



Discover British Columbia's *Natural Advantages*



British Columbia, Naturally.

BritishColumbia.ca



As Canada's west coast gateway to opportunity, British Columbia (B.C.) is a natural fit for big thinkers, innovators and change-makers.

Learn why B.C. is a natural fit for your business.

Why Choose British Columbia

B.C. has one of the most competitive business climates in North America and is a leader in shaping the high-skill, competitive, low-carbon economy of the future.

Canada's one market approach supports seamless operations across Canada and internationally. Our location and infrastructure keeps B.C. connected to all major markets, with the ability to do business with Europe and Asia on the same business day.

B.C.'s true competitive advantage is its people — we have a highly skilled, diverse workforce and British Columbia's reputation as one of the most desirable places to live makes us a global magnet for talent.

British Columbia's Economic Performance Indicators

2024

| | 2024 |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Real GDP (% change) | 0.8 |
| Labour force (thousands) | 3,002 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 6.1 |
| Inflation rate (% change CPI) | 2.6 |
| Net in-migration | 132,300 |
| Exchange rate (US/CDN dollar) | 73.6 |

Source: British Columbia Budget and Fiscal Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27



Businesses benefit from our:

- Business climate and economy
- Location and global access
- Environmental, social and governance (ESG) advantages
- Rich natural resources
- Talent and workforce
- Innovation ecosystem
- Quality of life



Our dependable operating environment and forward-thinking mindset accelerates business growth, innovation and prosperity.



A Vibrant Hub for Business Growth

British Columbia boasts homegrown international brands like [Slack](#), [Hootsuite](#) and [Lululemon](#) which have embedded innovation and inclusion into their culture. Our largest city, Vancouver, is one of the fastest-growing low-carbon economies in North America.

- Preferential market access through 15 trade agreements with 51 countries
- Aa1 credit rating (Moody's Investor Services), one of the highest among the Canadian provinces
- Some of the lowest electricity rates in North America
- Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement (CMRA) — A national framework that simplifies and streamlines business operations across Canada



Discover how B.C. attracts top talent for companies.

A Multicultural Magnet for Top Talent

From some of the world's top scientists to thousands of computer science and engineering graduates each year, British Columbia provides a highly skilled workforce and strong talent pipeline.

- 25 colleges and universities, including the University of British Columbia, which ranks consistently among the top five percent of universities in the world
- A hotspot for students worldwide, with the second-largest concentration of international students in Canada
- The workforce in B.C. is some of best educated in the world, with about 75% of B.C. employees having post-secondary education
- Immigration programs like the BC Provincial Nominee Program, Global Skills Strategy and intra-company transferees give B.C. companies access to specialized international workers



See how your business can benefit from being in B.C.

Canada's West Coast Gateway to Global Markets

British Columbia's prime location on North America's west coast makes it easy and cost effective to do business around the world. We have 30 border crossings to the U.S., and our Pacific time zone means you can do business with New York, London or Hong Kong all within the same day.

- The [Port of Vancouver](#) (largest in Canada)
- The [Port of Prince Rupert](#) (closest North American west coast port to Asia)
- 36 certified airports, with six international airports including Vancouver's YVR
- Extensive rail lines and major roads connect B.C. to Canada and U.S. border states
- Some of the highest rates of broadband and overall Internet connectivity in Canada, with 95% of households on high-speed and 98% with 5G coverage



A Flourishing Innovation Ecosystem

North of Silicon Valley and Seattle, British Columbia has a uniquely creative and collaborative tech culture. We have quickly grown into a thriving innovation hotspot, with more than 12,000 tech companies, including Amazon, Microsoft and Samsung. Billion-dollar companies like AbCellera, Clio, Dapper Labs, Trulioo, GeoComply and Visier were built right here in B.C. Starting in 2025, Web Summit Vancouver replaces Collision in Toronto, uniting the innovators shaping the tech industry and reinforcing B.C.'s leadership in global tech and entertainment.

