 180. Services include emergency treatment, labour and delivery, X-ray and ultrasound, minor orthopedic surgery, minor general surgeries, in-patient recreation, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy.

St. John Hospital is a teaching facility for the University of Northern British Columbia. Visiting specialists are referred for orthopedics, urology, ororhino-laryngology (ENT).

Services that are operated on an outpatient basis from the St. John Hospital include diabetic counseling and daycare, occupational therapy, smoking cessation program, dietetic services and counseling, and healthy heart program.

The Mental Health Unit serves the communities of Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Fort St. James and Burns Lake, providing on-site counselling and outreach services for adults with crisis and persistent mental disorders.

A visiting psychiatrist and geriatric psychiatrist provide delivery for 4-5 days once every four months.



“Vanderhoof is a great community both to live in and do business. We are small enough you know most people by name yet large enough to support a service level enjoyed in larger centres. If you like outdoor recreation it’s either at your back door or a short distance away. As service hub for a much larger area there are all sorts of business opportunities.”

Kevin Moutray, Earthen Ware

“The gratification of being in business in Vanderhoof is the friendly, understanding, and patient consumer. Not only does the local consumer give us time to do our job right the first time but they are also very knowledgeable, giving us the challenge to make sure we know what we’re doing. The friendly atmosphere in the community makes it an enjoyable place to work and raise a family. Vanderhoof has a variety of recreational options to live a healthy and active lifestyle, that puts me in the right occupation!”

Dick Thiessen, Omineca Source for Sports

www.vanderhoof.ca

2: ELECTORAL AREA F (VANDERHOOF RURAL)



ELECTORAL AREA 'F'

(Vanderhoof Rural)



Legend

- Municipal Boundary
 - Electoral Area Boundary
 - Unincorporated Communities
 - First Nation Population Centers
 - Parks
 - Lakes
 - Highway
1. Saik'uz First Nation (Stoney Creek Reserve No. 1)

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Vanderhoof Rural, or Electoral Area F, is the second most populated Electoral Area in the RDBN, and enjoys proximity to the amenities in Vanderhoof, the largest community within its boundaries. The landscape in the rural area is well suited to agriculture and outdoor recreation, characterized by rolling hills, lakes and rivers.

The population of Electoral Area F is home to over 3,700 people. Due to data suppression by Statistics Canada, many other statistics about the area are unavailable.

The Saik'uz First Nation is located in Electoral Area F.



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural), 2006-2016

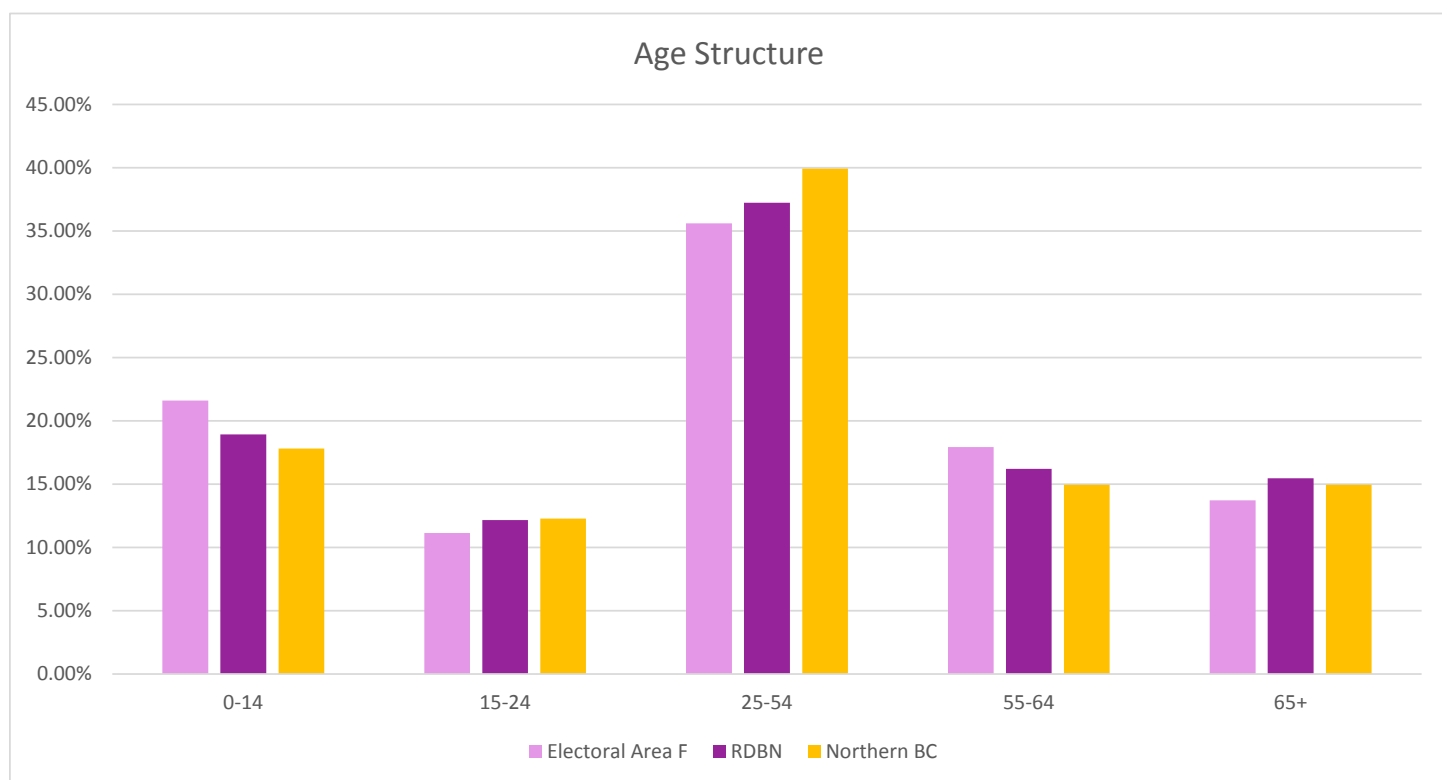
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Electoral Area F	3,137	3,702	3,665
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile 2006-2016.

Electoral Area F, had a population of 3,665 in 2016, which has been increasing from 2006-2011 and remained relatively stable since.

Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural), and the RDBN, 2016

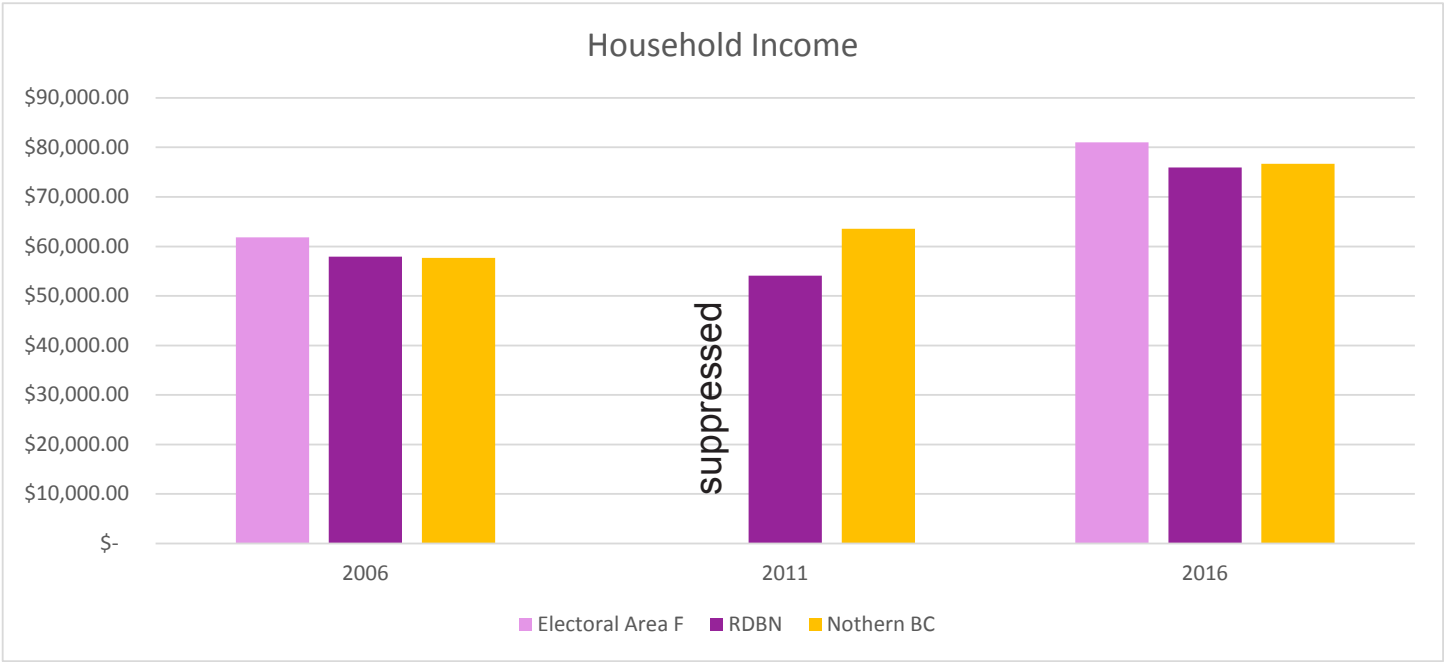


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016.

