



WORKFORCE RESET

Surrey Labour Market Intelligence and Impact Reports

March 2022 LMI Summary Report by Surrey Board of Trade and Human Capital Strategies

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

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Surrey Board of Trade COVID-19 Surrey Labour Market Intelligence Report March 2022 (including results of Statistics Canada's February 2022 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 February 2022 to show the local employment impacts of the pandemic. This report is prepared by Human Capital Strategies in conjunction with the 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 the numbers for 2020 provided in this report have been updated based on the revised labour force data from Statistics Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS

Employment in Surrey in February 2022 was an estimated 1.7% or 4,900 jobs above employment before the pandemic in February 2020, and almost 30,000 higher than the lowest job levels in April 2020.

In February 2022, the Surrey economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be driven by a two-pronged strength: knowledge-based industries and resource industries. Some (fewer than in December 2021) 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 jobs recovery. An exception to knowledge-based growth is the recovery of wholesale and retail trade (almost 3,700 jobs growth). The single largest percentage growth in terms of occupational categories has been in natural resources positions (69.6% or 2,100 jobs). Non-agriculture resource companies are prevalent in Surrey and continue to positively 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 February 2022, down over 8,655 jobs since the pandemic started; and of course, the 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 6,500 jobs below February 2020 – also impacted by a lagging transportation sector recovery in Surrey.

Improvement continues in Surrey - of 15 industry categories, in December 2021 seven of them in Surrey have employment levels still below February 2020. Two months later, in February 2022, this number was only three of 15 industries still below pre-pandemic job levels.

Many Surrey industries and occupational categories have rebounded to employment levels above pre-pandemic February 2020; lagging construction employment and the slow recovery of sales & service, trades (construction related) and services impacted by COVID restrictions (e.g., accommodation, food, group events, etc.) continue to be of concern.

COVID-19 Employer, Labour Force and Workforce Impacts in February 2022

Surrey Employer COVID-19 Employment Impacts: Estimates extrapolated from Statistics Canada's 2016 Census and 2022 Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey (March 2022)

Surrey Employment COVID-19 Impacts BY INDUSTRY – February 2020 to February 2022

Employment in Surrey in February 2022 was an estimated 1.7% or 4,900 jobs above employment before the pandemic in February 2020; and almost 30,000 higher than the lowest period in April 2020. The largest employment sectors in Surrey in February 2022 were:

1. Wholesale & retail trade (55,296)
2. Health care & social assistance (40,296)
3. Transportation & warehousing (28,360)
4. Manufacturing (28,332)
5. Construction (23,989)
6. Professional, scientific and technical (21,900)

Table 1 shows employment change between February 2020 (Pre-COVID) and February 2022 in Surrey, by industry.

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

- Construction is still down over -8,655 jobs or -26.5%;
- Finance, insurance & real estate is down by -2,817 jobs or -15.2%;
- Business, building & other support is down over -2,331 jobs or -16.0%;
- Accommodation & food services is lower than pre-pandemic by over -2,269 jobs or -11.9%;
- "Other services" (personal services, high touch jobs) is down almost 2,180 jobs or -16.2%;
- While utilities only lost 487 jobs since the pandemic, this represents a -28.9% drop in this relatively small Surrey industry – the largest percentage drop among all industries.

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

- Health care & social assistance is up almost by over 6,163 jobs or 18.1%;
- Public administration employment is up almost 3,825 jobs or 40.6% in Surrey, perhaps from sustained back to school trends since Christmas;
- Wholesale & retail trade has rebounded with almost 3,692 new jobs for a 7.2% increase;
- Gaining 2,094 jobs, the natural resources sector saw a large percentage recovery in Surrey at 69.6% since February 2020;
- Professional, scientific and technical services have increased employment by 1,553 over pre-COVID for an 8.0% since February 2020.

Manufacturing (1,498 or 5.6%), transportation & warehousing (1,131 or 4.2%) and information, culture & recreation (848 or 8.9%) showed smaller growth in Surrey but still higher employment than before the pandemic started.

