

# HOUSTON AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



SMITHERS | TELKWA | **HOUSTON** | GRANISLE  
BURNS LAKE | FRASER LAKE | FORT ST. JAMES | VANDERHOOF

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## Houston and Surrounding Area

The community of Houston is nestled in the beautiful Bulkley Valley, among BC's finest outdoor recreation opportunities. An ideal setting for the outdoor enthusiast, Houston is where beautiful riverbanks, pristine lakes and many walking and hiking trails are waiting to be enjoyed. Houston is a quiet community with a comfortable pace of life. The people are friendly and visitors are made to feel welcome.

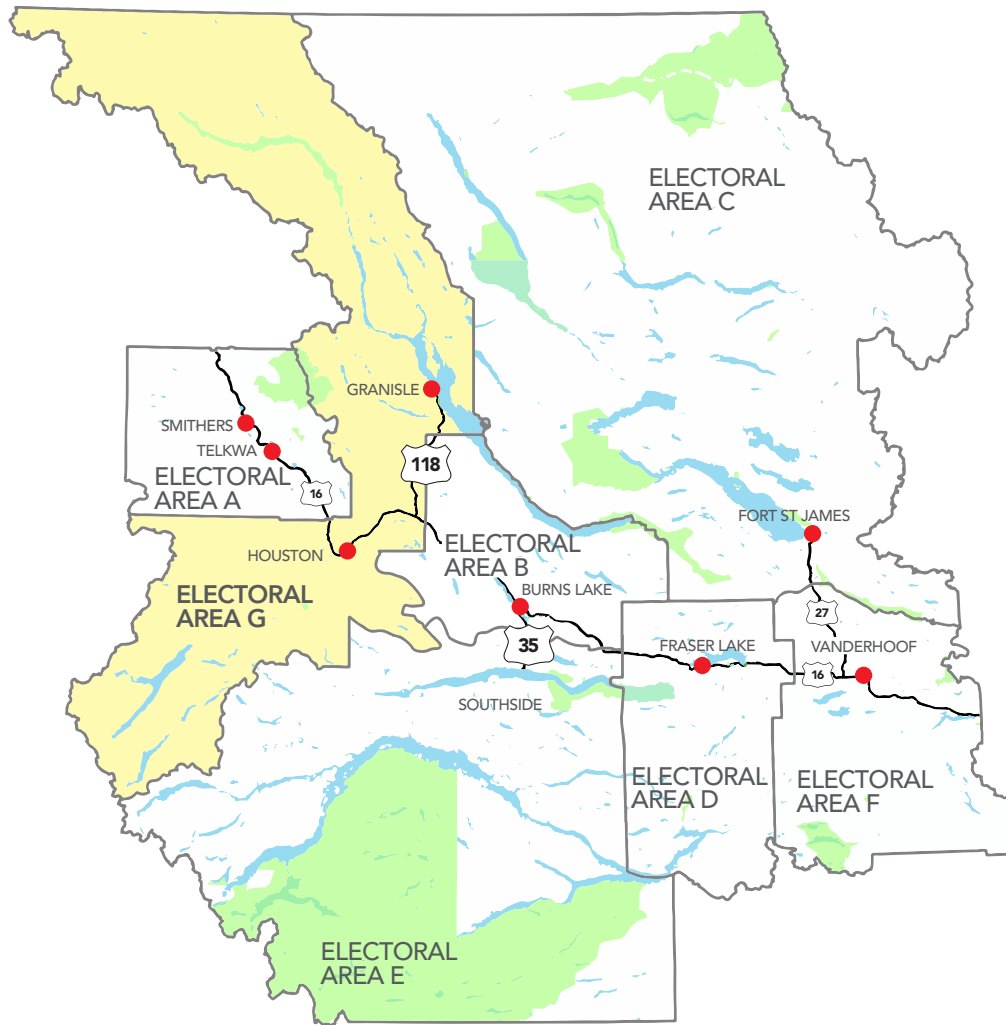
Originally a farming community which benefitted from the rich soils often found in valley bottoms, Houston has become an industrial centre while maintaining its farming community. Houston is a resilient community that embraces the challenge of changing economic conditions to enhance long term sustainability.

## The Regional Profile

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) Regional and Community Profiles bring together current and detailed demographic data as well as information about workforce, transportation, energy, utilities, local government and quality of life. The information about the region is intended to inform potential investors, support decisions to establish or expand a business and provide opportunities to future residents. The Community and Surrounding Rural Area profiles provide the complete picture of each Electoral Area, as well as insight into why residents love to work, live and play in the RDBN.

Northern BC is used as a comparative area in many of the profile graphs. In this case, the area of Northern BC is defined as the three northern federal electoral areas in the province, including Skeena-Bulkley Valley, Cariboo-Prince George, and Prince George-Peace River.


# Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Map



## Distance from Houston to:

PLACE	DISTANCE (KM)	DRIVING TIME (HR)
Prince George, BC	307	3 hr 38 min
Kitimat, BC	323	3 hr 59 min
Prince Rupert, BC	411	5 hr 5 min
Edmonton, AB	1,045	11 hr 46 min
Vancouver, BC	1,087	12 hr 2 min
Calgary, AB	1,092	13 hr
Seattle, WA	1,201	13 hr 18 min
Whitehorse, YT	1,313	17 hr 24 min
Portland, OR	1,482	16 hr 1 min
Yellowknife, NT	1,912	22 hr 47 min
Anchorage, AK	2,444	32 hr

## Legend

- Municipalities
  - Parks
  - Lakes
  - Electoral Area Boundary
  - Regional District Boundaries
  - Highway
- 

# 1: HOUSTON AND SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in Houston and Bulkley-Nechako, 2006-2016

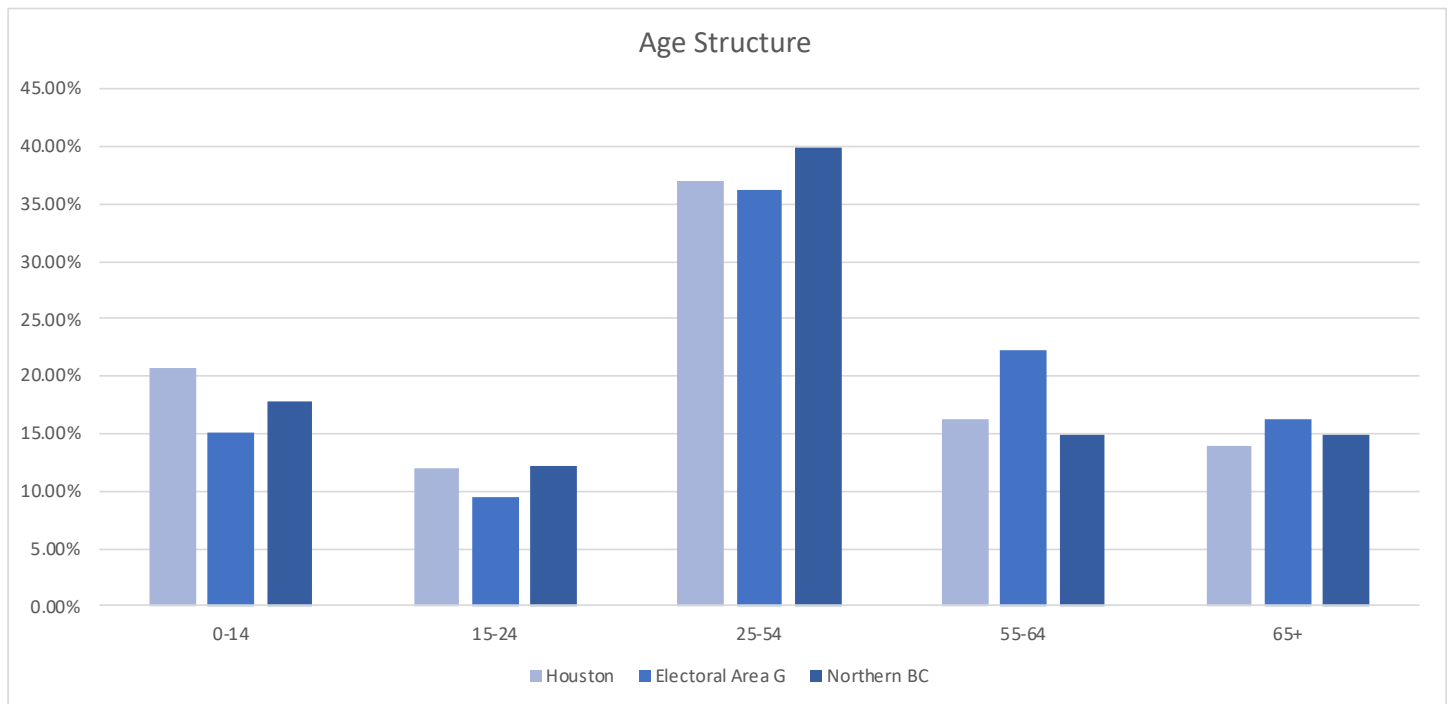
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Houston	3,163	3,147	2,993
Electoral Area G (Houston Rural)	1,059	975	903
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

The District of Houston had a population of 2,993 in 2016 which has been generally stable from 2006-2016, but with a slow decrease.

## Age Structure

Age structure in Houston and Electoral Area G, 2016

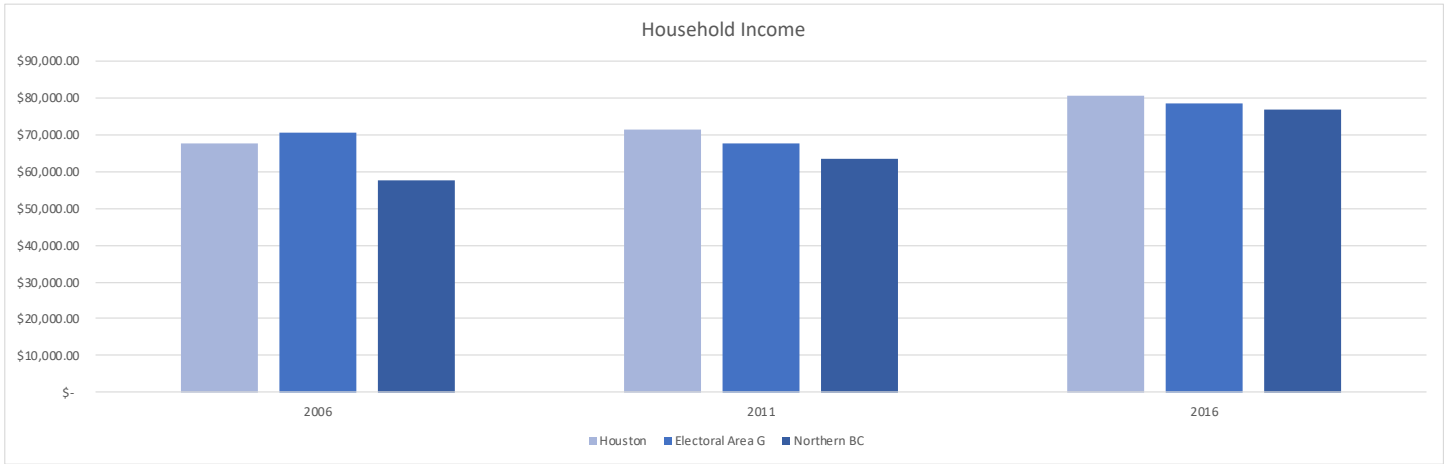


Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

The age structure reveals that Houston has a higher portion of young workers (ages 25-54) compared to the Electoral Area, but lower than Northern BC. Houston also has a much lower percentage of people between the ages of 65+ compared to the Electoral Area.