The population of Electoral Area F had a higher percentage from ages 0-14 than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016. The median age was 40 while in the RDBN and Northern BC the median age was 39. Its age structure reveals that Electoral Area F had a lower portion of residents between the ages of 25-54 than the RDBN and Northern BC, and a larger portion of residents between the ages of 55-64.

Household Income

Median household income in Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural), 2006-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016.

The median household income growth in Vanderhoof Rural was higher than in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016.

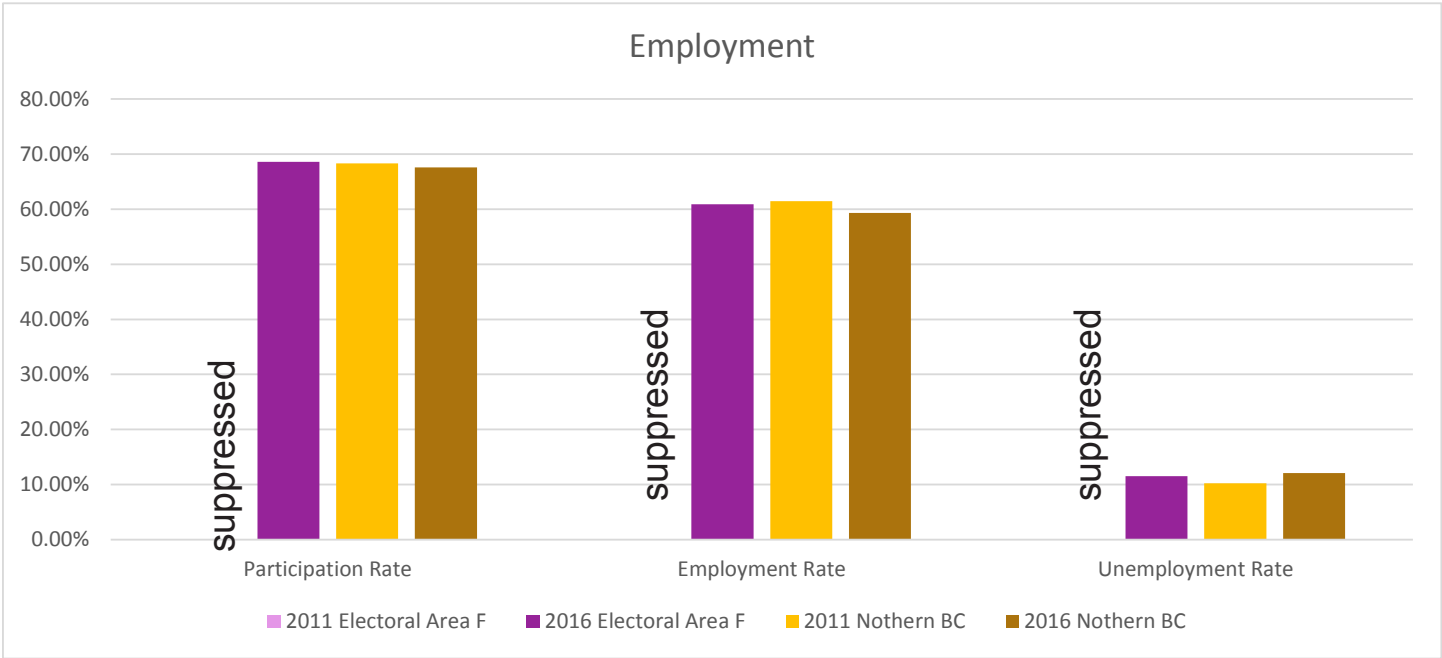
Please note that income data for Electoral Area F in 2011 was unavailable as it was suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

Employment data in the Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) and RDBN, 2011-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016.

Northern BC had a higher unemployment rate than Northern BC during 2011 and 2016. in 2016 Electoral Area F had a higher participation rate than Northern BC.

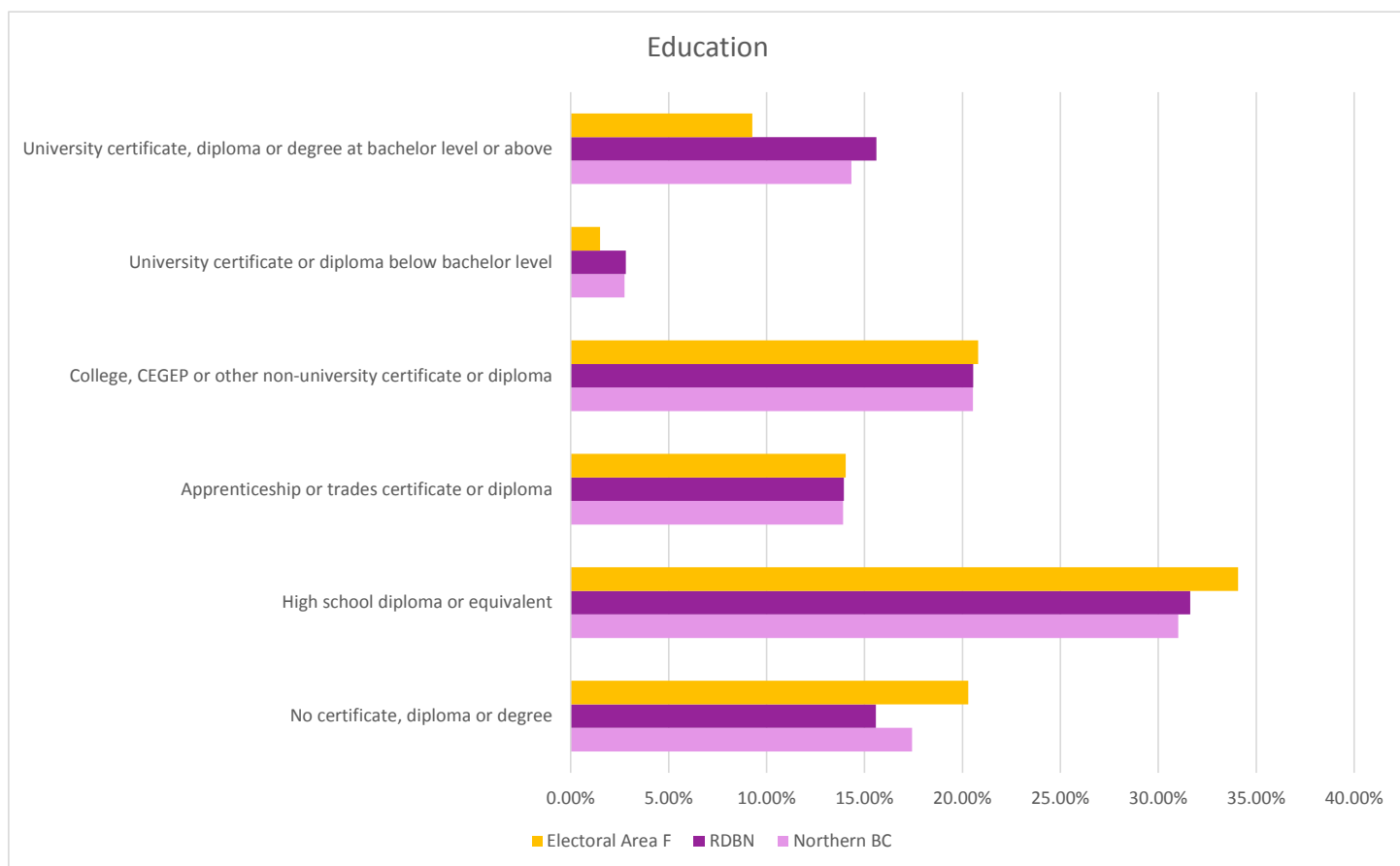
Please note that data specific to Electoral Area F has been suppressed for data quality or confidentiality reasons by Statistics Canada.





