



WORKFORCE RESET

Surrey Labour Market Intelligence and Impact Reports

January 2022 LMI Summary Report

****THE ONLY SURREY-FOCUSED LABOUR MARKET REPORT****

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	1
HIGHLIGHTS.....	2
Surrey Employment COVID-19 Impacts BY INDUSTRY – February 2020 to December 2021.....	2
Surrey Employment COVID-19 Impacts BY OCCUPATION – February 2020 to December 2021	4

Surrey Board of Trade COVID-19 Surrey Labour Market Intelligence Report #8 January 2022 (including results from Statistics Canada's December 2021 Labour Force Survey)

****THE ONLY SURREY-FOCUSED LABOUR MARKET REPORT****

The Surrey Board of Trade (SBOT) continues to provide the only Surrey-specific labour market data on a regular basis! This summary report compares employment changes in Surrey from before the COVID-19 pandemic (February 2020) and through to December 2021 to show the local employment impacts of the pandemic. This report is prepared by Human Capital Strategies in conjunction with the Surrey Board of Trade (SBOT).

Please note that until December 2020, the Labour Force Data provided by Statistics Canada was based on population counts from the 2011 Census of Population. As of January 2021, the estimates have been adjusted to reflect the population counts from the 2016 Census. As a result, you will see some minor changes in numbers from Labour Market Intelligence Reports published in 2020. All of the numbers for 2020 provided in this report have been updated based on the revised labour force data from Statistics Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS

In December 2021, the Surrey economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be driven by a two-pronged strength: knowledge-based industries and resource industries. Many other goods and services sectors in Surrey remain impacted and below February 2020 employment levels.

Health care, natural resources, public administration, and tech sectors are leading Surrey's job recovery. An exception to knowledge-based growth is the recovery of wholesale and retail trade positions. The single largest percentage growth in terms of occupational categories has been in natural resources positions (68.6%). Many British Columbians do not realize the extent to which non-agriculture resource companies are prevalent in Surrey and how these impact employment in other sectors

On the other hand, the construction sector in Surrey continues to lag in its jobs recovery – even further so in December 2021, down over 8,300 jobs since the pandemic started; and high-touch, large-group accommodation & food services, “other services” and arts & culture jobs remain below pre-pandemic levels.

The construction-driven trades, transport and equipment operator category remains over 9,000 jobs below February 2020 – also impacted by a lagging transportation sector recovery in Surrey.

Of 15 industry categories, seven of them in Surrey have employment levels still below February 2020. Recovery is going in the right direction, but some sectors are still struggling and need support.

COVID-19 Employer, Labour Force and Workforce Impacts in December 2021

Surrey Employer COVID-19 Employment Impacts: Estimates extrapolated from Statistics Canada's 2016 Census and 2021 Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey (December 2021)

Surrey Employment COVID-19 Impacts BY INDUSTRY – February 2020 to December 2021

Surrey's employment 'troughed' in July 2020 with a low of over 258,000 jobs; and since then, its economy has continually recovered to 302,585 jobs.

Table 1 shows the employment change between February 2020 (Pre-COVID) and December 2021 in Surrey, by industry.

While recovering earlier in 2021 and then dropping slightly by just over 200 jobs since August 2021, the Surrey economy has recovered an estimated over 5,800 jobs for a 2.0% growth since pre-pandemic February 2020. Overall, it is up by almost 31,000 jobs or 11.3% since the lowest level of employment in April 2020.

The sectors most impacted and still not fully recovered in Surrey are estimated to be:

- Construction is still down over 8,347 jobs or -25.6%;
- Business, building & other support is down over 2,600 jobs or -18.3%;
- Accommodation & food services is lower than pre-pandemic by over 2,000 jobs or -10.6%;
- “Other services” (personal services, high-touch jobs) is down almost 2,000 jobs or -14.6%;
- While utilities only lost 618 jobs since the pandemic, this represents a -36.7% drop in this relatively small Surrey industry.