# Household Income

## Median household income in Houston and Electoral Area G, 2006-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

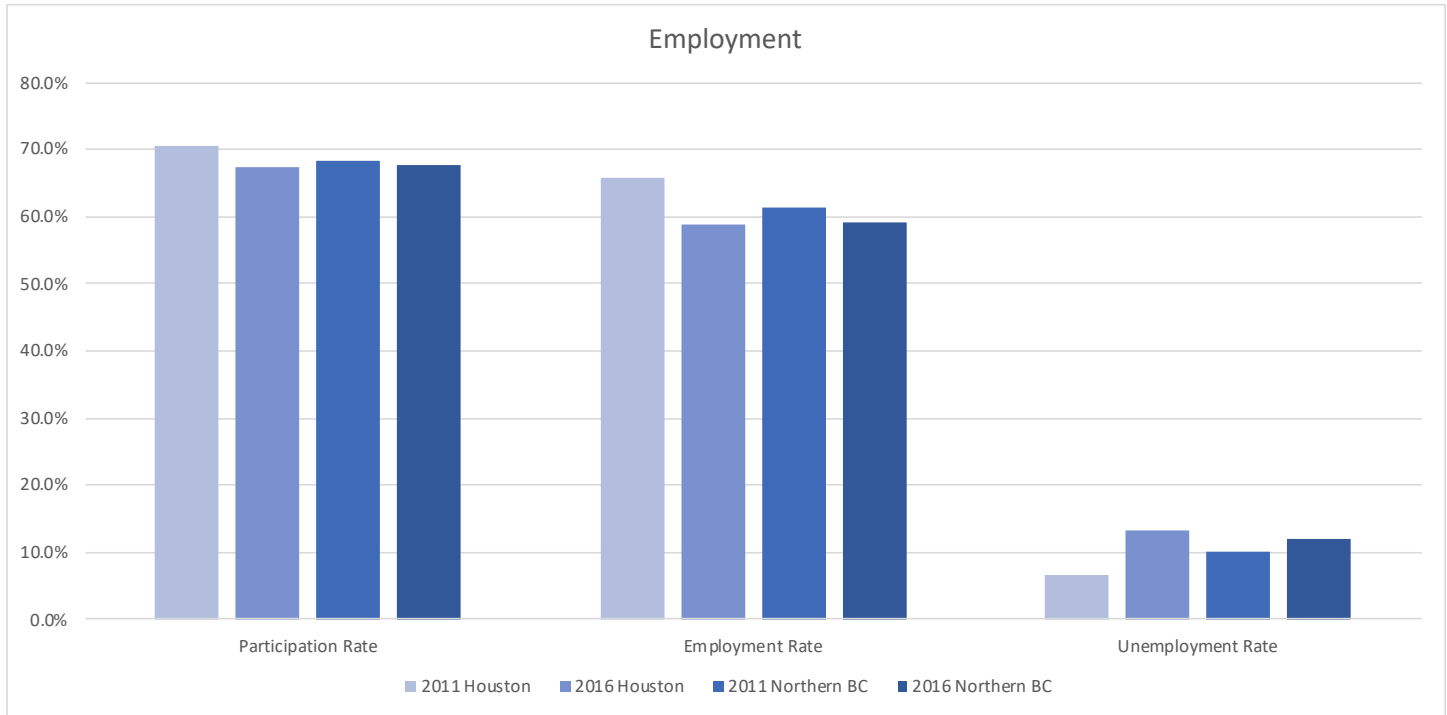
The median household income in the Houston has been higher than Northern BC from 2011-2016. In 2016, Houston had the highest median household income amongst the municipalities in the RDBN, at \$80,477.



# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

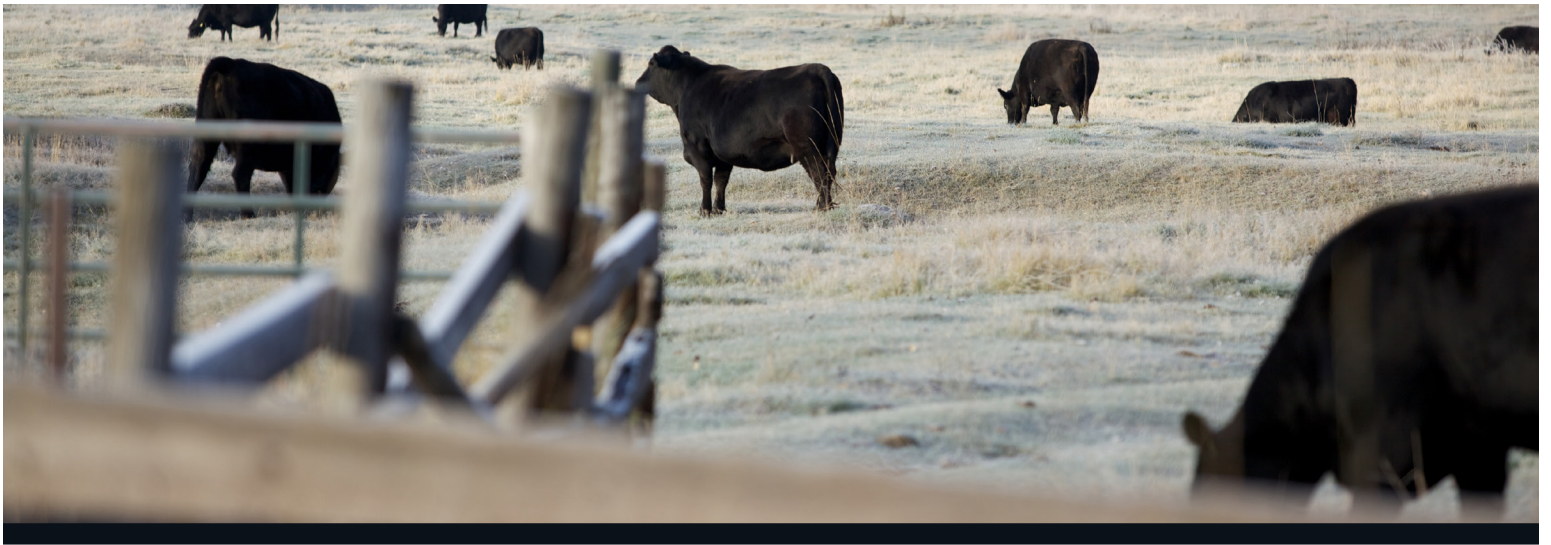
Employment data in Houston and Northern BC, 2011-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

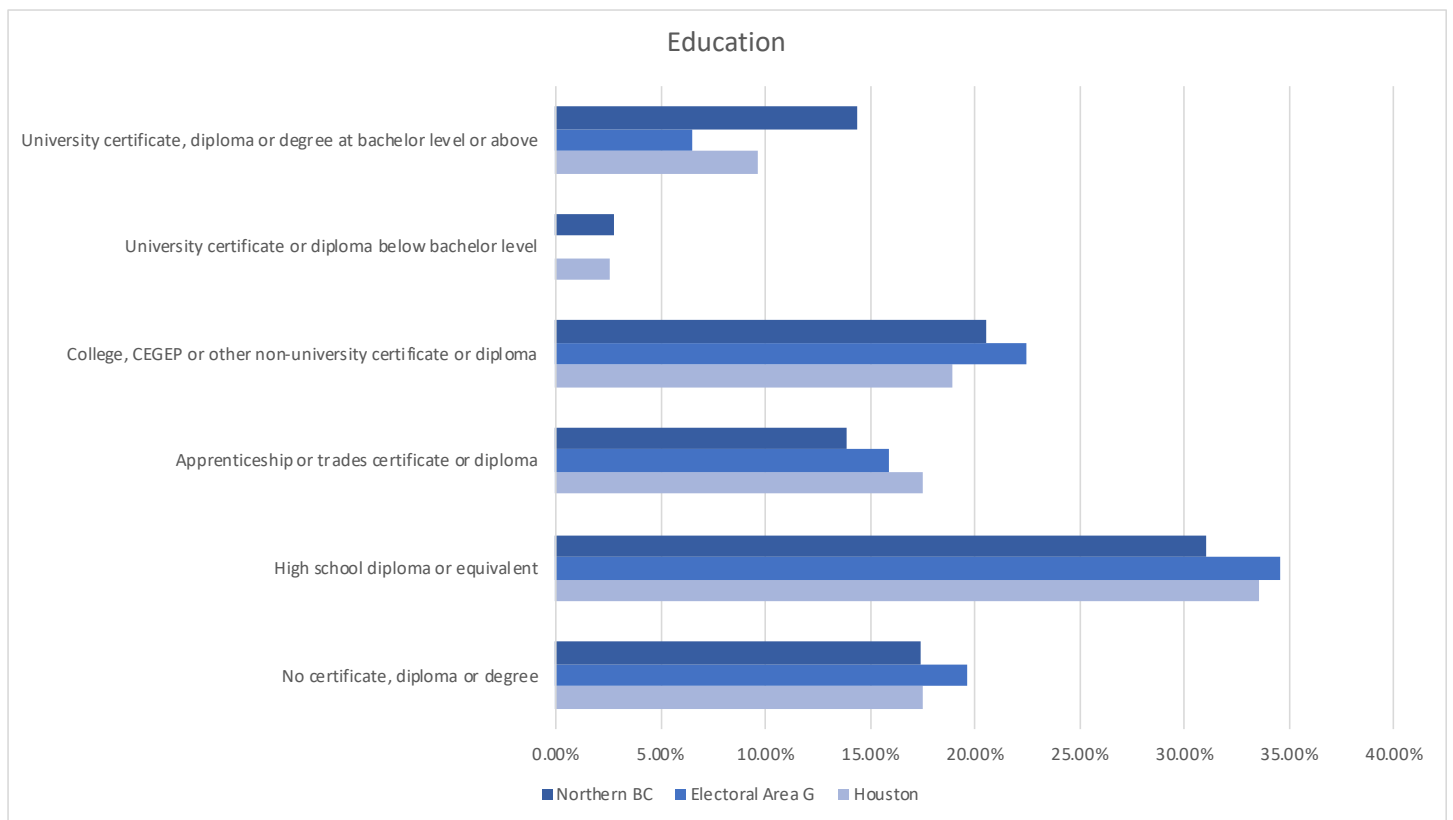
In 2011 Houston had the second lowest unemployment rate amongst the municipalities in the RDBN with a rate of 7%. The unemployment rate in Houston decreased by 4% from 2006-2011 while in Northern BC the rate increased by 1%. However, in 2016 the unemployment rate for Houston was higher than Northern BC.