Education

Education in the RDBN and Northern BC, 2016

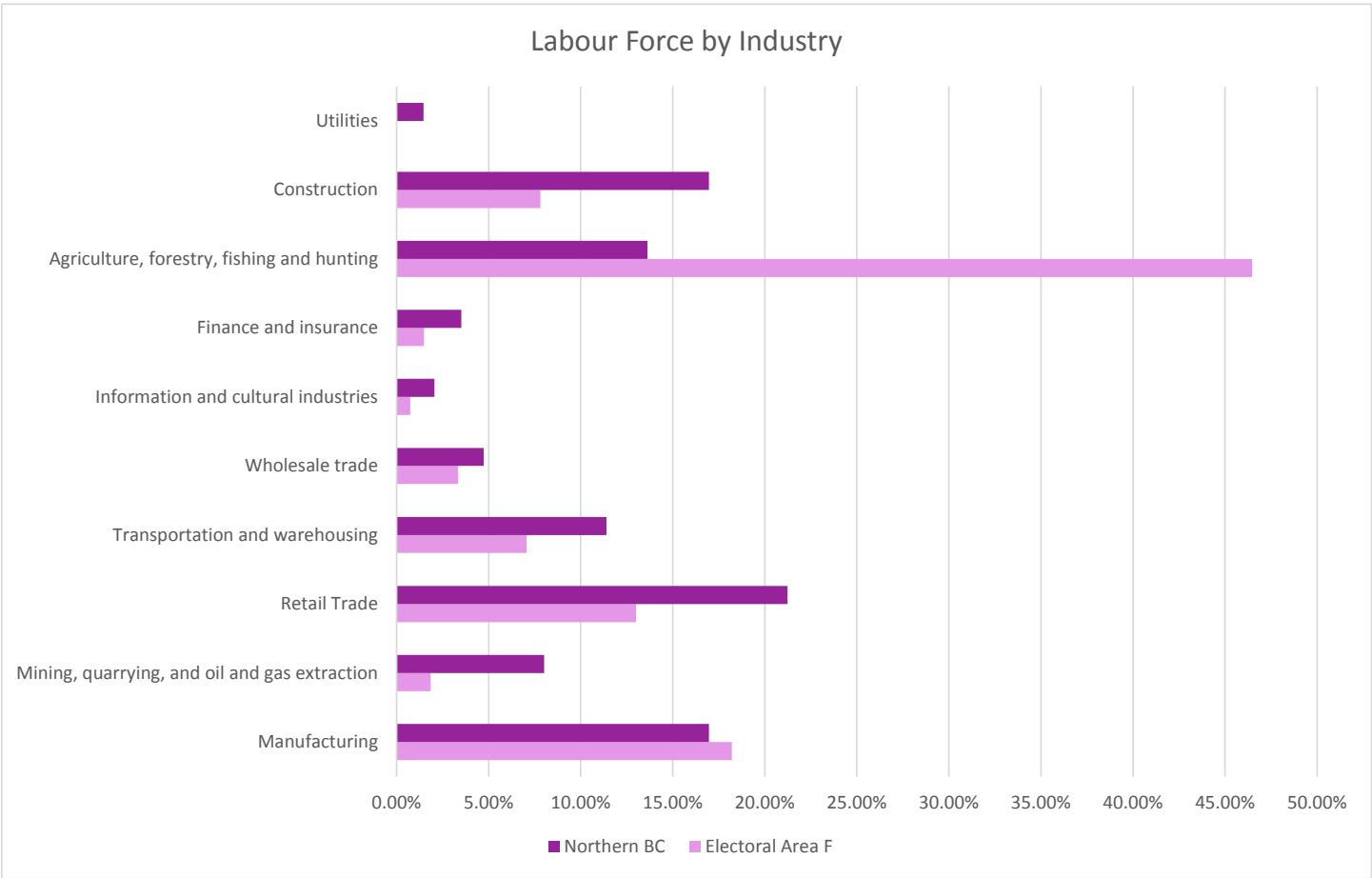


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

Education levels in the RDBN are comparable to Northern BC as a whole. The RDBN had a slightly higher portion of residents with a college and university education and higher portion with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma compared to Northern BC, the differences are not substantial. However, Electoral Area F had a slightly higher portion of residents with a College, CEGEP, or non-university certificate or diploma in 2016.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in the Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) and Northern BC, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

In 2016, Electoral Area D, the agriculture was the leading sector in employment. This sector employed a greater portion of the labour force as compared to Northern BC.





LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area F, Vanderhoof Rural's official community plan is available at www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/planning

- [Vanderhoof Rural Official Community Plan](#)

Local Economic Development Services

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

Nellie Davis

Manager Regional Economic Development

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Email: nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca

Phone: 250-692-3195 / 1-800-320-3339

Electoral Area Director Contact

Director Jerry Petersen

PO Box 1081

Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0

Email: jerry.petersen@rdbn.bc.ca

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Local Community Assets

- MBS Community Hall (Mapes Hall)
- Cluculz Lake Hall
- Sinkut Lake Community Hall
- Braeside Hall



FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY

Saik'uz First Nation

Saik'uz First Nation (translated as “on the sand”) or Stoney Creek is a Dakelh nation whose main community and office is located on a reserve 9 km south-east of Vanderhoof, British Columbia, along the Kenney Dam road.

A member of the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council, the Saik'uz First Nation lends its voice to advocating for and representing the needs of the member nations.

The Saik'uz First Nation has a registered population as of February 2014 of 948 living on or off reserve.

Band Office

135 Joseph Street
Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0
Phone: 250-567-9293
Fax: 250-567-2998
Website: www.saikuz.com



“Vanderhoof and Districts Co-op is member owned. We are so closely connected to our communities and through the support of our members we are able to give back and support many local causes. We are pleased to be part of such a warm and caring community.”

Joe Von Doellen, Vanderhoof & District Co-ops

www.rdbn.bc.ca

3: 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 14 First Nations, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) boasts extraordinary natural beauty, vibrant small town culture and exciting business opportunities.

Residents of the RDBN enjoy the natural splendor of snow-capped mountains in winter, refreshing lakes and rivers in the summer, and 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 vibrant First Nations and a strong agricultural heritage and natural resource economy are the foundations of our welcoming, family friendly communities. Cultural experiences enjoyed by residents include charming local museums, and historic sites, inspiring First Nations events and artwork, galleries, theatres, a thriving music culture, and unique small businesses.

The Regional Profile

The 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. This 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 seven northern regional district electoral areas in the province, including Bulkley-Nechako, Skeena-Queen Charlott, Fraser-Fort George, Peace River, Kitimat-Stikine, Cariboo and Northern Rockies.

More information about the businesses and organizations listed in this document is available on the Bulkley-Nechako Directory.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in the RDBN and Northern BC, 2006-2016

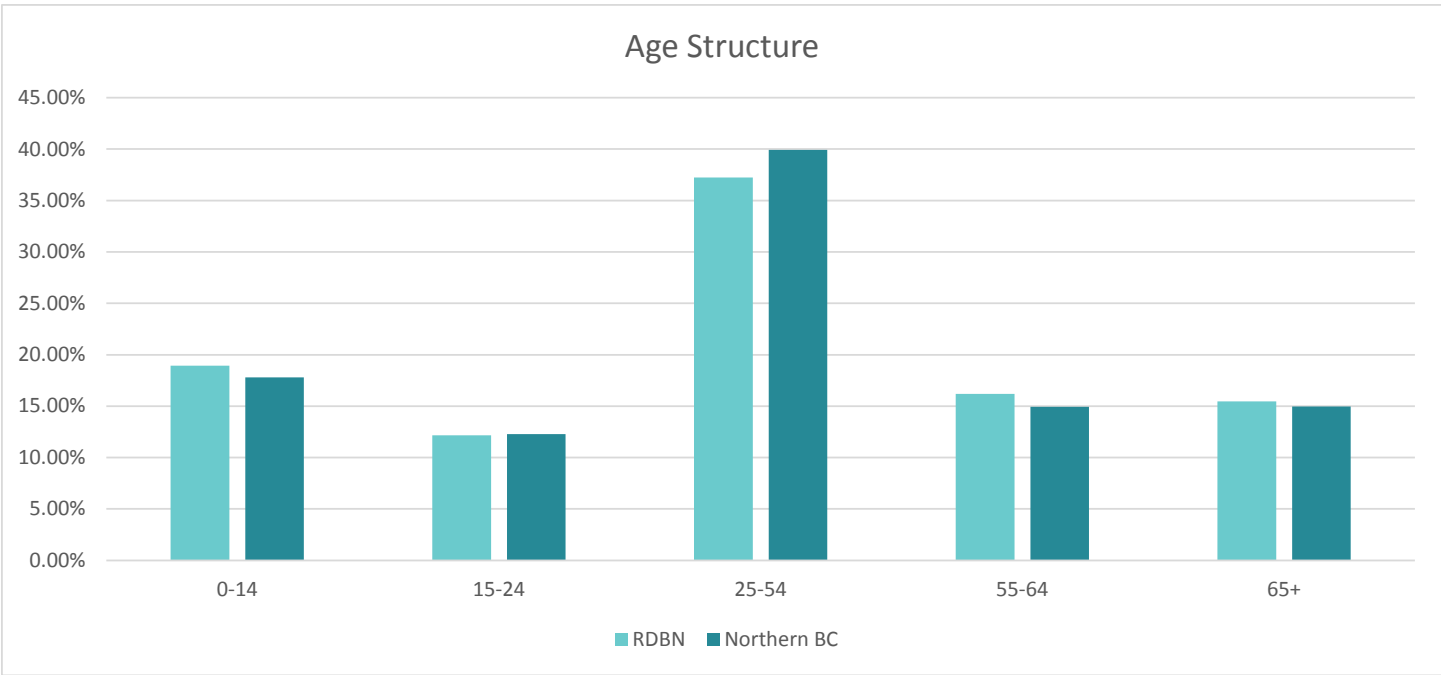
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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

