

# BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA



**BUSINESS**

**ADVANTAGES**



[BritishColumbia.ca](http://BritishColumbia.ca)



## GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

British Columbia is one of North America's most competitive and dynamic business locations. Our strong economy offers unlimited potential, and our advantages attract growth-focused businesses from around the world.

### TAKE YOUR PLACE WITH THE WORLD'S BEST

British Columbia combines a business-friendly environment with an outstanding quality of life. Organizations benefit from our prime location, rich natural resources, commitment to innovation, attractive investment climate and skilled, educated workforce.

Many industry sectors are growing, with exciting opportunities to be found in areas that include:

- > Agrifoods
- > Clean technology
- > Forestry
- > International education
- > Natural gas
- > Mining
- > Technology, including information, communication and wireless technologies; film, television and digital media; and life sciences
- > Tourism
- > Transportation infrastructure

### INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

The Government of British Columbia forecasts that British Columbia's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow 2% in 2019

### SECURE YOUR BOTTOM LINE IN OUR STRONG AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

The Government of British Columbia is committed to building a strong economy. B.C. is an economic leader in Canada and is recognized for its fiscal stability and triple-A credit rating. In 2017, employment grew faster than any other part of Canada and retail sales, housing and exports exceeded all expectations.

British Columbia's Economic Performance Indicators	2019
Real GDP (% change)	2
Labour force (thousands)	2,679
Unemployment rate (%)	5.6
Inflation rate (% change CPI)	2.0
Net in-migration	48,800
Exchange rate (US/CDN dollar)	79.7

Source: British Columbia Budget and Fiscal Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21

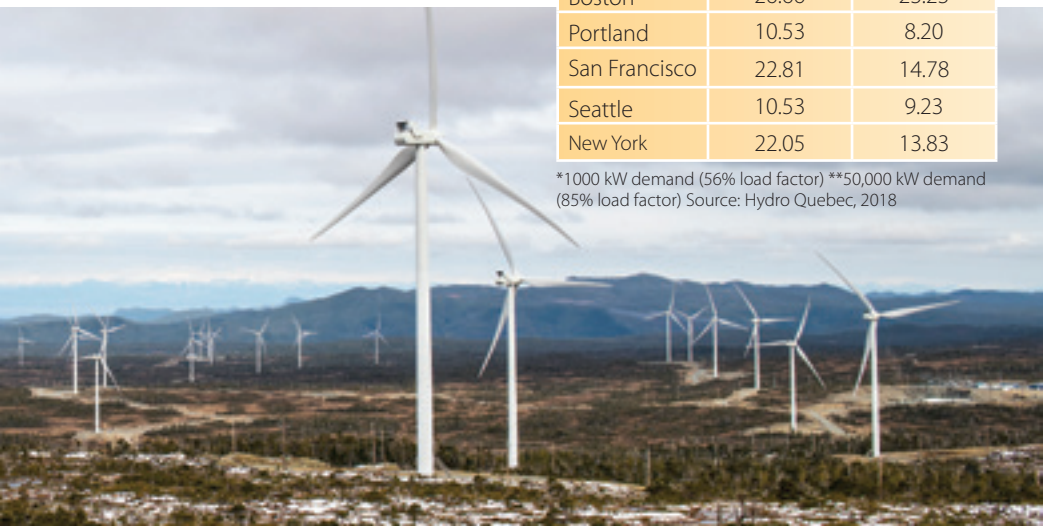




## ATTRACT WORKERS WITH THE SKILLS YOU NEED

British Columbia is home to a workforce that is diverse, skilled, highly educated and multilingual. British Columbia compares favourably against other North American jurisdictions when evaluating key livability statistics. Mercer rated Vancouver as the top city in the Americas for 2018 and fifth globally. Vancouver is ranked sixth in the Economist’s Global Livability Report out of 140 cities. These studies reflect B.C.’s high level of stability, health care, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

This makes British Columbia a great place to live, attracting top talent from around the world.



## POWER YOUR GROWTH WITH CLEAN ENERGY

More than 98% of the electricity generated in British Columbia comes from clean or renewable resources. Electricity rates in British Columbia are also among the lowest in North America. Ongoing investments in conventional and alternative energy technologies and infrastructure ensure that British Columbia has the power it needs to fuel business growth. In 2018, the Government of British Columbia launched CleanBC, a plan to reduce emissions, advance the clean tech sector and grow B.C.’s low-carbon economy. Through CleanBC, government is making it a priority for B.C. to be a destination for new investment and industry looking to meet the growing global demand for low-carbon products, services and pollution-reducing technologies.

### Industrial Electricity (CDN\$)

Average Prices on April 1, 2018  
(in cents/kWh, excluding taxes)

	Medium user*	Large user**
Vancouver	8.99	6.48
Calgary	9.39	8.29
Toronto	12.95	10.65
Montreal	7.99	4.91
Boston	26.66	23.23
Portland	10.53	8.20
San Francisco	22.81	14.78
Seattle	10.53	9.23
New York	22.05	13.83

\*1000 kW demand (56% load factor) \*\*50,000 kW demand (85% load factor) Source: Hydro Quebec, 2018

## ACCESS KEY TO GLOBAL MARKETS

British Columbia’s prime location on Canada’s west coast puts it at the commercial crossroads of the Asia-Pacific region and North America. Companies with operations in British Columbia enjoy duty-free access to the world’s largest marketplaces in Asia, North America and Europe thanks to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. Canada has a unique competitive advantage because it is the only country to have free trade agreements with all countries of the G7. Domestically, British Columbia, with the New West Partnership Trade Agreement has created a single economic region encompassing British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba: a marketplace of more than 11 million people and a GDP of more than \$700 billion. B.C.’s offers fast, easy and reliable global transportation systems. We continue to strengthen our infrastructure with \$25 billion in private and public-sector transportation improvements between 2012 and 2020.