## Education

### Education in Houston and Electoral Area G, 2016

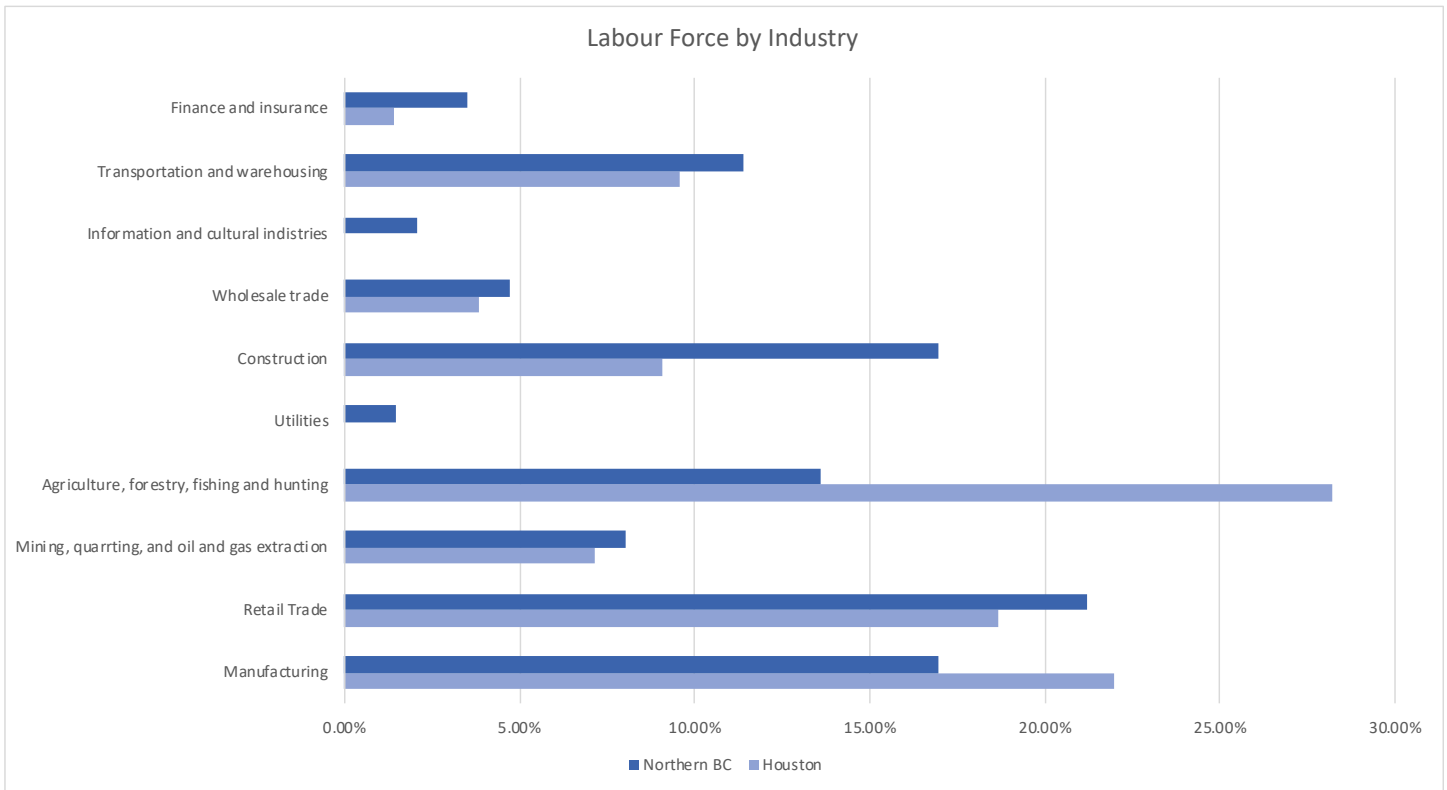


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

The District of Houston had the second highest percentage of residents with a high school diploma compared to the Electoral Area and Northern BC in 2016. The town also had a higher percentage of residents with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma compared to Northern BC.

# Labour Force by Industry

## Labour force by industry in Houston and Northern BC, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

In 2016 agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and manufacturing were major sources of employment in Houston. The portion of the labour force that works in agriculture and forestry in Houston is the highest amongst the municipalities in the RDBN.

Some of the major employers in Houston include the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Canadian Forest Products	300
Monster Industries	120
Wilson Bros	70
School District #54	92
Groot Bros Contracting	44
DH Manufacturing	52

# Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
<a href="#">Community Futures - Nadina</a>	Business and Employment Programs
<a href="#">Coast Mountain College</a>	Post Secondary

Coast Mountain College does not have a physical location in the community, but still offer courses in Houston.

## TRANSPORTATION

NAME	CATEGORY
<a href="#">VIA Rail Canada Inc</a>	Rail
<a href="#">BC Bus</a>	Bus
<a href="#">Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit</a>	Bus
<a href="#">Houston Municipal Airport</a>	Airport

### Houston Municipal Airport

The Houston Municipal Airport is located 13km west of Houston and offers aircraft parking space and private hangars. The runway is open during snow-free months.



# COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Telus
- Bell
- Cybernet
- City West Cable



# WATER AND WASTE

## Water

### Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

The District of Houston's water system is comprised of four supply wells and a 500,000 gallon reservoir. Two of the wells are used on a regular basis and two are for back up purposes. One of the backup wells has a standby diesel engine that can be used in the event of a sustained power failure. The water system is chlorinated.

### Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

Rated Capacity	5.8 m <sup>3</sup>
Average Daily Demand	1,700 m <sup>3</sup>
Peak Demand	4,560 m <sup>3</sup>

### Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

Residential Cost	\$194.00
Industrial Cost	\$0.48-0.55/m <sup>3</sup>

## Solid Waste Disposal Services

Commercial and residential garbage is picked up once a week.

### Capacity of Waste Disposal Site vs. Projected Demand

Landfill and Public Drop Off	Knockholt Landfill
Location	12km east of Houston
Capacity Left at Current Site	80%/70 years
Plans for New Capacity	None

## Recycling

Although no curb side recycling is available at this time several recycling options are available to residents of Houston. For more information go to [www.rdbn.bc.bc/environmentalservices/recycling](http://www.rdbn.bc.bc/environmentalservices/recycling)

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Taxes

The following chart summarizes the 2019 tax rates in Houston. Tax rates are calculated in dollars of tax per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.

PURPOSE OF TAX RATE	RESIDENTIAL	UTILITIES	MAJOR INDUSTRY	LIGHT INDUSTRY	BUSINESS / OTHER	MANAGED FOREST LAND	RECREATION / NON-PROFIT	FARM
Municipal	7.0041	40.0000	76.3438	76.2716	21.3183	7.0041	6.2139	6.7721
Regional District	0.9626	3.3690	3.2728	3.2728	2.3583	2.8877	0.9626	0.9626
Hospital District	0.6459	2.2606	2.1960	2.1960	1.5824	1.9376	0.6459	0.6459
School	2.5825	13.2000	3.7000	3.7000	3.7000	1.9000	2.3000	7.1000
Other	0.4598	1.9561	1.9140	1.5392	1.1394	1.4889	0.4598	0.4598
Total	11.6548	60.7857	87.4265	86.9795	30.0984	15.2183	10.5821	15.9403

## Development Processes and Fees

TYPE OF FEE	COST
Building Permit	\$7 per \$1,000 of construction cost
Business License	\$100 - \$650 depending on type
Development Permit	\$100 - \$750 depending on project value
Re-Zoning Application	\$400
Subdivision Application	\$250 first two lots, \$50 each extra lot

## Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Houston's official community plan and zoning bylaw are available at [www.houston.ca](http://www.houston.ca).

- [Official Community Plan](#)
- [Zoning Bylaw](#)
- [Guide to the Development Permit Process](#)

## Incentive Programs

### Business Support Services

- [Community Futures Nadina](#)

### Business Funding Programs

- [Community Futures Nadina](#)
- [Revitalization Tax Exemption](#)

Council has passed a Revitalization Tax Exemption bylaw in conjunction with its Five Year Financial Plan. The objectives of the Revitalization Tax Exemption program are to foster economic growth and community revitalization through increased commercial and industrial growth. The program would be accomplished by providing an incentive to owners of eligible commercial and industrial lands to invest in improvements to their lands in order to increase capacity, productivity and employment levels in the District of Houston.

## Local Economic Development Services

For any further assistance with local economic development services please contact the Economic Development Officer and Chamber of Commerce:

### **Maureen Czirfusz**

Economic Development Officer

Email: [manager@houston.ca](mailto:manager@houston.ca)

Phone: 250-845-7640

### **Maureen Czirfusz**

Chamber Manager

Houston & District Chamber of Commerce

Email: [info@houstonchamber.ca](mailto:info@houstonchamber.ca)

Phone: 250-845-7640

## Mayor Contact

### **Mayor Shane Brien**

3367 12th Street, PO Box 370

Houston, BC V0J 1Z0

Email: [mayor@houston.ca](mailto:mayor@houston.ca)

# QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

## Housing

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2016 census)	1,402
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2016 census)	1,264
Single detached houses (2016 census)	780
Semi-detached houses (2016 census)	20
Other attached dwellings (2016 census)	265
# of owned dwellings (2016 census)	900
# of rented dwellings (2016 census)	340

The typical cost for a single family home in 2016 is as follows:

TYPE OF HOUSING	COST
Average value of dwelling	\$186,152.00

## Accommodations

- Houston Motor Inn
- Pleasant Valley Motel
- Sunshine Inn Houston
- Bearspaw Suites

## Restaurants

- A&W Restaurant
- Brewstir's
- Happy Jack's Restaurant & Bar
- Indian Curry House
- Houston Food Market
- Houston Subway
- Idylwild Motor Inn
- Lee's Garden
- Mr. Sub
- Pleasant Valley Restaurant
- The Elements Restaurants

## Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events

- Royal Canadian Legion Hall
- Claude Parish Arena
- Claude Parish Arena Viewing room
- Community Hall
- Library Meeting Room
- Pleasant Valley Plaza Lounge
- Sr. Citizens Activity Centre
- Council Chambers
- Pleasant Valley Theater

## Shopping

Shopping District: Downtown Shopping Core

Shopping Mall: Houston Shopping Mall



## Local Community Organizations

- Bulkley Valley Community Foundation
- Bulkley Valley Youth Soccer Association
- Bulkley Valley Radio Controlled Flyers
- Cut Loose Quilters
- Ducks Unlimited -Houston
- H.O.P.E. (Health Options for People and the Earth)
- Houston Adult Mixed Slow Pitch
- Houston Aquatic Club
- Houston Commercial Hockey League
- Houston Community Services Association
- Houston Figure Skating Club
- Houston Friendship Centre
- Houston Hospice Society
- Houston Leisure Development Society
- Houston Link to Learning
- Bulkley Valley Drag Racing Association
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Red Cross
- Houston District Curling Club
- Houston Hikers Society
- Houston Minor Hockey
- Houston Minor Softball
- Houston Museum
- Houston Retirement Housing Society
- Houston Ringette Association
- Houston Search and Rescue
- Houston Senior Citizen Association Branch 97
- Houston Snowmobile Club
- Houston Mountain Bike Trails
- Mixed Dart Club
- Morice Outdoor Recreation Society
- Morice Mountain Marksmen Association
- Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club
- Nadina Offroad Society
- Pleasant Valley Horse Club
- PV Cattleman Association
- Royal Canadian Army Cadets No 3020
- Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary
- Senior Citizen Association Branch 97
- Senior Exercises Club
- Houston Mountain Bike Association
- Houston Volunteer Fire Department
- Houston Farmers Market
- Quick 4-H Club
- Topley 4-H Club
- GEMS

## Financial Services

- Bulkley Valley Credit Union Houston Branch
- Royal Bank of Canada

## Legal Services

- Gidding & Company

## Media

- Houston Today
- The Local Connector
- CBC FM
- CJFW Radio
- The Peak
- CJFW TV
- CityWest Cable TV

## Local Community Assets

- Claude Parish Memorial Arena
- Houston & District Curling Rink
- Houston Leisure Facility
- Houston Public Library
- Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club
- Pleasant Valley Plaza
- Willow Grove Golf and Country

## Schools

- Houston Secondary (8-12)
- Silverthorne Elementary School (K-7)
- Twain Sullivan Elementary School (K-7)
- Houston Christian School (K-12)

## Health Services

- **Houston Health Clinic**
- **Total Physio**
- Mountain View Dental

### Houston Health Clinic

Houston Health Centre is a unique facility that supports many services under one roof, from urgent care and outpatient services, to public health, home and community care. Further services available include ADP program, mental health and addictions, private physiotherapy clinic, child and infant development programs, women's health clinic, and visiting specialists that include pediatrics and gynecology. The health centre provides space for many community groups, such as club house, a support group learning life skills and moms and tots, a weekly support and social group for new mothers.

