

TRENDS ANALYSIS: EMPLOYMENT

FALL 2014



What does this measure & why is it important?

This indicator tracks the total number of people employed in Basin-Boundary Development Regions. Data are reported by sector. Employment rates are also considered in this analysis. The employment rate measures the percentage of Canadian adults (15 years of age and over) working for pay. Data for this indicator were sourced from Statistics Canada's [Labour Force Survey](#).

Employment figures indicate whether there are increasing opportunities for the people of the region, and in which sectors they will find them. Economists rely on employment data to track economic diversity, resilience and regional prosperity.

Three Development Regions (DRs) are contained in whole or in part by the Basin-Boundary region. The Kootenay DR includes the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary, Central Kootenay, and East Kootenay. In our region, the Thompson-Okanagan DR is represented by the areas surrounding Golden and Revelstoke, and the Cariboo DR is represented by the area surrounding Valemount.

What are the trends & current conditions?

As compared to 2012, 2013 brought an increase of over 3,000 jobs to the Kootenay DR. This growth constitutes the highest among all development regions in the province. The Thompson-Okanagan and Cariboo DRs, however, both experienced overall job loss (table 1). Sectors that showed the most job growth were manufacturing (in the Thompson-Okanagan DR), trade (in the Kootenay DR) and public administration (in the Cariboo DR). Sectors that showed the most job loss were accommodation and food services (in the Thompson-Okanagan DR), other services (in the Kootenay DR) and manufacturing (in the Cariboo DR).

Industry	Thompson-Okanagan			Kootenay			Cariboo		
	2012	2013	1-Year Change	2012	2013	1-Year Change	2012	2013	1-Year Change
Total, all industries	256.7	249.2	-7.5	74.8	77.9	3.1	85.2	81.3	-3.9
Goods-producing sector	57.4	62.3	4.9	21.5	21.7	0.2	27.4	24.6	-2.8
Agriculture	5.9	6.4	0.5	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	7.4	8.9	1.5	7.0	6.2	-0.8	7.4	6.5	-0.9
Utilities	0.0	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0
Construction	25.5	24.6	-0.9	7.7	7.6	-0.1	7.0	7.2	0.2
Manufacturing	17.3	20.2	2.9	4.9	5.7	0.8	11.3	10.0	-1.3
Services-producing sector	199.3	186.9	-12.4	53.2	56.3	3.1	57.7	56.7	-1
Trade	40.1	41.5	1.4	10.8	12.6	1.8	13.4	12.9	-0.5
Transportation and warehousing	11.0	8.2	-2.8	2.6	3.6	1	5.4	4.4	-1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	14.1	15.6	1.5	1.8	2.7	0.9	2.5	2.8	0.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	16.3	15.1	-1.2	4.0	3.9	-0.1	3.5	2.8	-0.7
Business, building and	9.5	9.8	0.3	2.1	2.1	0	2.1	1.9	-0.2

other support services									
Educational services	17.6	16.8	-0.8	5.9	4.6	-1.3	6.1	5.8	-0.3
Health care and social assistance	34.4	30.4	-4	9.8	10.7	0.9	10.7	9.9	-0.8
Information, culture and recreation	11.6	12.2	0.6	2.6	3.3	0.7	2.4	1.9	-0.5
Accommodation and food services	23.0	18.7	-4.3	6.4	7.4	1	5.8	6.9	1.1
Other services	12.6	9.5	-3.1	4.5	2.8	-1.7	3.2	3.1	-0.1
Public administration	8.9	9.0	0.1	2.7	2.6	-0.1	2.6	4.4	1.8

Table 1: Employment by sector and Development Region (in thousands), 2012-2013

Source: Statistics Canada, 2014

In our region, resource industries continue to make a significant contribution to employment and the overall economy. However, especially in the Kootenay DR, growth in service-producing jobs indicates a gradual shift toward new economic drivers, such as hospitality and health care. The Chartered Professional Accountants of BC (2014) note that while this trend has had a positive impact on overall employment, the shift away from higher-paying goods-producing jobs has likely had a negative impact on incomes.

Basin-Boundary Development Regions have shown mixed performance in their response to the 2009 Great Recession (figure 1). While the Kootenay DR employment rate has steadily risen since its 2010 low, employment in the Thompson-Okanagan DR has yet to return to pre-recession levels. The Cariboo employment rate increased sharply over the period 2009-2012, but declined again in 2013. Data for all BC Development Regions, along with data for youth and senior employment rates, are available on the [Digital Basin](#).

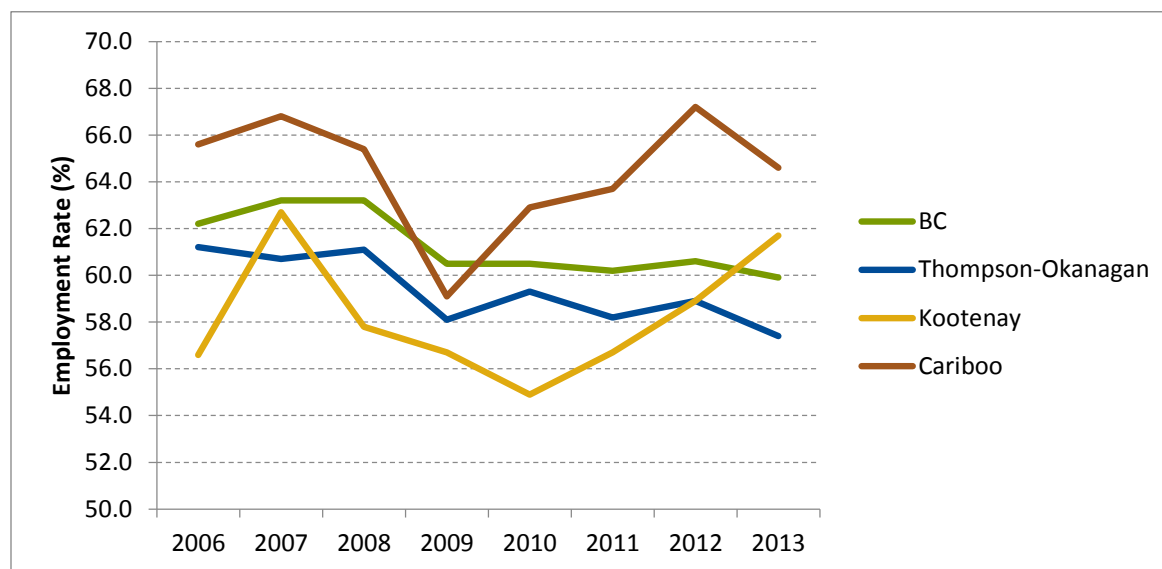


Figure 1: Employment Rate for BC and Basin-Boundary Development Regions, 2006-2013

Source: Statistics Canada, 2014



The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.

References

Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia. (2014). 2014 BC Check-Up: Kootenay Development Region. Retrieved from: <http://www.joomag.com/magazine/bc-check-up-kootenay-development-region/0196430001410220225?short>

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