Table 1: Estimated Employment by Industry in Surrey¹ – February 2020 through February 2022
Adapted from Table 14-10-0379-01, Statistics Canada²

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	Employment February 2020	Employment April 2020	Employment February 2022	Change February 2020 to February 2022	
				Jobs	%
Total Employed (all industries)	296,748	271,848	301,649	4,900	1.7%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas	3,008	4,483	5,102	2,094	69.6%
Utilities	1,687	2,230	1,199	-487	-28.9%
Construction	32,644	29,793	23,989	-8,655	-26.5%
Manufacturing	26,833	25,580	28,332	1,498	5.6%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	51,604	46,077	55,296	3,692	7.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	27,229	23,931	28,360	1,131	4.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	18,511	16,766	15,694	-2,817	-15.2%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	19,536	19,337	21,090	1,553	8.0%
Business, Building & Other Support	14,609	14,212	12,277	-2,331	-16.0%
Educational Services	16,380	15,489	17,821	1,441	8.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	34,132	32,973	40,296	6,163	18.1%
Info, Culture & Recreation	9,496	8,164	10,344	848	8.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	19,052	13,845	16,782	-2,269	-11.9%
Other Services (except public administration)	13,420	11,700	11,240	-2,180	-16.2%
Public Administration	9,416	8,376	13,241	3,825	40.6%

Surrey Employment COVID-19 Impacts BY OCCUPATION – February 2020 to February 2022

Table 2 shows employment trends by occupation in Surrey.

As of February 2022, the biggest recovery by occupation in Surrey since February 2020 has been business, finance & administration with over 9,400 new jobs, for a 22.6% increase.

Other occupational categories with significant job increases in Surrey were:

- Jobs in natural & applied sciences grew by over 3,382 or 17.2% since the pandemic;
- Health positions increased by over 3,353 or 15.7%;
- Education, law & social, community and government services saw an almost 2,652 jobs increase or 10.2% in Surrey;
- Natural resource jobs increased by 52.6% or almost 1,800 jobs.

Jobs in manufacturing and utilities occupations were up 1,153 or 8.7% in Surrey since February 2020.

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.

Table 2: Estimated Employment by Occupation in Surrey – February 2020 through February 2022
Adapted from Table 14-10-0381-01, Statistics Canada

National Occupational Classification	Employment February 2020	Employment April 2020	Employment February 2022	Change February 2020 to February 2022	
				Employment	%
Total Employed (all occupations)	296,748	271,848	301,649	4,900	1.7%
Management	22,822	23,119	21,599	-1,223	-5.4%
Business, Finance & Administration	41,703	40,490	51,144	9,441	22.6%
Natural & Applied Sciences	19,658	17,678	23,039	3,382	17.2%
Health	21,380	20,822	24,733	3,353	15.7%
Education, Law & Social, Community and Gov Services	26,370	24,680	29,022	2,652	10.1%
Art, Culture, Rec & Sport	6,636	5,436	5,455	-1,180	-17.8%
Sales & Services	83,042	68,608	71,643	-11,400	-13.7%
Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators	58,356	55,001	51,856	-6,501	-11.1%
Natural Resources Agriculture & related production	3,414	5,209	5,209	1,795	52.6%
Manufacturing & Utilities	13,226	11,021	14,379	1,153	8.7%

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

- Sales & service employment (-11,400 or -13.7%);
- Trades, transport & equipment operators (-6,501 or -11.1%);
- Management employment (-1,223 or -5.4%);
- Arts, culture, recreation & sport (-1,180 jobs or -17.8%).

Many Surrey industries and occupational categories have rebounded to employment levels above pre-pandemic February 2020; lagging construction employment and the slow recovery of sales & service, trades (construction related) and services impacted by COVID restrictions (e.g., accommodation, food, group events, etc.) continue to be of concern.

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, February 2022 (Released March 11, 2022)

Source: BC Stats – Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, February 2022. Released March 11, 2022. Retrieved from https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/statistics/employment-labour-market/lfs_data_tables.pdf

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