*“As a new business owner, it’s clear to me that there is a lot of opportunity in Houston. The amazing people, supportive community, and opportunities to start a family and enjoy world-class outdoor recreation make it a great place to do business and call home.”*

Kevin Alles, Owner, CountryWide Printing and Stationary

*“Moving to Houston from the Lower Mainland to start a business has been an incredibly rewarding experience. We have recieved great support from the Community and District and continue to be amazed at how welcoming and friendly the people are that live here. There’s no place like Houston and we feel privilged to call it home.”*

Jordan Porth, Owner, Happy Jack’s Restaurant & Bar

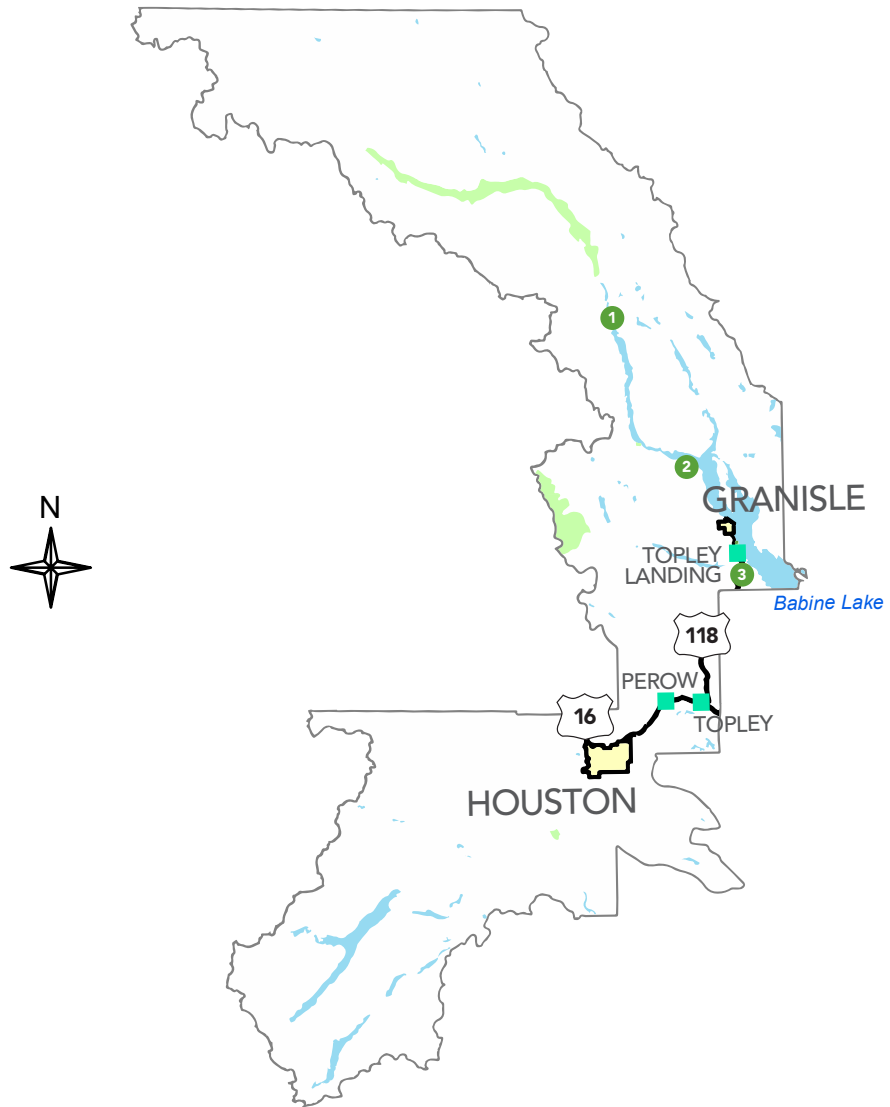
[www.houston.ca](http://www.houston.ca)

# 2: ELECTORAL AREA G (HOUSTON RURAL)










# ELECTORAL AREA 'G'

(Houston Rural)



## Legend

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Municipal Boundary              |  Parks   |
|  Electoral Area Boundary         |  Lakes   |
|  Unincorporated Communities      |  Highway |
|  First Nation Population Centers |   |
- 1. Lake Babine Nation (Fort Babine Reserve)
  - 2. Lake Babine Nation (Old Fort Reserve)
  - 3. Lake Babine Nation (Tachet Reserve)

## Electoral Area G (Houston Rural)

Houston Rural, or Electoral Area G, offers natural landscapes of lakes and rivers, as well as scenic drives that allow travellers and residents to take in the wilderness of central BC. The unincorporated communities of Perow, Topley Landing, and Topley as well as the municipality of Houston and Granisle are within its boundaries.

The rural area has a stable population of approximately 1,000 people. Residents of Houston Rural have the highest percentage of apprenticeship or trades certification in the RDBN, and many work in construction and manufacturing.

Lake Babine Nation has three communities in Electoral Area G. They are the communities of Fort Babine, Old Fort, and Tachet.



# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in Electoral Area G (Houston Rural), 2006-2016

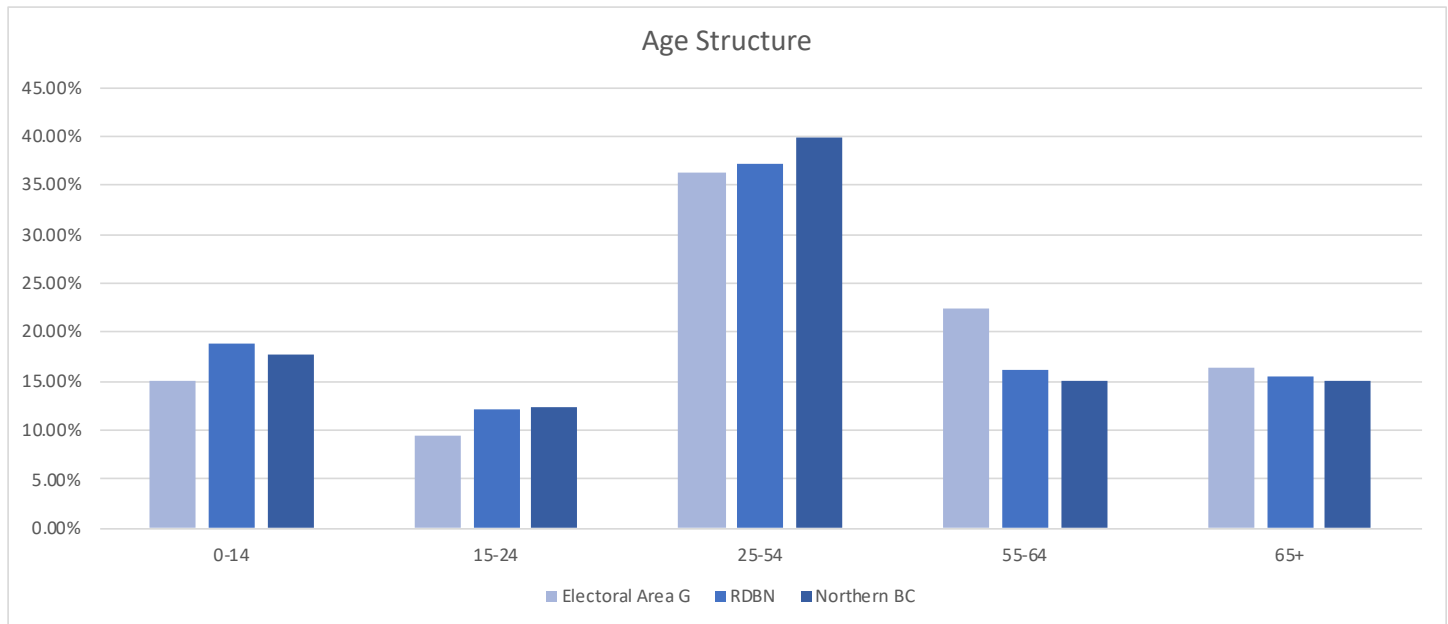
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Electoral Area G	1,059	975	903
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,897
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile 2006-2016.

The population of Electoral Area G, or Houston Rural, has decreased by just over 100 people from 2006 to 2011. From 2011 to 2016, the population in Electoral Area G decreased by 72 people.

## Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area G ( Houston Rural), and the RDBN, 2016



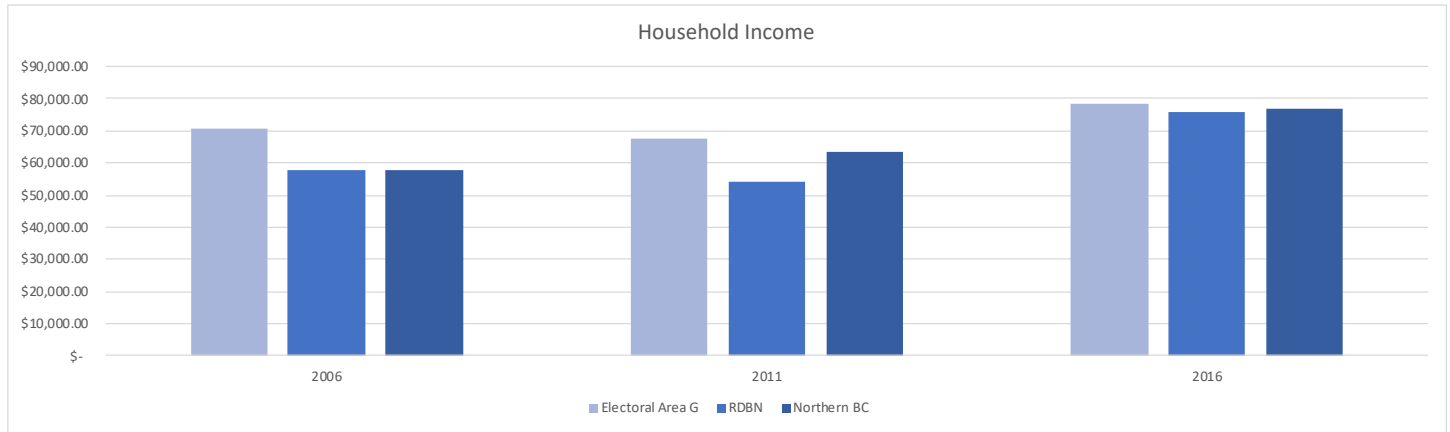
Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016.

