

# Small Business Profile 2007: Highlights

Small Business in British Columbia – helping to grow Canada's economy

## Small business is big business in British Columbia

Over the past five years, the small business sector in British Columbia has grown to become a driving force in their booming economy. By the end of 2006, 98 per cent of all businesses in British Columbia were small businesses, providing employment for **over 1 million** people. That's 47 per cent of *all* employment in British Columbia generated by businesses with fewer than 50 employees or self-employed workers. There were approximately 370,700 small businesses operating in the province last year.

## Other impressive facts:

- From 2001-2006, the number of small businesses in British Columbia grew by 11.0 per cent – **triple** the national average of 3.6 per cent.
- Approximately 57 per cent of British Columbia's private sector jobs are with small business – the second highest rate in the country.
- British Columbia's small business GDP accounted for more than a quarter – 27 per cent – of total provincial GDP, the highest of all provinces.
- 36 per cent of the self-employed in British Columbia were women, one of the highest rates in the country and above the national average.

## Hot Sectors

**Some hot small business sectors over the past 5 years include:**

- **Construction** with a net addition of more than 3,000 small businesses.
- **High Technology** with a 10 per cent increase in new start-ups and a net addition of over 820 new businesses – in fact, 95 per cent of all high technology companies in British Columbia are small businesses.
- **Business Services** (accountants, etc.) with nearly 2,100 new offices.
- **Real Estate Services** with about 1,360 new businesses.
- **Tourism** with 175 new small businesses.

## BC Businesses in 2006

	Number of businesses	Per cent of total
Total small businesses	370,700	98%
Self-employed without paid help †	210,900	56%
Businesses with less than 50 employees	159,800	42%
Total large businesses	8,100	2%
Total all businesses ‡	378,700‡	100%

† Incorporated self-employed are not included in this figure in order to avoid double-counting, since they are already included in the count of businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

‡ Figures do not add due to rounding.

Source: BC STATS using data supplied by Statistics Canada

## Hot Jobs

**Between 2001 and 2006:**

- **Construction** jobs in small businesses went up 49.1 per cent – that's a whopping 25,500 new jobs in the construction sector alone.
- **Retail** jobs increased by 12.1 per cent, or 9,700 new jobs.
- Jobs in **Educational Services** (ex. ESL instruction) increased more than 28.3 per cent, or about 2,700 new jobs.

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## Hot Wages

Annual earnings for small business workers over the past five years increased 18 per cent – **twice** the increase for large business workers.

## Hot Exports

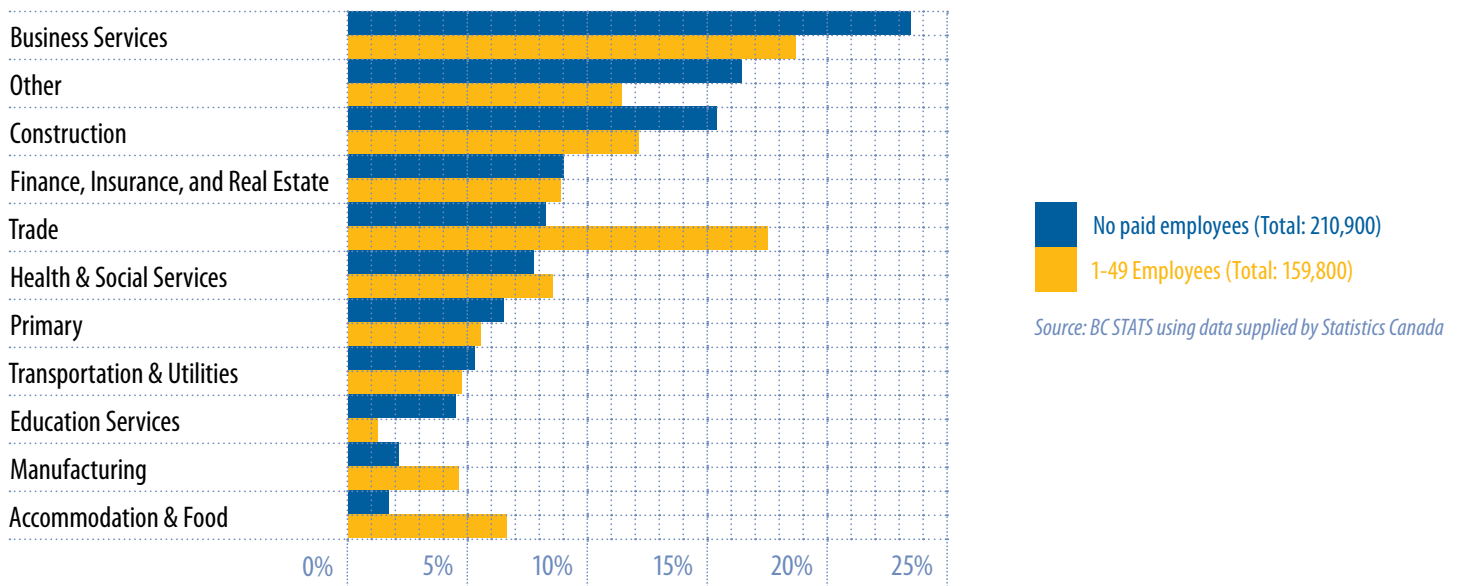
Small business in British Columbia shipped over **\$14 billion** worth of merchandise to international destinations in 2005. That's almost 40 per cent of the total value of goods exported from British Columbia.

## Hot Regions

**The hottest regions over the past five years were:**

- **Northeast BC** with an average increase of 6.3 per cent (or about 400 new businesses) per year.
- **Kootenay** with an average increase of 3.7 per cent per year in the number of new businesses (or 400 new businesses).
- **North Coast and Nechako** with an average increase of 3.1 per cent per year in the number of new businesses (or 200 new businesses).

## Small businesses, with and without employees, by industry



**For a copy of the complete Small Business Profile  
or other information relating to small business, please go to: [www.gov.bc.ca/sbr](http://www.gov.bc.ca/sbr)**