## BRITISH COLUMBIA: A STRATEGIC LOCATION FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT AND LOGISTICS

**AIR:** B.C.’s six airports that serve international markets include: Victoria (YYJ), Vancouver (YVR), Kelowna (YLW), Abbotsford (YXX), Cranbrook (YXC) and Prince George International Airports (YXS). Vancouver International Airport has been voted the top airport in North America for nine consecutive years.

**RAIL:** British Columbia is the only gateway on the west coast of the Americas served by three continental Class 1 railways, connecting ports on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts to key markets throughout Canada, the United States and Mexico.

**ROAD:** An extensive all-weather highway network makes transporting goods and services to North American markets seamless and reliable.

**SEA:** The Port of Vancouver is Canada’s largest port and the third largest port in North America; it is responsible for Canada’s trade with more than 170 world economies. The ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert, which are ice-free year-round, are Asia’s closest ports of entry on the west coast of North America — saving shippers more than two days as compared to other west coast ports.

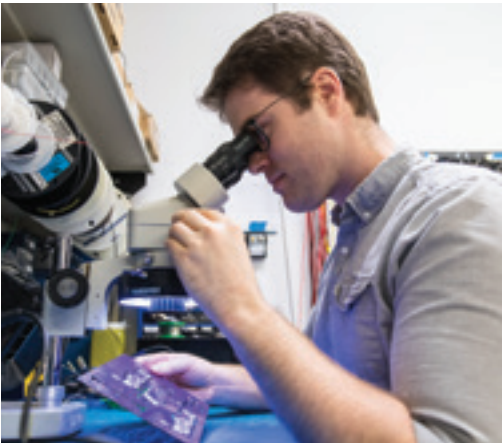
**COMMUNICATIONS:** British Columbia has the highest rate of broadband and overall Internet connectivity in Canada. An advanced communications infrastructure also provides telephone, broadcasting, cable, wireless and other information services at competitive rates.



BENEFIT FROM COMPETITIVE COSTS AND TAXES

Top corporations from across the globe are experiencing the advantages of doing business in British Columbia. They benefit from our competitive operating costs, high quality of life and smart, streamlined regulations that reflect business needs.

- > British Columbia has the lowest provincial personal income taxes in Canada for single individuals earning up to \$125,000.
- > Training tax credits are available to eligible employers based on the wages paid to an eligible apprentice to a maximum of \$4,000 per apprentice per year depending on salary, program and apprenticeship level. Eligible apprentices can receive tax credits too — up to \$2,500 depending on the apprenticeship level they complete.



- > British Columbia's general corporate income tax rate is 12%. When combined with the federal rate, British Columbia businesses pay a general corporate income tax rate of 27%.
- > Find information on incentives at britishcolumbia.ca

LAUNCH YOUR GROWTH FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

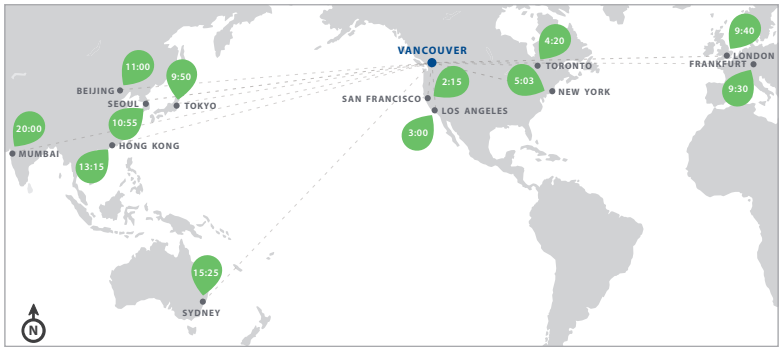
Considering British Columbia as a location for a new business venture or expansion? Trade and Invest British Columbia offers confidential, knowledgeable advice and services including:

- > **STRATEGIC SUPPORT:**  
Obtain the information and contacts you need to make strategic investment decisions in British Columbia.
- > **BUSINESS START-UP ASSISTANCE:**  
Get started faster by drawing on our extensive network of government and industry contacts.
- > **BUSINESS CLIMATE INFORMATION:**  
Learn more about taxation, labour markets, business costs, permits and regulations.



- > **SUPPLIERS OF BUSINESS SERVICES:**  
Meet with experts in tax, real estate and law, as well as government permitting agencies.
- > **HOSTING AND SITE TOURS:**  
Ask us to arrange familiarization tours to business locations throughout the province, including visiting potential sites, touring facilities and meeting with community leaders.
- > **GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS:**  
Learn about the federal, provincial and local government support programs specific to your business.

Hour Air Travel Times from Vancouver International Airport



The Shortest Sea Route from North America to Asia

	Prince Rupert	Vancouver	Oakland	Los Angeles
Hong Kong	11.19 days	12 days	12.6 days	13.2 days
Shanghai	9.9 days	10.6 days	11.3 days	11.9 days
Yokohama	7.92 days	8.92 days	9.46 days	10.08 days
Pusan	9.5 days	9.7 days	10.4 days	11 days
Chennai	17.1 days	18 days	18.6 days	19.3 days

\* Estimated based on vessel speed of 20 knots



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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this publication at the time of writing; however, the programs referred to, and data cited, are subject to change.

All figures are in Canadian dollars.

BritishColumbia.ca





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