The age structure reveals that the Electoral Area has a lower youth population (ages 0-14) and lower percentage of residents between the ages of 25-44 as compared to the RDBN and Northern BC.



# Household Income

Median household income in Electoral Area G (Houston Rural), and the RDBN, 2006-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016.

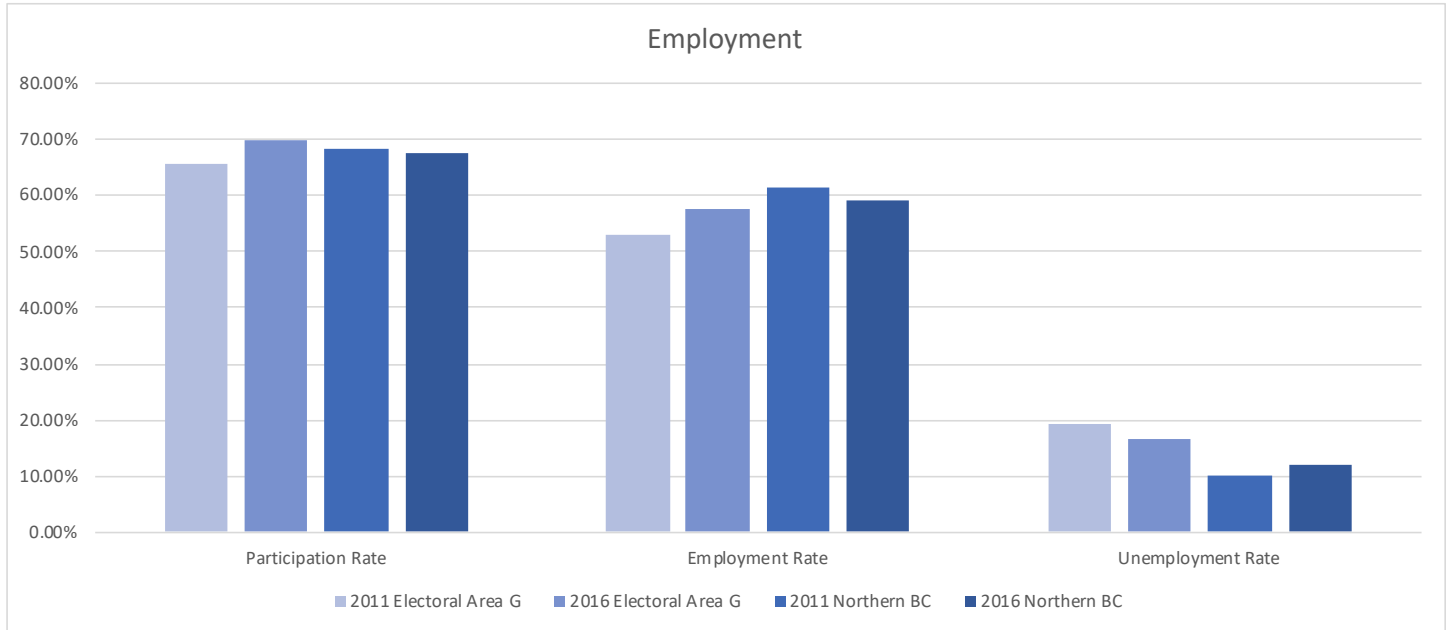
The median household income in Electoral Area G has been higher than in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006 to 2016. From 2006 to 2011 Electoral Area G saw a 4% decrease in household income while in the RDBN and Northern BC there was an increase of 11% and 8% respectively.



# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

Employment data in Electoral Area G (Houston Rural), and the RDBN, 2011-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016.

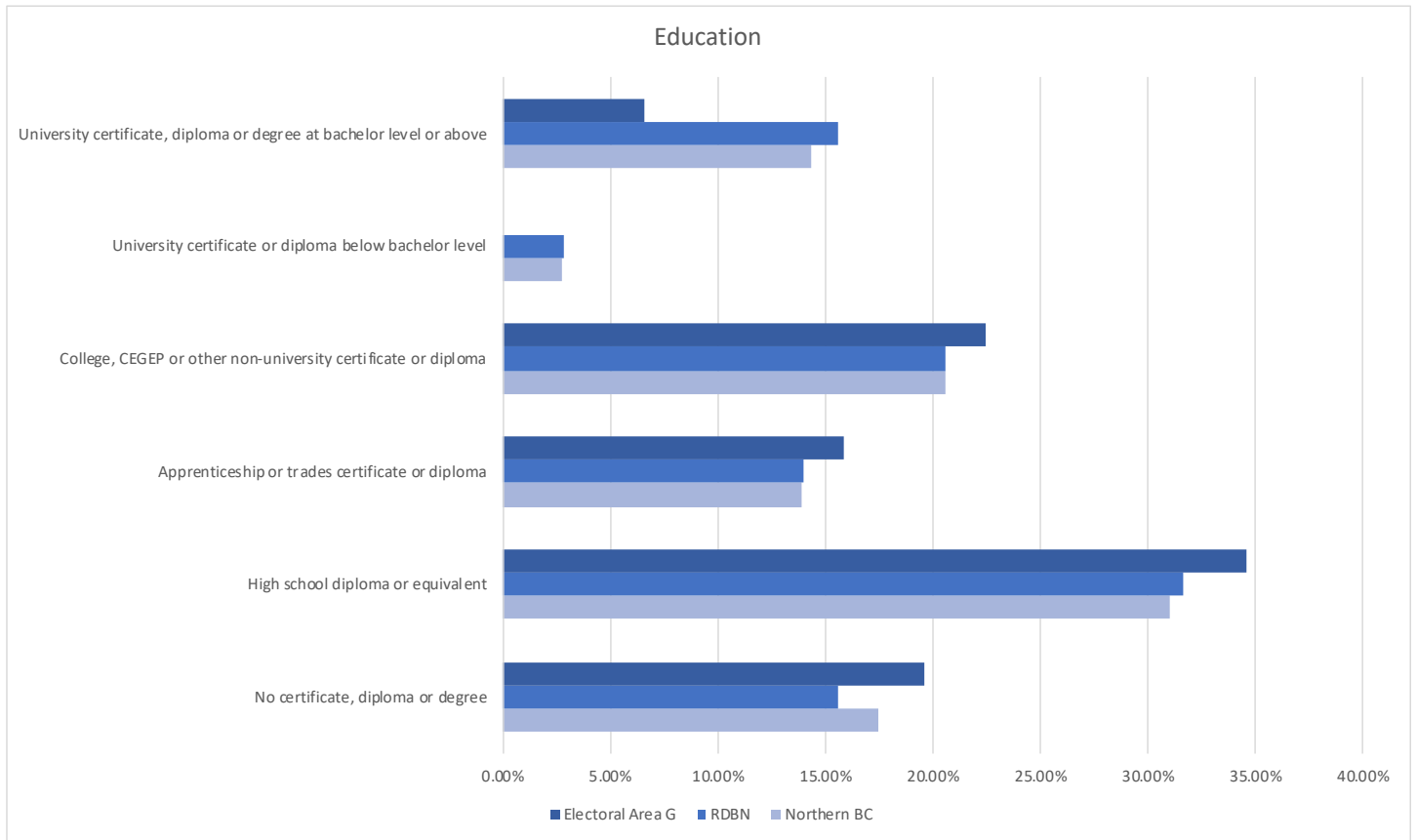
Electoral Area G had a higher unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011 and 2016.





## Education

### Education in Electoral Area G (Houston Rural), and the RDBN, 2016

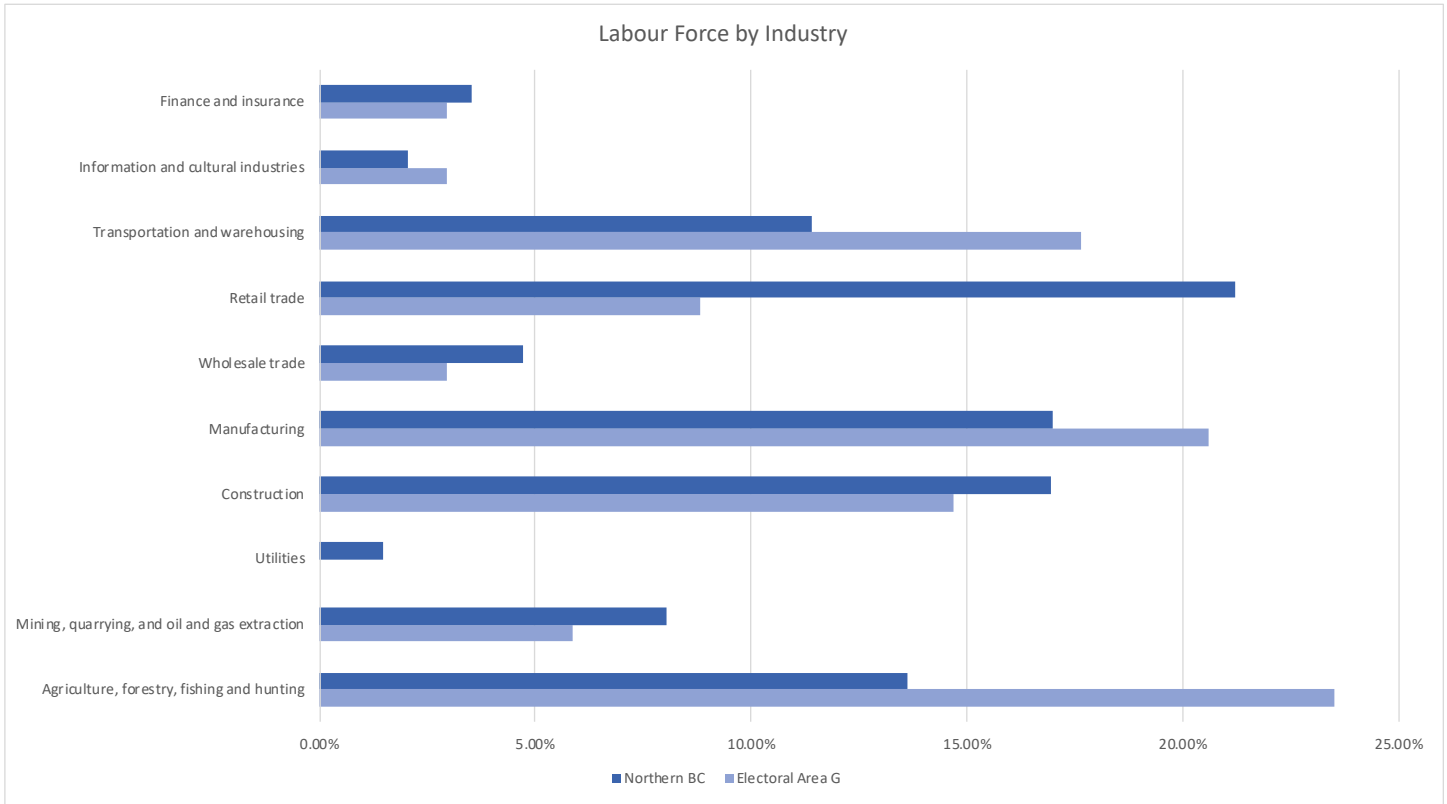


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

Electoral Area G had the highest percentage of population with an apprenticeship or, trades certificates, or diploma among the RDBN electoral areas in 2016. Houston Rural also had a significantly portion of population with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma compared to the RDBN and Northern BC.

