

November 2022

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REPORT

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Surrey Board of Trade Surrey Labour Market Intelligence Report

November 2022 (including results of Statistics Canada's October 2022 Labour Force Survey)

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 October 2022 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.

Highlights

Employment in Surrey in October 2022 was an estimated 3.9%, or over 11,600 jobs, above employment before the pandemic in February 2020, and over 36,500 higher than the lowest job levels in April 2020.

In October 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 goods and services sectors in Surrey remain impacted and below February 2020 employment levels.

Health care, public administration, tech (including information, culture and recreation) and natural resources sectors are leading Surrey's jobs recovery. The single largest percentage growth in terms of occupational categories has been in natural resources positions (28.4% and 971 jobs). Agriculture and non-agriculture resource companies are prevalent in Surrey and continue to positively impact employment in other sectors.

On the other hand, while having mostly recovered, the construction sector in Surrey continues to lag – down over 1,000 jobs, or -3.1%, since the pandemic started; and the high-touch, large-group accommodation and food services, other services, wholesale and retail trade and transportation and warehousing sectors remain below pre-pandemic levels.

Improvement continues in Surrey – for example, the construction-driven trades, transport and equipment operator category has now fully recovered its pre-COVID employment level in Surrey, up 359 jobs, or 0.6%, since February 2020.

Many Surrey industries and occupational categories have rebounded to employment levels above pre-pandemic February 2020. While continuing to recover, some service-related sectors remain below pre-COVID job levels. The slow recovery of sales and service, trades (construction-related) and services impacted by earlier COVID restrictions continue to be of concern in Surrey and elsewhere. Continuing supply chain bottlenecks, labour shortages and a slowing economy are factors.

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

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

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

Employment in Surrey in October 2022 was an estimated 3.9%, or more than 11,600 jobs, above employment before the pandemic in February 2020; and over 36,500 higher than the lowest period in April 2020. The largest employment sectors in Surrey in October 2022 were:

1. Wholesale and retail trade (48,711)
2. Health care and social assistance (39,177)
3. Construction (31,642)
4. Manufacturing (27,433)
5. Transportation and warehousing (26,098)
6. Professional, scientific and technical (22,544)

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

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	Employment February 2020	Employment April 2020	Employment October 2022	Change February 2020 to October 2022	
				Jobs	%
Total Employed (all industries)	296,748	271,848	308,362	11,613	3.9%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas	3,008	4,483	4,689	1,681	55.9%
Utilities	1,687	2,230	2,099	412	24.4%
Construction	32,644	29,793	31,642	-1,002	-3.1%
Manufacturing	26,833	25,580	27,433	599	2.2%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	51,604	46,077	48,711	-2,893	-5.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	27,229	23,931	26,098	-1,131	-4.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	18,511	16,766	16,475	-2,036	-11.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	19,536	19,337	22,544	3,007	15.4%
Business, Building & Other Support	14,609	14,212	15,675	1,067	7.3%
Educational Services	16,380	15,489	16,781	401	2.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	34,132	32,973	39,177	5,045	14.8%
Info, Culture & Recreation	9,496	8,164	12,311	2,816	29.7%
Accommodation & Food Services	19,052	13,845	17,943	-1,108	-5.8%
Other Services (except public administration)	13,420	11,700	11,760	-1,660	-12.4%
Public Administration	9,416	8,376	12,790	3,374	35.8%

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.

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

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

- Wholesale and retail trade is still down almost -2,900 or -5.6%;
- Finance, insurance and real estate is down by -2,036 jobs or -11.0%;
- Other services (personal services, high-touch jobs) is still down almost 1,660 jobs or -12.4%;
- Transportation and warehousing is at a deficit of over -1,131 jobs or -4.2%;
- Accommodation and food services is lower than pre-pandemic levels by over -1,108 jobs or -5.8%; and,
- Construction recovery still lags with a job deficit of -1,002, or -3.1%, compared to February 2022.

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

- Health care and social assistance is up almost by over 5,045 jobs or 14.8%;
- Public administration employment is up almost 3,374 jobs or 35.8% in Surrey;
- Professional, scientific and technical services has increased employment by just over 3,000 for an 15.4% since February 2020;
- Employment in information, culture and recreation in Surrey is up over 2,800, or a significant 29.7%, since February 2020; and,
- Gaining 1,681 jobs, the natural resources sector saw a significant percentage recovery in Surrey at 55.9% since February 2020.

While utilities only gained 412 jobs over this period, this was growth of almost 25%. Manufacturing and education each saw small growth to October 2022 with 599 jobs, or a 2.2% increase, and 401 jobs and 2.4%, respectively.

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

Table 2 shows employment trends by occupation in Surrey. The biggest employment sectors by occupation in Surrey in October 2022 were: sales and service (over 74,000); trades, transport and equipment operators (over 58,700); business, finance and administration (over 45,400); and management (over 26,200).

As of October 2022, the greatest recovery by occupation in Surrey since February 2020 has been in:

- Natural and applied sciences, which grew by over 4,300 jobs, or 21.9%, since the pandemic;
- Business, finance and administration positions, which saw an increase of over 3,700 jobs, or 8.9%, in Surrey;
- Management employment, which increased by over 3,400 or 14.9%;
- Health positions, which increased by 3,146 or 14.7%; and,
- Natural resource jobs increased by 28.4% or 971 jobs.

Jobs in manufacturing and utilities occupations were up 712 ,or 5.4%, in Surrey since February 2020. Employment in arts, culture, recreation and sport positions were also up by almost 650 or 9.8%.

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

- Sales and service employment (-8,745 or -10.5%); and,
- Education, law and social, community and government services (-331 or -1.3%).

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

National Occupational Classification	Employment February 2020	Employment April 2020	Employment October 2022	Change February 2020 to October 2022	
				Employment	%
Total Employed (all occupations)	296,748	271,848	308,362	11,613	3.9%
Management	22,822	23,119	26,226	3,404	14.9%
Business, Finance & Administration	41,703	40,490	45,430	3,727	8.9%
Natural & Applied Sciences	19,658	17,678	23,960	4,303	21.9%
Health	21,380	20,822	24,526	3,146	14.7%
Education, Law & Social, Community and Gov Services	26,370	24,680	26,039	-331	-1.3%
Art, Culture, Rec & Sport	6,636	5,436	7,283	647	9.8%
Sales & Services	83,042	68,608	74,298	-8,745	-10.5%
Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators	58,356	55,001	58,716	359	0.6%
Natural Resources Agriculture & related production	3,414	5,209	4,385	971	28.4%
Manufacturing & Utilities	13,226	11,021	13,938	712	5.4%

Many Surrey industries and occupational categories have rebounded to employment levels above pre-pandemic February 2020. While continuing to recover, some service-related sectors remain below pre-COVID job levels. The slow recovery of sales & service, trades (construction-related) and services impacted by earlier COVID restrictions continue to be of concern in Surrey and elsewhere. Continuing supply chain bottlenecks, labour shortages and a slowing economy are factors.

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:

BC Labour Force Survey Data, Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, October 2022 (Released November 4, 2022)

Source: BC Stats – Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, October 2022. Released November 4, 2022.

Retrieved from https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/statistics/employment-labour-market/lfs_data_tables.pdf

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