The population of the RDBN was 37,896 in 2016, a decrease of 3.35%.

Age Structure

Age structure in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016

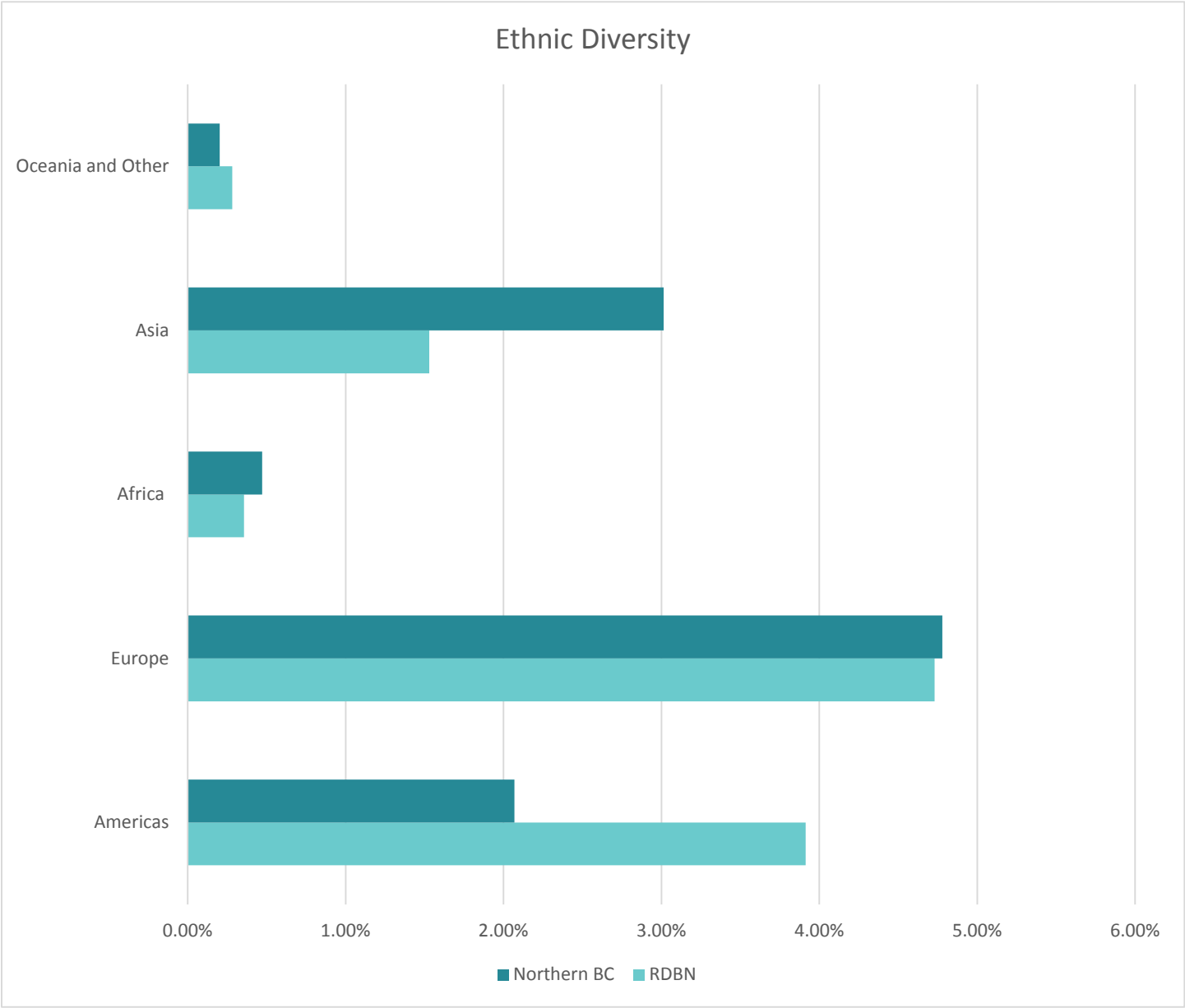


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

Residents of the RDBN had a median age of 41 in 2016, while Northern BC had a median age of 40 for the same period. The age structure of the region reveals that the RDBN had a higher youth population (ages 0-14) when compared to Northern BC. A lower portion of the RDBN's population was between the ages of 25-54 as compared to Northern BC.

Ethnic Diversity

Place of birth summary in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



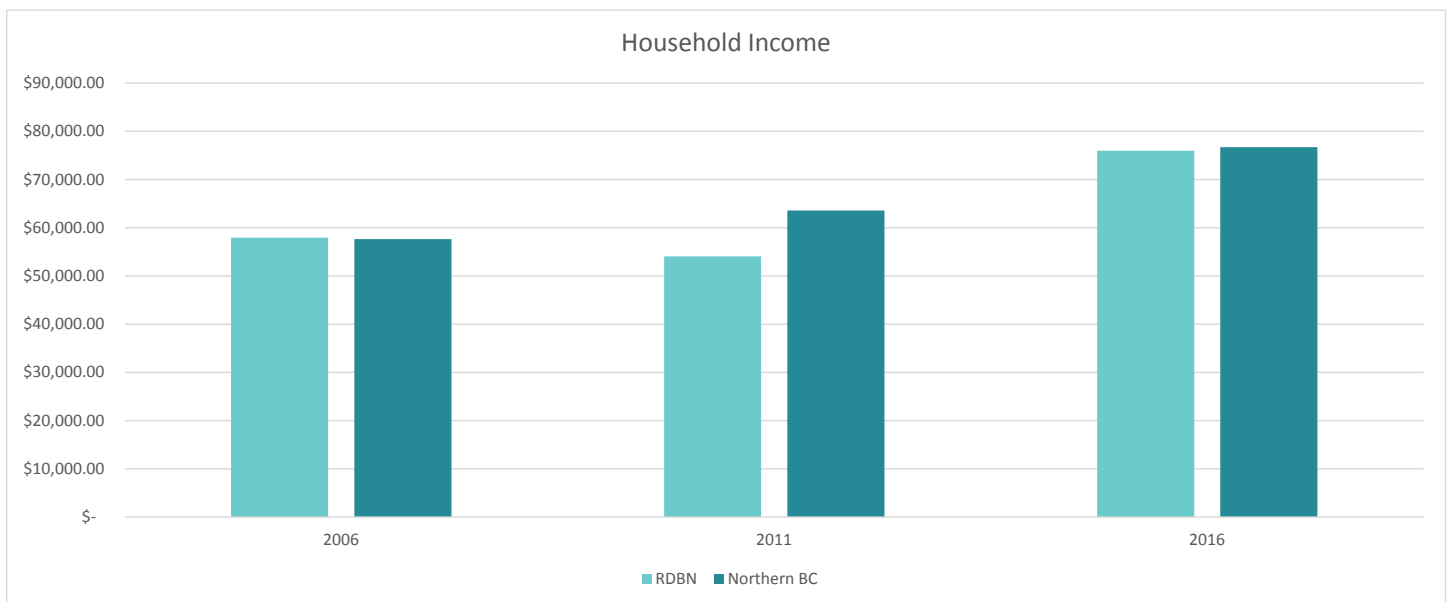
Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

In 2016 Northern BC and the RDBN had roughly the same percentage of residents of European ethnicity. The RDBN had a higher percentage of residents from Asia or the Americas.