# Labour Force by Industry

## Labour force by industry in Electoral Area G (Houston Rural), and the RDBN, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

The agriculture, construction and manufacturing were major sources of employment for Electoral Area G in 2016. Among these major employers, all three sectors employ a greater portion of the labour force compared to Northern BC. Retail trade is another sector where there was a large difference between the Electoral Area and Northern BC. The portion of the labour force that works in agriculture and manufacturing in the Area is the highest amongst the electoral areas in the RDBN.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area G, Houston Rural, official community plan is available at [www.rdbn.bc.ca/department/planning](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/department/planning)

- [Houston, Topley, Granisle Rural Official Community Plan](#)

## Local Economic Development Services

For any further assistance with local economic development services please contact the Regional Economic Development Department.

### **Nellie Davis**

Manager Regional Economic Development

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Email: [nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca)

Phone: 250-692-3195 / 1-800-320-3339

## Electoral Area Director Contact

### **Director Chris Newell**

16204 Baggerman Road

Houston, BC V0J 1Z1

Email: [chris.newell@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:chris.newell@rdbn.bc.ca)

Phone: 250-845-3564



# QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

## Local Community Organizations

- Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club
- Topley Community Club
- Houston Hikers Society
- Morice Outdoor Recreation Society
- Houston Snowmobile Club
- Morice Mountain Marksmen



# FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY

## First Nations

Lake Babine Nation has three communities in Electoral Area G. The communities are Fort Babine, Old Fort, and Tachet. The community of Tachet operates a general store and gas station 10 km from Granisle.



[www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca)



# 3: REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO PROFILE



# Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Profile

Located in the heart of British Columbia and home to 8 unique municipalities, 7 electoral areas, and 14 First Nations, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) boasts extraordinary natural beauty, vibrant small town culture and exciting business opportunities.

Residents of the RDBN enjoy the natural splendor of snow-capped mountains in winter, refreshing lakes and rivers in the summer, and abundant and diverse wildlife. A wealth of community events, and all-season recreation create an abundance of activities for the outdoor enthusiast. Quality of life is highly valued; the natural amenities of the region and family values are an integral part of life in the RDBN.

Culture and history are an important part of life in the RDBN, where vibrant First Nations and a strong agricultural heritage and natural resource economy are the foundations of our welcoming, family friendly communities. Cultural experiences enjoyed by residents include charming local museums, and historic sites, inspiring First Nations events and artwork, galleries, theatres, a thriving music culture, and unique small businesses.

## The Regional Profile

The RDBN Regional and Community Profiles bring together current and detailed demographic data as well as information about workforce, transportation, energy, utilities, local government and quality of life. This information about the region is intended to inform potential investors, support decisions to establish or expand a business and provide opportunities to future residents. The Community and Surrounding Rural Area profiles provide the complete picture of each Electoral Area, as well as insight into why residents love to work, live and play in the RDBN.

Northern BC is used as a comparative area in many of the profile graphs. In this case, the area of Northern BC is defined as the seven northern regional district electoral areas in the province, including Bulkley-Nechako, Skeena-Queen Charlott, Fraser-Fort George, Peace River, Kitimat-Stikine, Cariboo and Northern Rockies.

More information about the businesses and organizations listed in this document is available on the Bulkley-Nechako Directory.

# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in the RDBN and Northern BC, 2006-2016

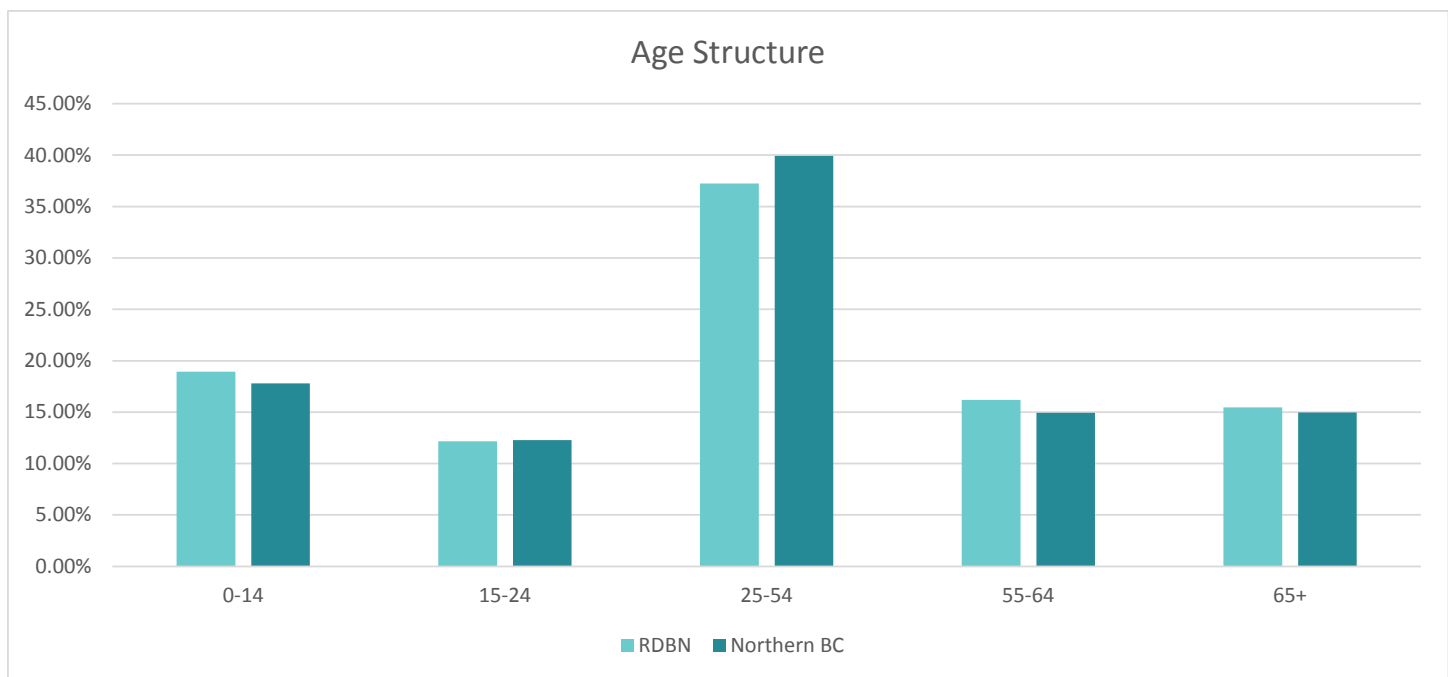
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

The population of the RDBN was 37,896 in 2016, a decrease of 3.35%.

## Age Structure

Age structure in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016

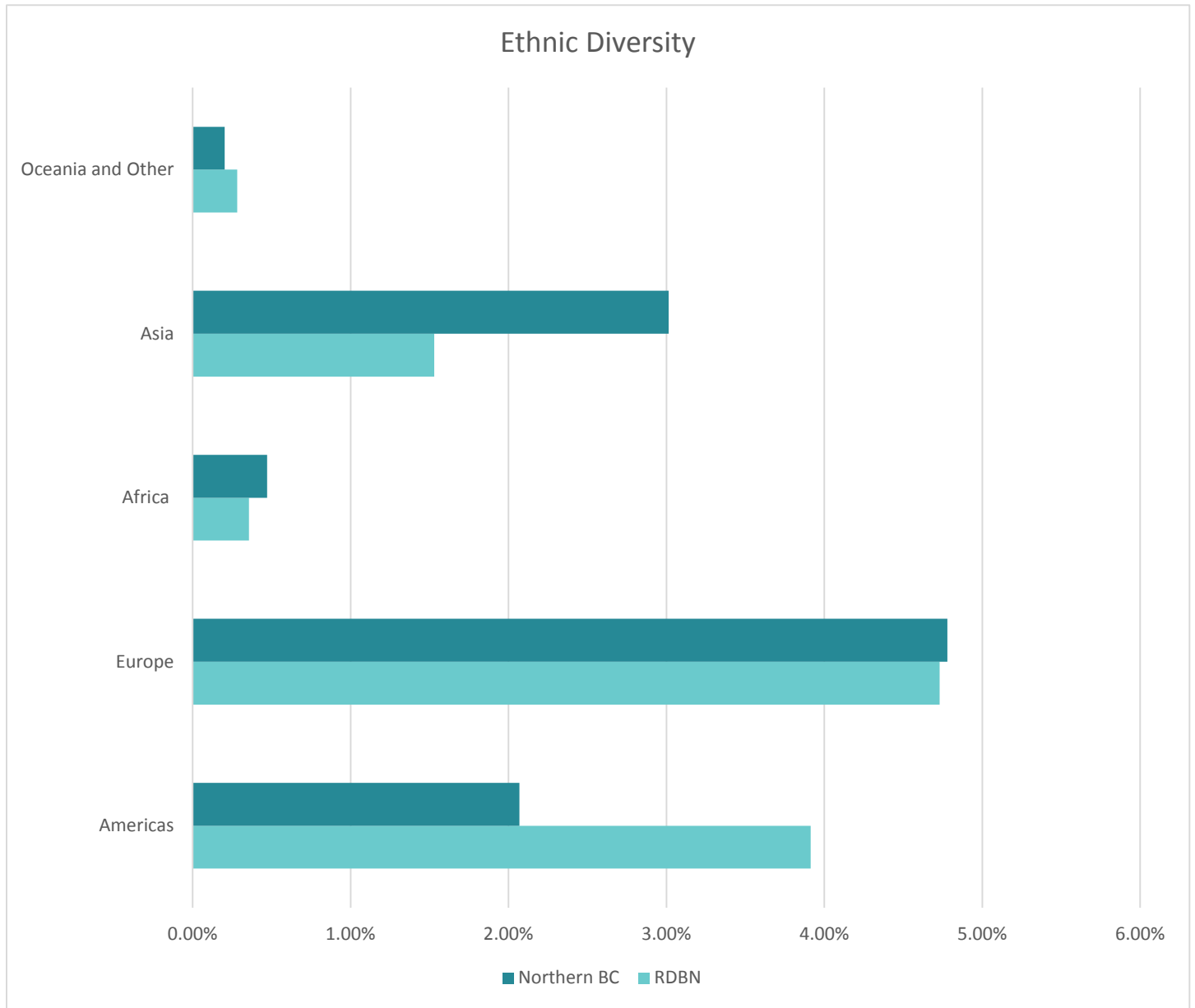


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

Residents of the RDBN had a median age of 41 in 2016, while Northern BC had a median age of 40 for the same period. The age structure of the region reveals that the RDBN had a higher youth population (ages 0-14) when compared to Northern BC. A lower portion of the RDBN's population was between the ages of 25-54 as compared to Northern BC.