Table 1: Estimated Employment by Industry in Surrey¹ – February 2020 through December 2021
Adapted from Table 14-10-0379-01, Statistics Canada²

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	Employment February 2020	Employment April 2020	Employment December 2021	Change February 2020 to December 2021	
				Jobs	%
Total Employed (all industries)	296,748	271,848	302,585	5,837	2.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas	3,008	4,483	5,073	2,064	68.6%
Utilities	1,687	2,230	1,068	-618	-36.7%
Construction	32,644	29,793	24,297	-8,347	-25.6%
Manufacturing	26,833	25,580	29,176	2,343	8.7%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	51,604	46,077	57,995	6,391	12.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	27,229	23,931	26,821	-408	-1.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	18,511	16,766	16,551	-1,960	-10.6%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	19,536	19,337	20,257	721	3.7%
Business, Building & Other Support	14,609	14,212	11,930	-2,679	-18.3%
Educational Services	16,380	15,489	16,974	594	3.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	34,132	32,973	39,462	5,329	15.6%
Info, Culture & Recreation	9,496	8,164	10,179	683	7.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	19,052	13,845	17,029	-2,023	-10.6%
Other Services (except public administration)	13,420	11,700	11,460	-1,960	-14.6%
Public Administration	9,416	8,376	14,202	4,786	50.8%

¹ Estimates based on Surrey share of Metro Vancouver (Census Metropolitan Area) by Industry in 2016.

² Employment by Industry, three month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

The sectors showing the greatest recovery since February 2020 in Surrey are estimated to be:

- Wholesale & retail trade has rebounded with almost 6,400 new jobs for a 12.4% increase;
- Health care & social assistance is up almost by over 5,400 jobs or 15.6%;
- Public administration employment is up almost 4,800 jobs or 50.8% in Surrey, perhaps from back to school trends;
- Manufacturing in Surrey is up over 2,300 jobs since before the pandemic with an 8.7% increase;
- While gaining over 2,000 jobs, the natural resources sector saw a large percentage recovery in Surrey at 68.6% since February 2020;
- While Utilities only lost 618 jobs since the pandemic, this represents a -36.7% drop in this relatively small Surrey industry.

Interestingly the tech sector employment rose continually throughout the pandemic to August 2021; however, it dropped slightly from August to November 2021, but recovered 721 jobs for an increase of 3.7% in December 2021.

One of the most impacted industries in Surrey, construction has had consistent job reductions which worsened even over the last month by over 2,100 jobs.

Surrey Employment COVID-19 Impacts BY OCCUPATION – February 2020 to December 2021

Table 2 shows employment trends by occupation in Surrey.

As of December 2021, the greatest recovery by occupation in Surrey since February 2020 has been business, finance & administration with over 9,700 new jobs, a 23.3% increase.

Table 2: Estimated Employment by Occupation in Surrey – February 2020 through December 2021
Adapted from Table 14-10-0381-01, Statistics Canada

National Occupational Classification	Employment February 2020	Employment April 2020	Employment December 2021	Change February 2020 to December 2021	
				Employment	%
Total Employed (all occupations)	296,748	271,848	302,585	5,837	2.0%
Management	22,822	23,119	21,814	-1,008	-4.4%
Business, Finance & Administration	41,703	40,490	51,425	9,722	23.3%
Natural & Applied Sciences	19,658	17,678	21,568	1,911	9.7%
Health	21,380	20,822	25,520	4,139	19.4%
Education, Law & Social, Community and Gov Services	26,370	24,680	28,824	2,453	9.3%
Art, Culture, Rec & Sport	6,636	5,436	5,446	-1,190	-17.9%
Sales & Services	83,042	68,608	75,688	-7,354	-8.9%
Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators	58,356	55,001	49,309	-9,047	-15.5%
Natural Resources Agriculture & related production	3,414	5,209	5,121	1,707	50.0%
Manufacturing & Utilities	13,226	11,021	14,209	983	7.4%

Other industries with significant job increases were:

- Health positions increased by over 4,100 or 19.4%;
- Education, law & social, community and government services saw an increase of almost 2,500 jobs or 9.3% in Surrey;
- Jobs in natural & applied sciences grew by over 1,900 or 9.7% since the pandemic began;
- Natural resource jobs increased by 50% or over 1,700 jobs.

When we consider employment by occupation in Surrey, the greatest number of jobs impacted were in:

- Trades, transport & equipment operators decreased by over 9,000 or -15.5%;
- Sales & service employment is down over 7,300 or -8.9%;
- Arts, culture, recreation & sport lost almost 1,200 jobs or -17.9%;
- Management employment is down over 1,000 or -4.4%.

Jobs in manufacturing and utilities occupations were up almost 1,000 or 7.4% in Surrey since February 2020.

Sources:

Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0379-01 Employment by industry, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality \(x 1,000\)](#)

Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0381-01 Employment by occupation, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality \(x 1,000\)](#)

MORE INFORMATION:

SURREY BUSINESS LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

BC Labour Force Survey Data, Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, December 2021 (Released January 7, 2022)

Source: BC Stats – Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, December 2021. Released January 7, 2022. Retrieved from https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/statistics/employment-labour-market/lfs_data_tables.pdf

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