Household Income

Median household income in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006-2016



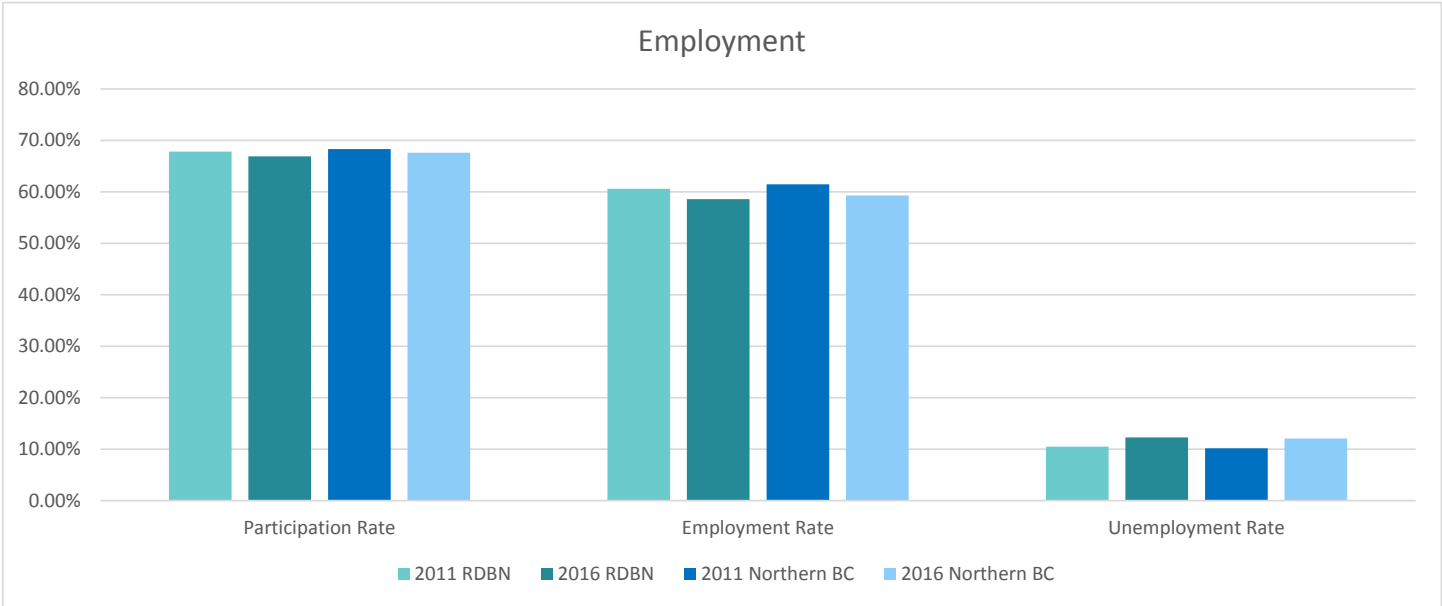
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

The median household income in the RDBN has generally been similar to Northern BC with the exception of 2011 where it was slightly higher.