# Ethnic Diversity

Place of birth summary in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

In 2016 Northern BC and the RDBN had roughly the same percentage of residents of European ethnicity. The RDBN had a higher percentage of residents from Asia or the Americas.



## Household Income

Median household income in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006-2016



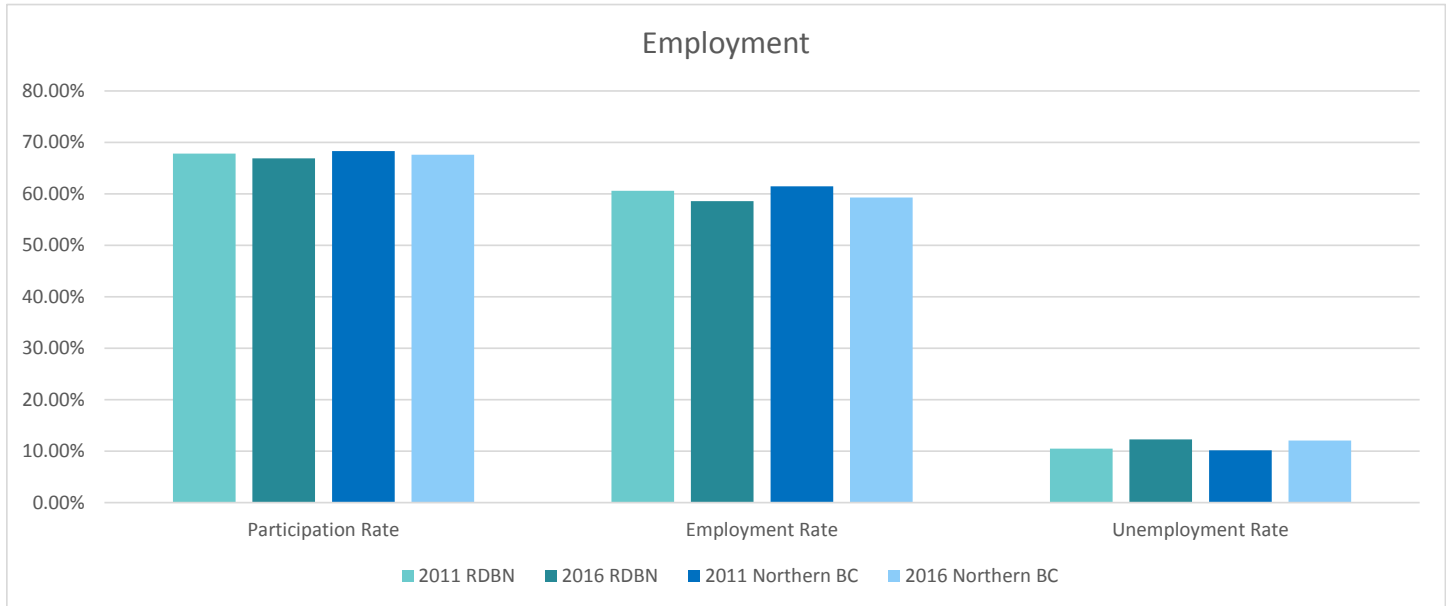
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

The median household income in the RDBN has generally been similar to Northern BC with the exception of 2011 where it was slightly higher.

# WORKFORCE PROFILE

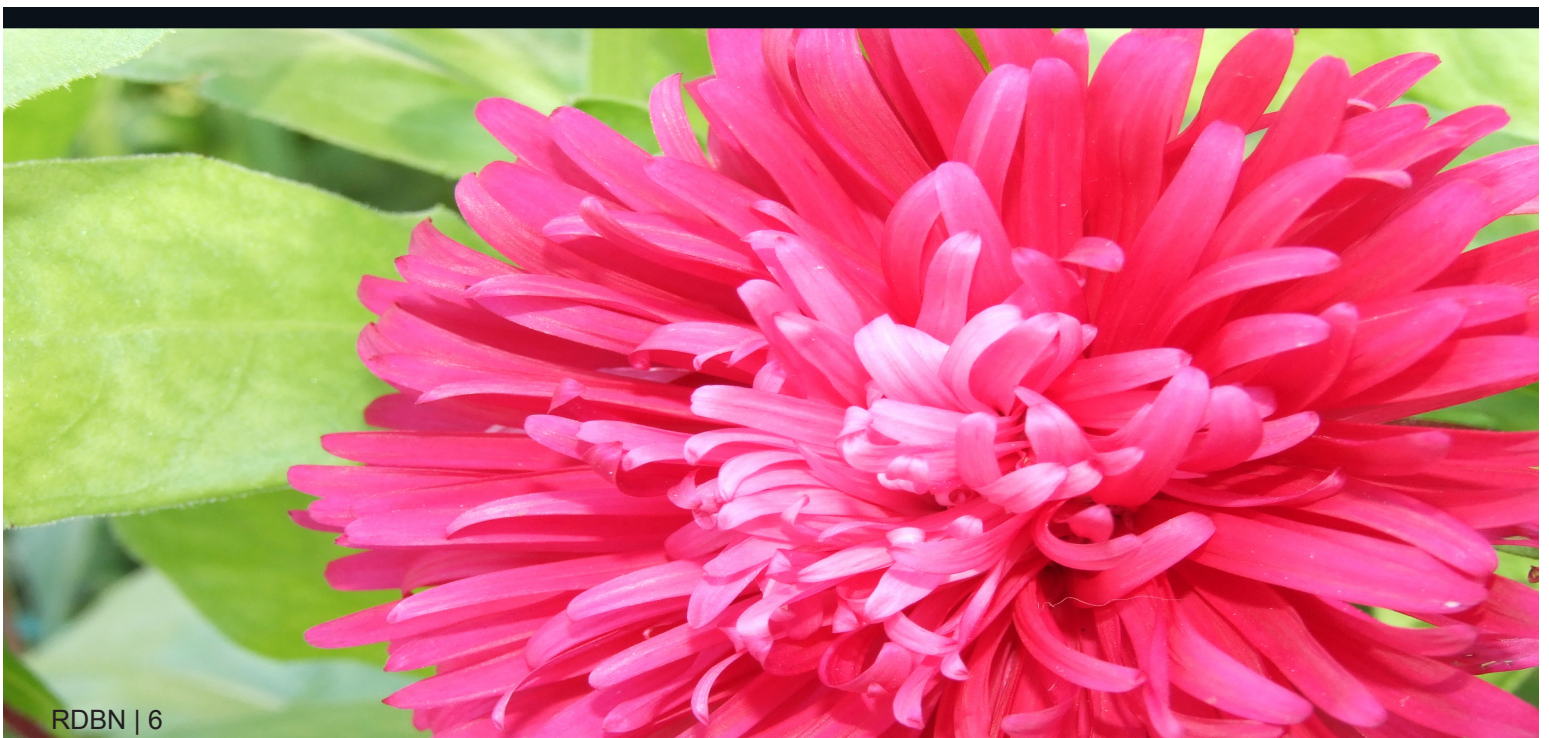
## Employment

Employment data in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2011-2016



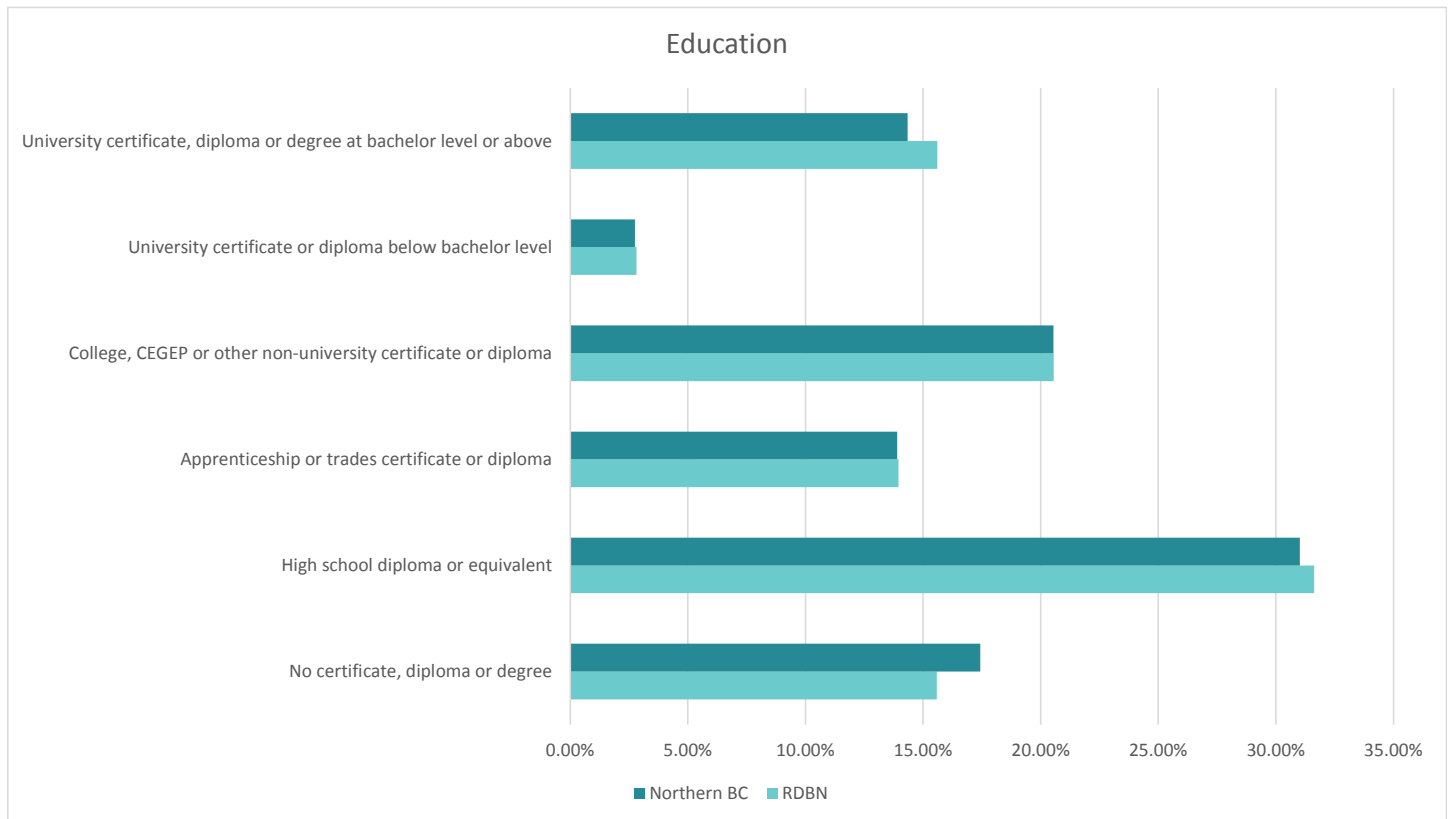
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

The RDBN employment rates were similar to the Northern BC Benchmark group for 2011 and 2016. The unemployment rate was 0.2% higher than the Northern BC rate.



