

Fact Sheet

British Columbia

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PLACE IN THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

British Columbia, Canada's westernmost province is renowned for its abundant natural resources and multi-ethnic population. British Columbia is a small open economy, heavily dependent on trade. Resource-based industries are the basis of British Columbia's economy. It is estimated that four out of five jobs in British Columbia are in the service industry. Dominated by cosmopolitan Vancouver, British Columbia has become perhaps the most multicultural province in Canada. Drawing on British Columbia's cultural connections with Asia, British Columbia boasts world-class port facilities. BC's economy is expected to remain strong through 2010 when Vancouver hosts the world for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

GDP	US\$143,910M
GDP Per Capita	US\$32,844
British Columbia's Top 5 Imports	
Motor Vehicles	US\$2,545M
Heavy Petroleum Oil Preparations	US\$2,166M
Light Petroleum Oil Preparations including gasoline	US\$1,018M
Audio/Visual Equip	US\$755M
Electrical Energy	US\$575M
Total Imports	US\$40,324M
Total U.S. Imports	US\$16,847M

BRITISH COLUMBIA FACTS

- The capital city of B.C. is Victoria located on Vancouver Island.
- British Columbia has a population of 4,381,600.
- Vancouver's population alone is 2,285,900, or just over half of all B.C. residents.
- Vancouver has been selected to host the 2010 Winter Olympics.
- British Columbia's unemployment rate is 7.4%, while its labor participation rate is 66%.
- British Columbia is highly multicultural with 27% of the population native speakers of an unofficial language (not French or English). Of these, 9% speak a Chinese dialect and 4% speak Punjabi.
- British Columbia borders the states of Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

MAJOR PROJECTS IN MASS RAPID TRANSIT THROUGH 2014

\$2.0 Billion Gateway Program- Twinning the Port Mann Bridge
 \$11 Billion Provincial Transit Plan- Light Rapid Transit Improvements