WORKFORCE PROFILE

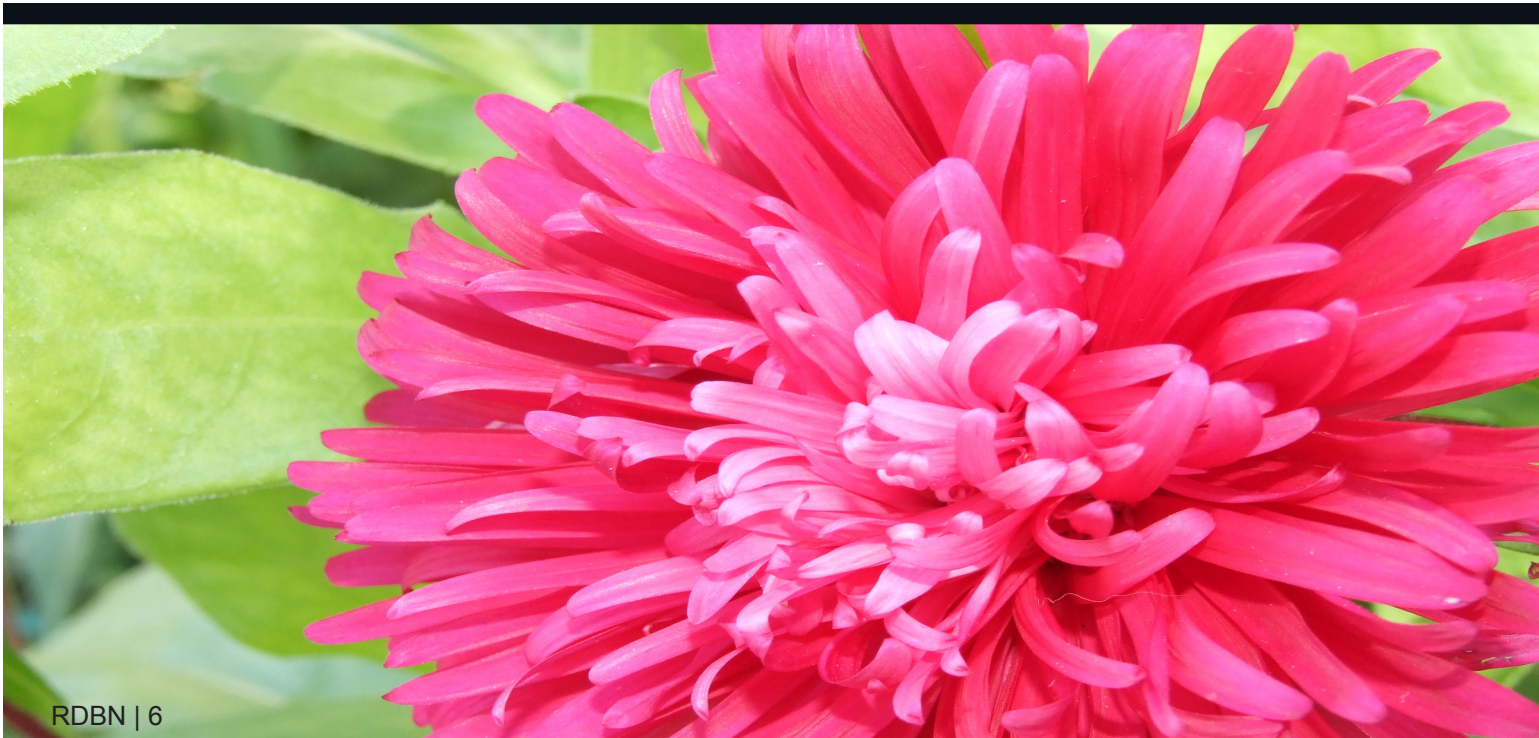
Employment

Employment data in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2011-2016



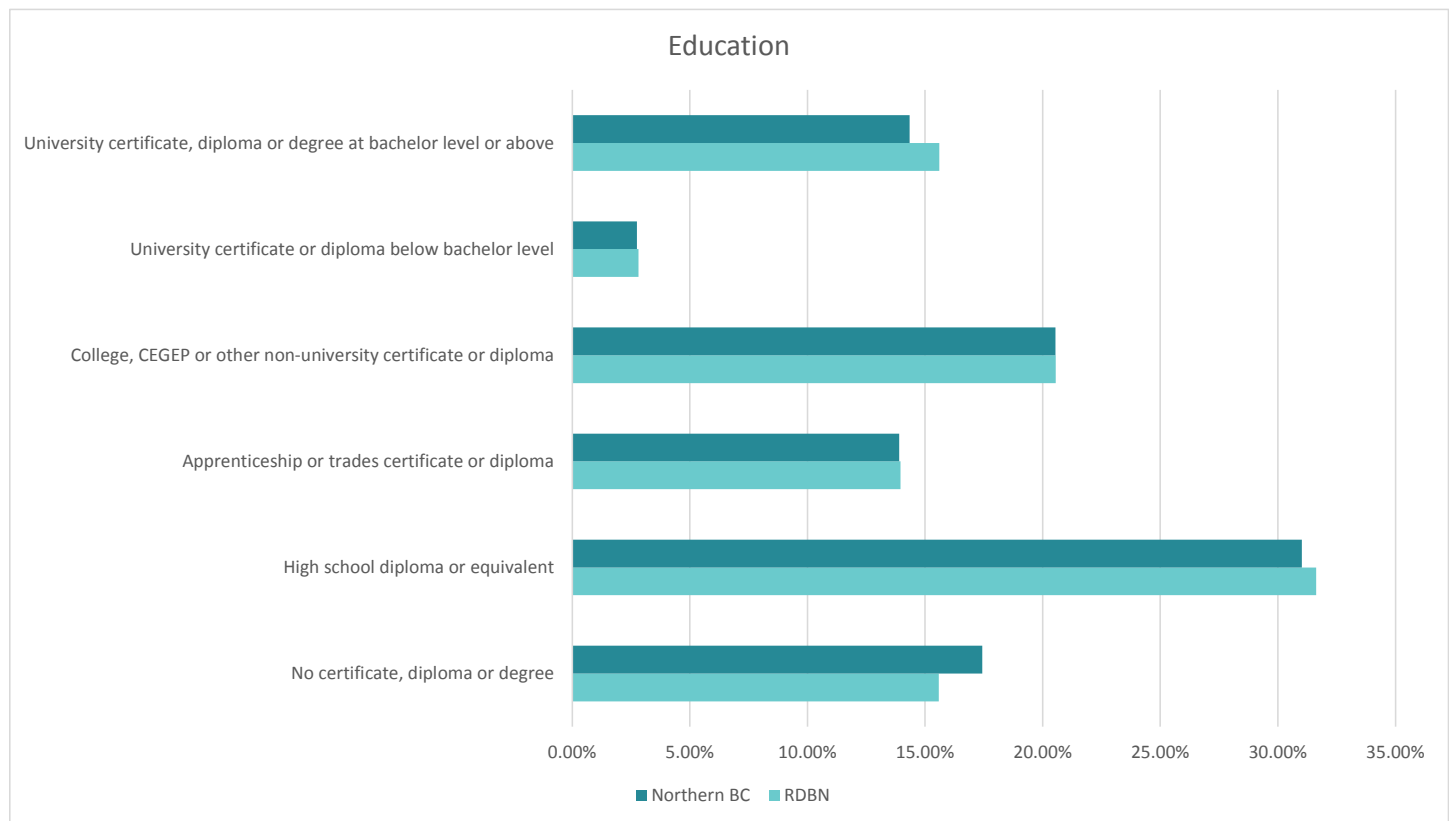
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

The RDBN employment rates were similar to the Northern BC Benchmark group for 2011 and 2016. The unemployment rate was 0.2% higher than the Northern BC rate.



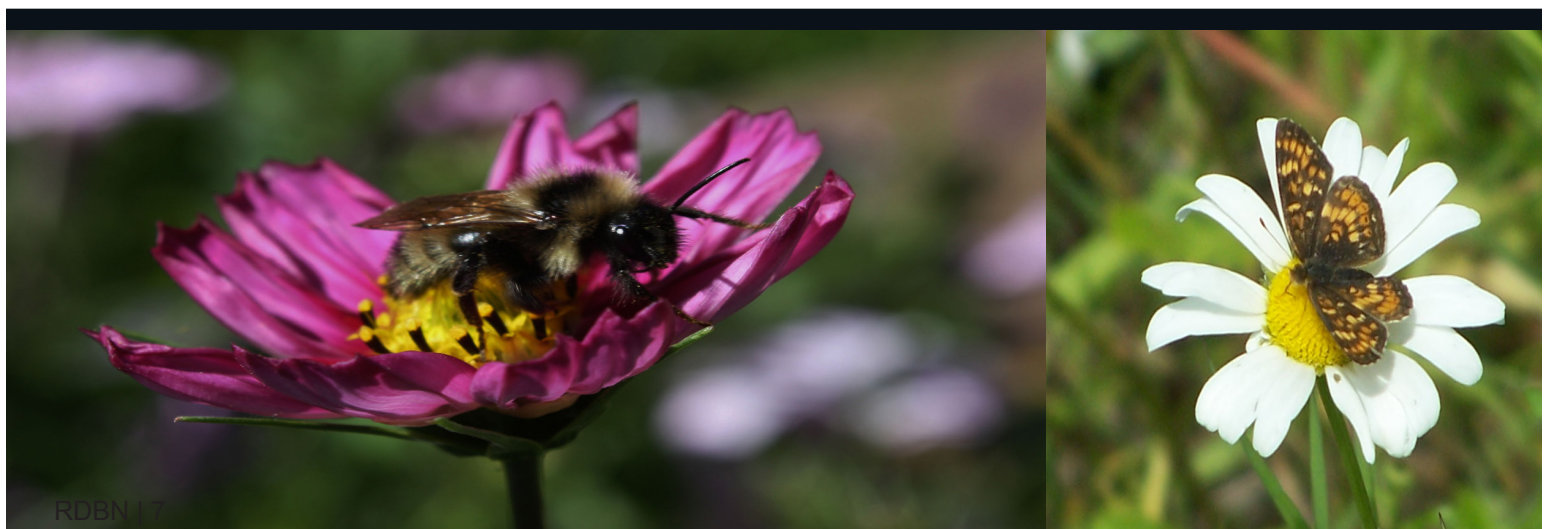
Education

Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



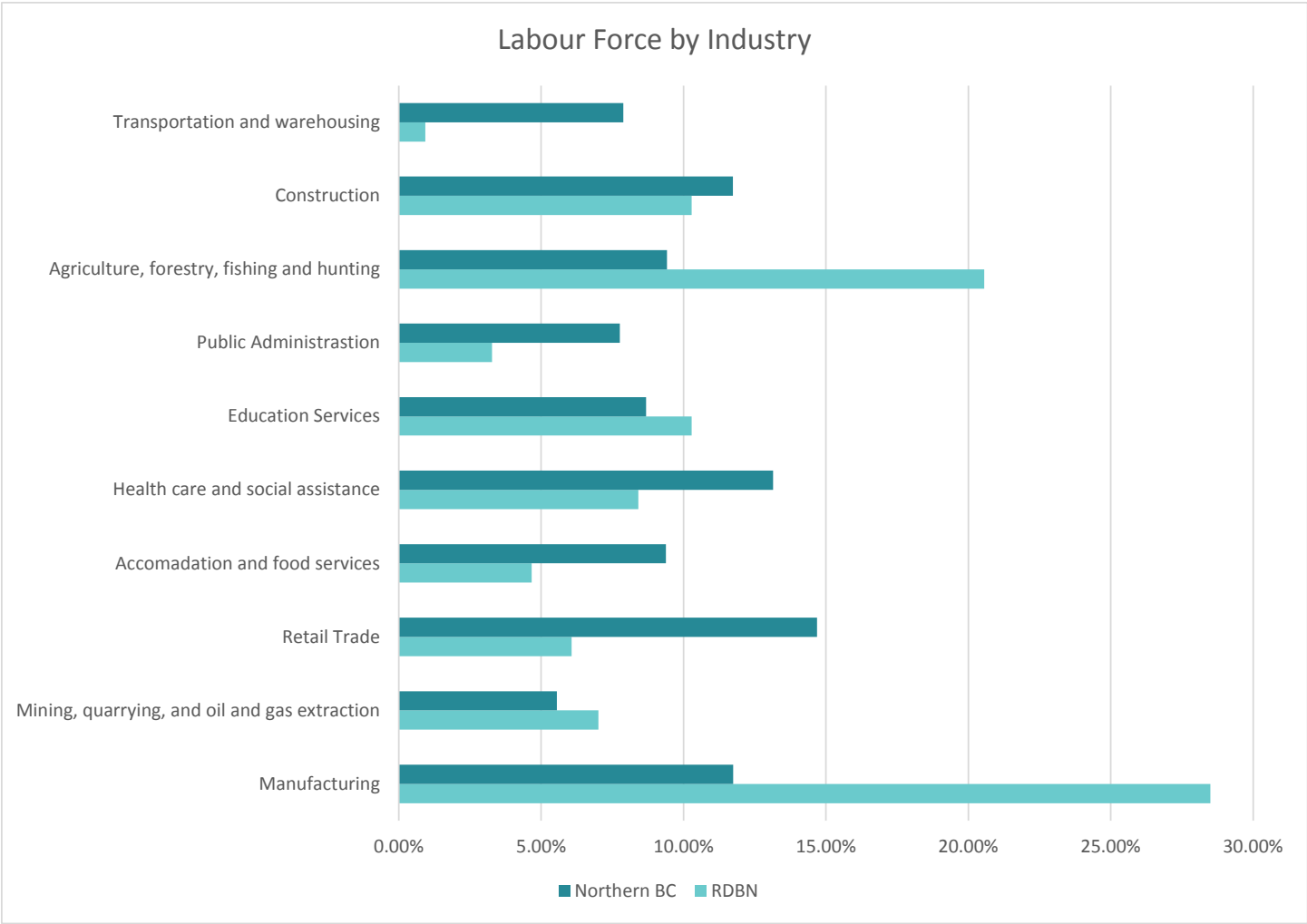
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

The population of Northern BC had a similar level of education to the RDBN in 2016. Although a higher proportion of the RDBN population held a college or university diploma or degree, or an apprenticeship or trades certification compared to Northern BC, the differences are not substantial.