- Strong technology sector growth rates and employment
- Internationally recognized research hospitals, universities and institutions such as the Quantum Algorithms Institute
- Fastest growing life sciences sector in Canada, with company growth outpacing other provinces and the number of jobs has increased over 23% in recent years
- Highest concentration of software engineers and second-highest concentration of AI talent in Canada
- Over 80 business incubators, accelerators and mentorship programs
- 7 B.C. cleantech companies have made the Cleantech Group's 2024 Global Cleantech 100 list



Come join our trailblazers — where bold ideas lead to real impact.

Learn more about our natural advantages.

Where Rich Natural Resources Meet Next-Generation Technology

British Columbia's stunning coastline, lush forests, mountains, rivers and valleys are not only beautiful—they drive our economy and provide new opportunities. B.C.'s rich natural resources fuel everything from forestry and agriculture to mining and natural gas, while using sustainable practices and cutting-edge technologies. We are a leading producer of the minerals and metals needed to transition to a low-carbon future and are actively streamlining permitting to accelerate major projects in mining, renewable energy and natural gas.

- Home to 1,100 global exploration and mining companies, supported by rich geology that includes 19 of Canada's 34 critical minerals, Canada's largest copper producer and only molybdenum producer
- Agriculture, seafood and food processing industries that produce one of the most diverse selections of products in Canada
- Millions of hectares of forested land, sustainable forest practices and high-quality forestry products



B.C.'s Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Advantages

In British Columbia, like-minded individuals, businesses, communities and Indigenous Peoples are partnering to create an economic and investment climate that is environmentally, ethically and economically conscious.

Policies are in place to reflect the values of British Columbians—from a climate plan that protects the province's prized clean air to human rights laws that help to protect all people from discrimination.

- The cleanest jurisdiction in western North America, with an average of 98% of electricity generation coming from clean or renewable resources
- A roadmap to a net-zero future guided by the CleanBC climate plan
- Policies that reflect our values such as the B.C. Human Rights Code and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Discover how B.C. does business.





Awe-Inspiring Mountains, Coastline and Lifestyle

In British Columbia, our temperate climate, cosmopolitan cities and natural wonders provide a quality of life that draws people from around the world. In fact, Vancouver ranks as one of the world's most livable cities.

- Award-winning universities, including University of British Columbia (UBC) and Simon Fraser University (SFU)
- An excellent public health-care system
- A diverse arts and cultural scene including Indigenous art, museums and live performances

See why people are *naturally* drawn to British Columbia.



Our rich culture is powered by our people. B.C. is committed to true, lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and as the most ethnically diverse province in Canada, our multicultural society helps nurture inclusiveness, understanding and mutual respect.

Opportunity in British Columbia

With rich natural resources, top talent and proven economic strengths, B.C. offers opportunities across many industry sectors.



Key Industries:

- Aerospace
- Agriculture, Seafood and Food Processing
- Clean Technology
- Critical Minerals
- Digital Media and Entertainment
- Forestry
- Information and Communications Technology
- Life Sciences
- Marine
- Natural Gas



Emerging Sectors:

- Agritech
- Artificial Intelligence
- Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality
- Hydrogen
- Mass Timber

Launch Your Growth From British Columbia

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 B.C.
- **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.



Expand to B.C.

Our welcoming government has streamlined regulations, like the newly implemented Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement combined with a competitive, pro-business tax system make it easy to get started and keep growing.



Invest Capital in B.C.

Investors will find that our reputation for safety, a sound fiscal and political environment, a dependable legal system, and top-ranked quality of life, makes us the natural choice for business in Canada.



Buy From B.C.

B.C. has built a strong international reputation for producing high-quality goods and outstanding services across multiple sectors.

Contact Us

We are here to match sellers with buyers, investors with opportunities and companies with talented employees, whether they're selling products or services to the people of B.C. or working with our local communities to export products worldwide.

Our experienced and educated team of trade and investment professionals have access to a global network of representatives in China, Japan, Korea, South East Asia, Taiwan, India, Europe, Mexico and the United States.



Connect with us today.

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