Labour Force By Industry

Labour force by industry in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

In 2016, the RDBN manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting sectors were the leading sources of employment. These two major sectors both employed at least double the portion of the labour force compared with Northern BC.

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

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	LOCATION
School District No. 91	725	Regional
Canadian Forest Products - Houston Sawmill	343	Houston
Canadian Forest Products – Plateau Mills	317	Vanderhoof
West Fraser – Fraser Lake Sawmills	300	Fraser Lake
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	60	Houston

Post-Secondary Education Facilities

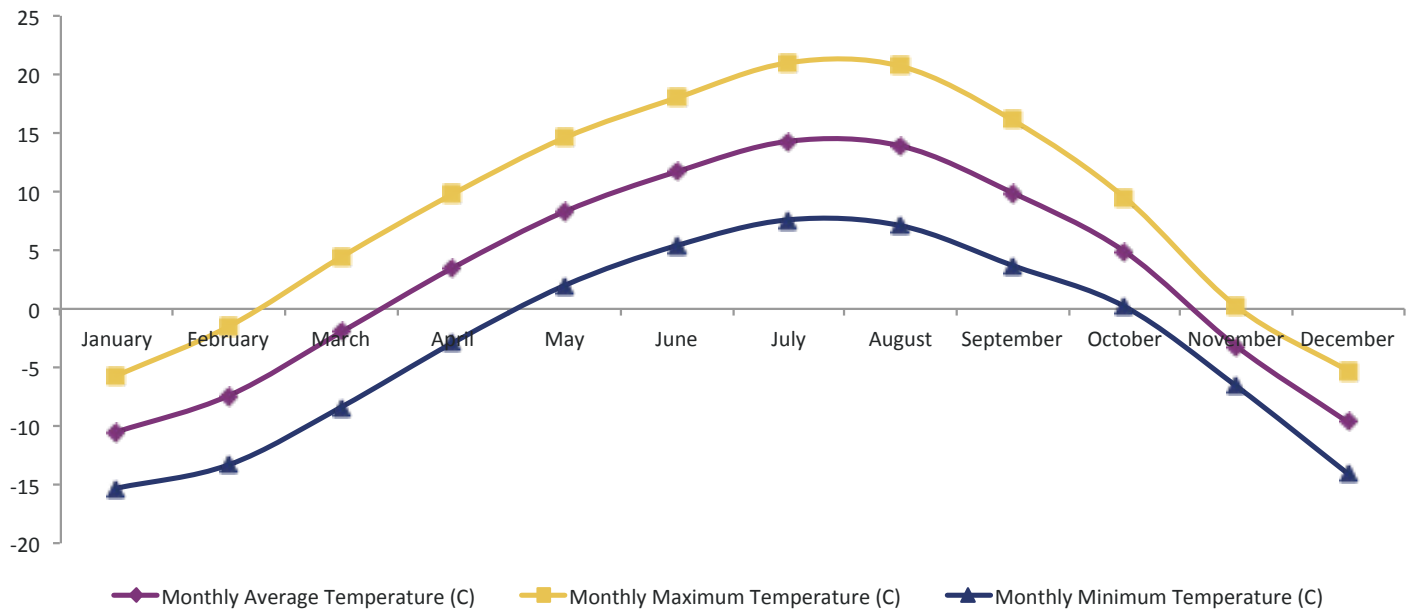
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

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

CLIMATE

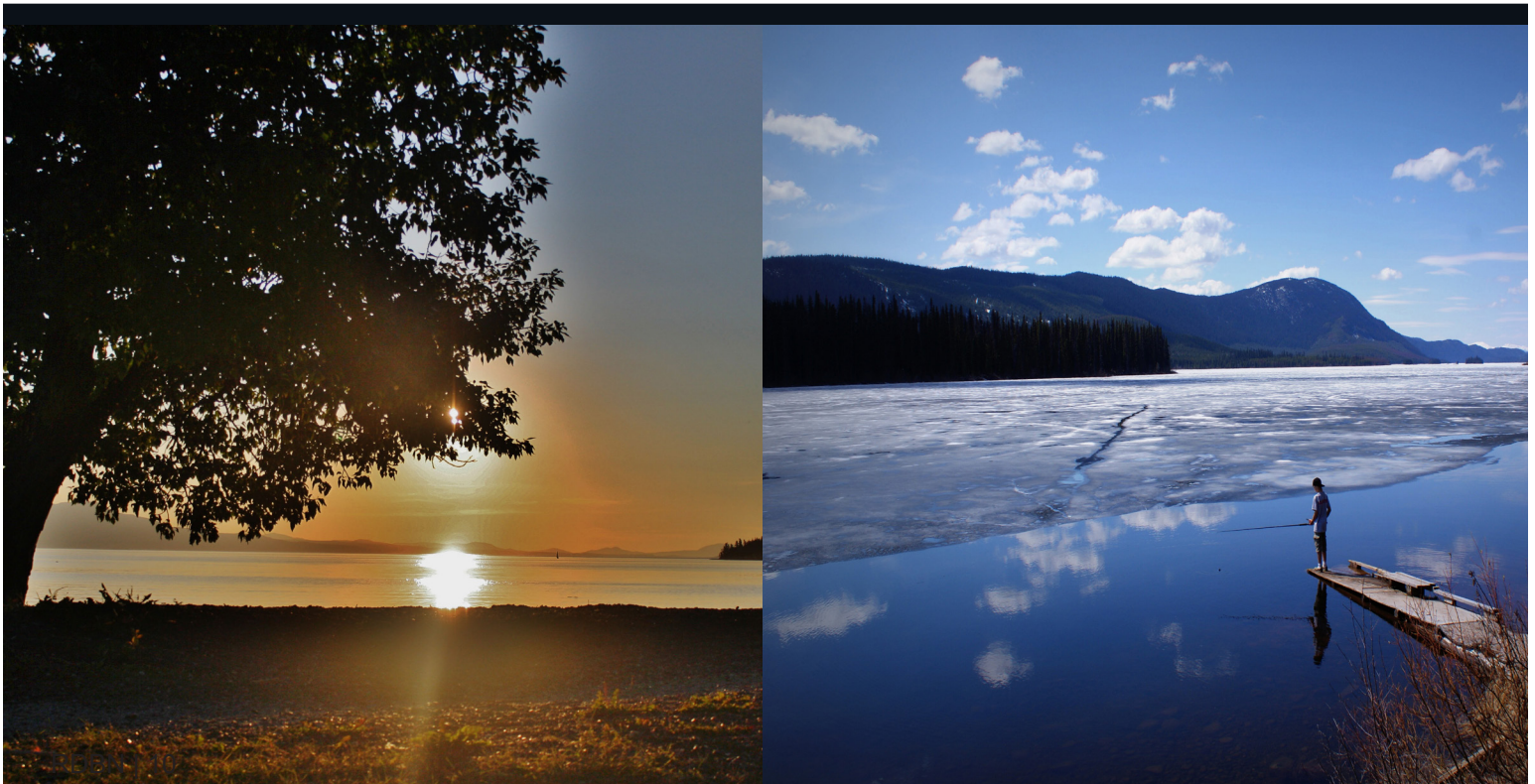
Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



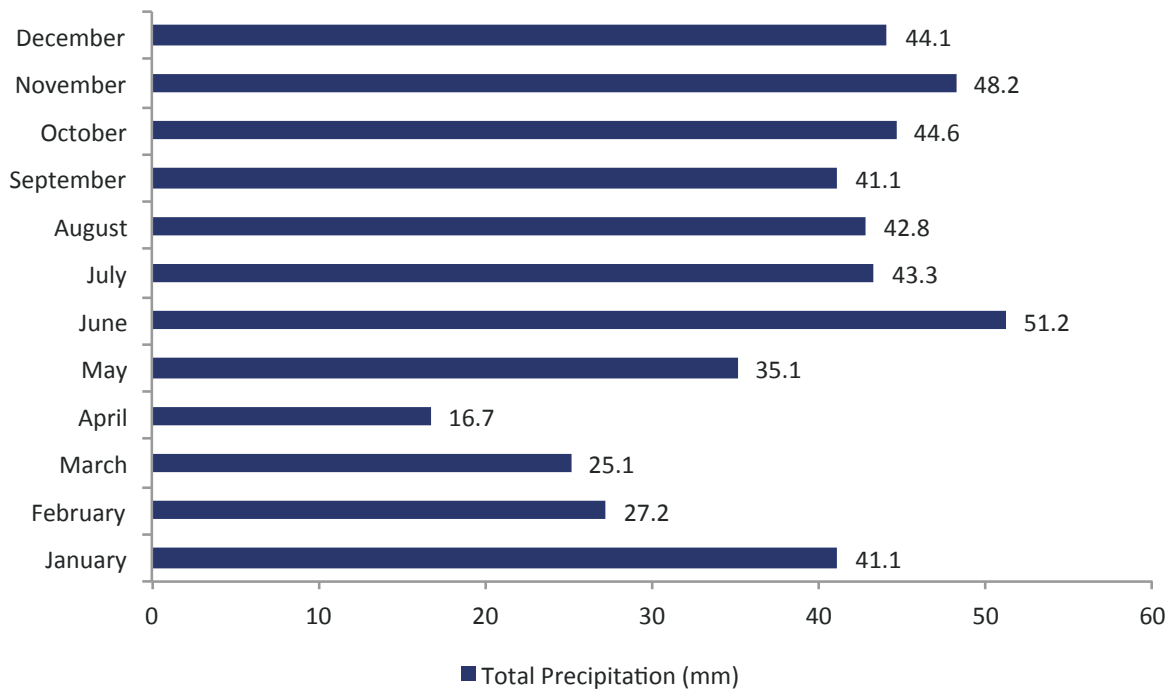
Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

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.



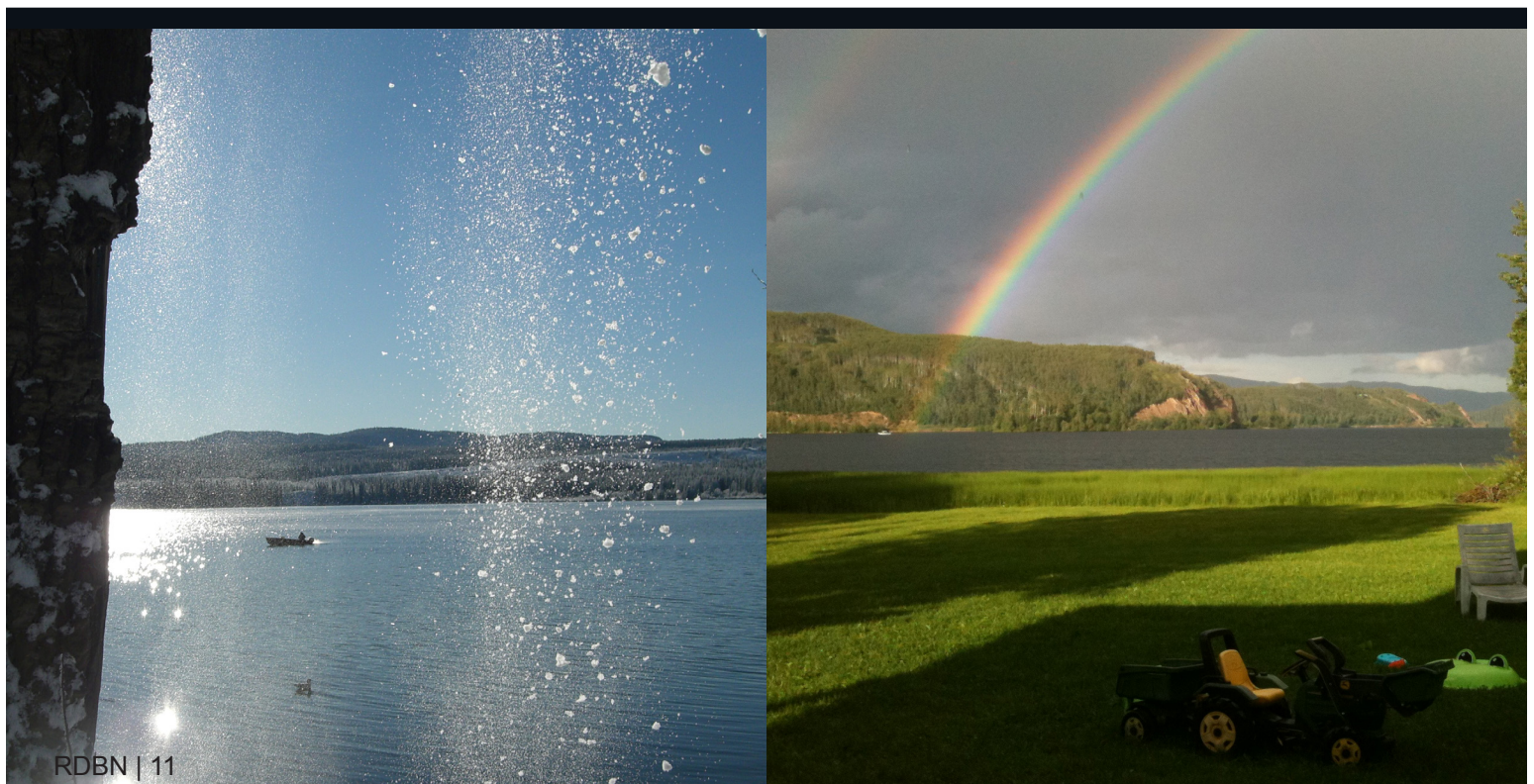
Precipitation

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. 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.
- Northern Thunderbird Air

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	\$0.3645 per day	\$0.1253 per kWh	\$0.3645 per day (equal to the Basic Charge)
Medium General Service Rate	\$0.2673 per day	\$0.0968 per kWh	Equal to 50% of the highest Demand Charge during the previous November 1 to March 31 period. The basic Charge, Energy Charge, and Demand Charge are replaced by the minimum Charge if their sum is less than this amount.
Large General Service Rate	\$0.2673 per day	\$0.0606 per kWh	Equal to 50% of the highest Demand Charge during the previous November 1 to March 31 period. The basic Charge, Energy Charge, and Demand Charge are replaced by the minimum Charge if their sum is less than this amount.

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.

Pacific Northern Gas: Residential and Commercial Gas Rates

	BASIC MONTHLY CHARGE	DELIV- ERY CHARGE	COMPA- NY USE RIDER	RSAM RIDER	INTERIM RATE AD- JUSTMENT RIDER	TOTAL DELIVERY CHARGE	COMMODI- TY CHARGE	GCVA RIDER	TOTAL COMMODI- TY CHARGE	DELIVERY + COMMODITY CHARGE
Rate Class	\$/Month	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ
Residential	10.75	12.159	0.098	0.327	0.000	11.930	2.274	0.013	2.261	14.191
Small Commercial	25.00	10.259	0.098	1.327	0.000	10.030	2.260	0.013	2.247	12.277
Large Commercial	150.00	8.247	0.098	N/A	0.000	8.345	2.260	0.013	2.247	10.592
Small Industrial	410.00	3.699	0.098	N/A	0.000	3.797	1.740	0.013	1.727	5.524



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
ThriveNorth	Support for Young, Emerging 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
WorkBC Fort St. James (PESL*)	Fort St. James
WorkBC Vanderhoof (PESL*)	Vanderhoof
WorkBC Burns Lake (PESL*)	Burns Lake
WorkBC Fraser Lake (Outreach**)	Fraser Lake
WorkBC	Smithers
Skilled Trades Employment Program (BCCA)	Region Wide

* Progressive Employment Services

** Contact WorkBC Vanderhoof office

Local Economic Development Services

Visit [Local Economic Development Services website](#) for information on:

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

Visit [opportunities.bc.ca](#) for information on:

- Regional Skills Gap Analysis
- Industrial Land Use Inventory Reports

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

Nellie Davis

Manager Regional Economic Development
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Email: nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca
Phone: 250-692-3195 / 1-800-320-3339

Chair Gerry Thiessen

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Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
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