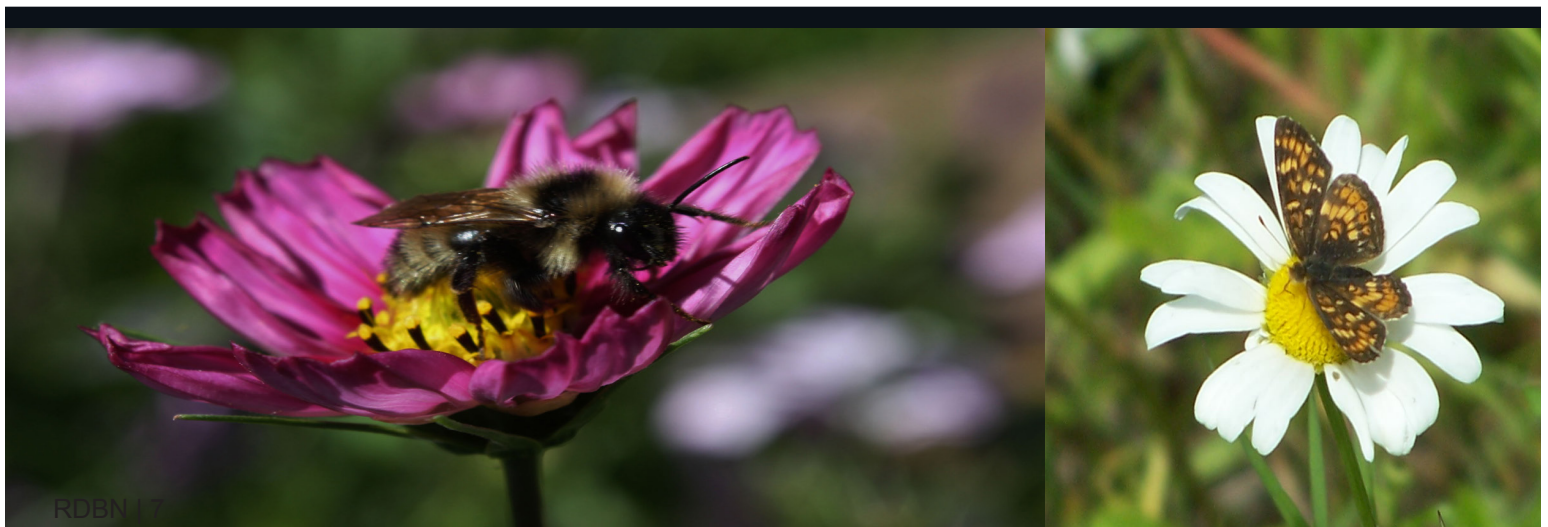
# Education

## Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



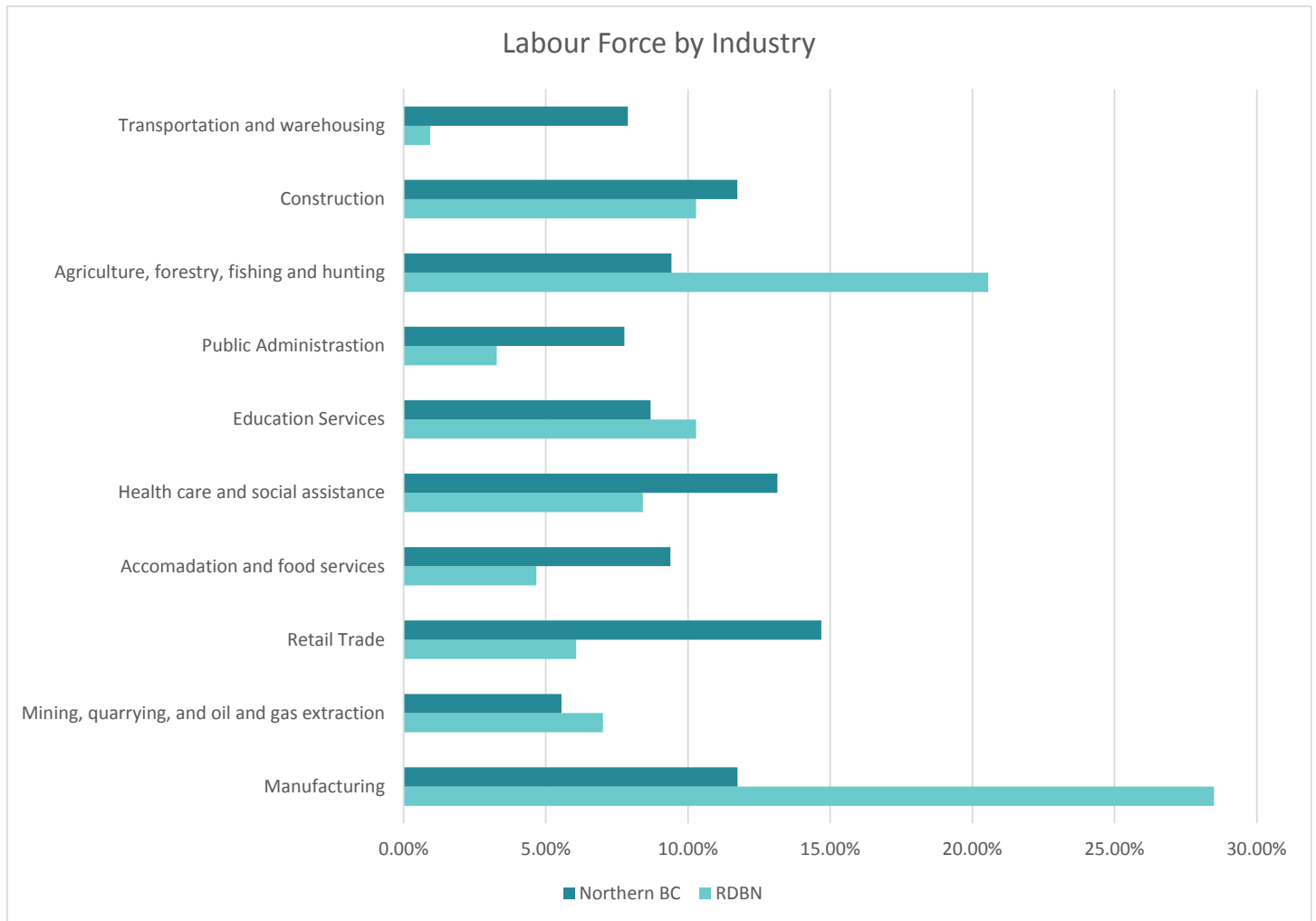
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

The population of Northern BC had a similar level of education to the RDBN in 2016. Although a higher proportion of the RDBN population held a college or university diploma or degree, or an apprenticeship or trades certification compared to Northern BC, the differences are not substantial.



# Labour Force By Industry

Labour force by industry in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

In 2016, the RDBN manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting sectors were the leading sources of employment. These two major sectors both employed at least double the portion of the labour force compared with Northern BC.



Some of the major employers in the RDBN include the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	LOCATION
School District No. 91	725	Regional
Canadian Forest Products - Houston Sawmill	343	Houston
Canadian Forest Products – Plateau Mills	317	Vanderhoof
West Fraser – Fraser Lake Sawmills	300	Fraser Lake
School District No. 54	270	Smithers
Pacific Inland Resources	240	Regional
Sinclar Group Forest Products	200	Vanderhoof
St. John Hospital	200	Vanderhoof
Hampton Affiliates Babine Forest Products	200	Burns Lake
Hy-Tech Diamond Drilling	171	Smithers
Apollo Forest Products	156	Fort St. James
<b>Northern Health</b>	150	Regional
Bulkley Valley Credit Union	100	Regional
<b>College of New Caledonia</b>	100	Burns Lake
DH Manufacturing	60	Houston

## Post-Secondary Education Facilities

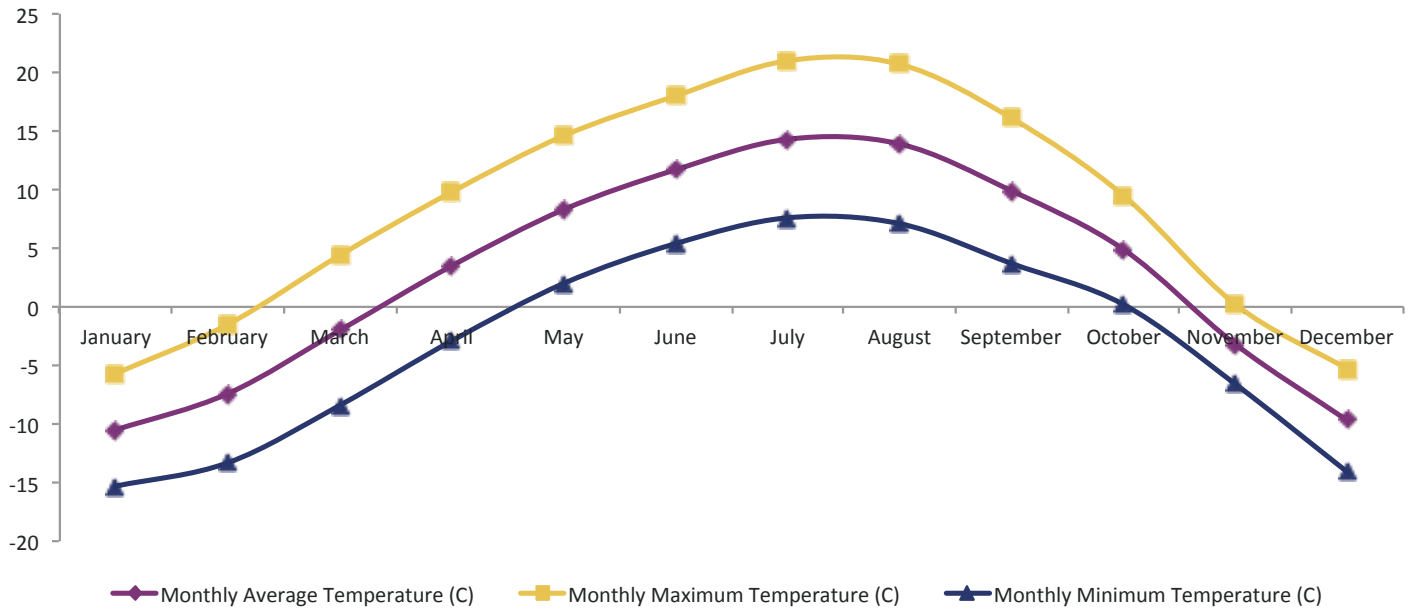
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION	CAMPUS
<b>Coast Mountain College</b>	Smithers, Houston
<b>College of New Caledonia</b>	Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake

# CLIMATE

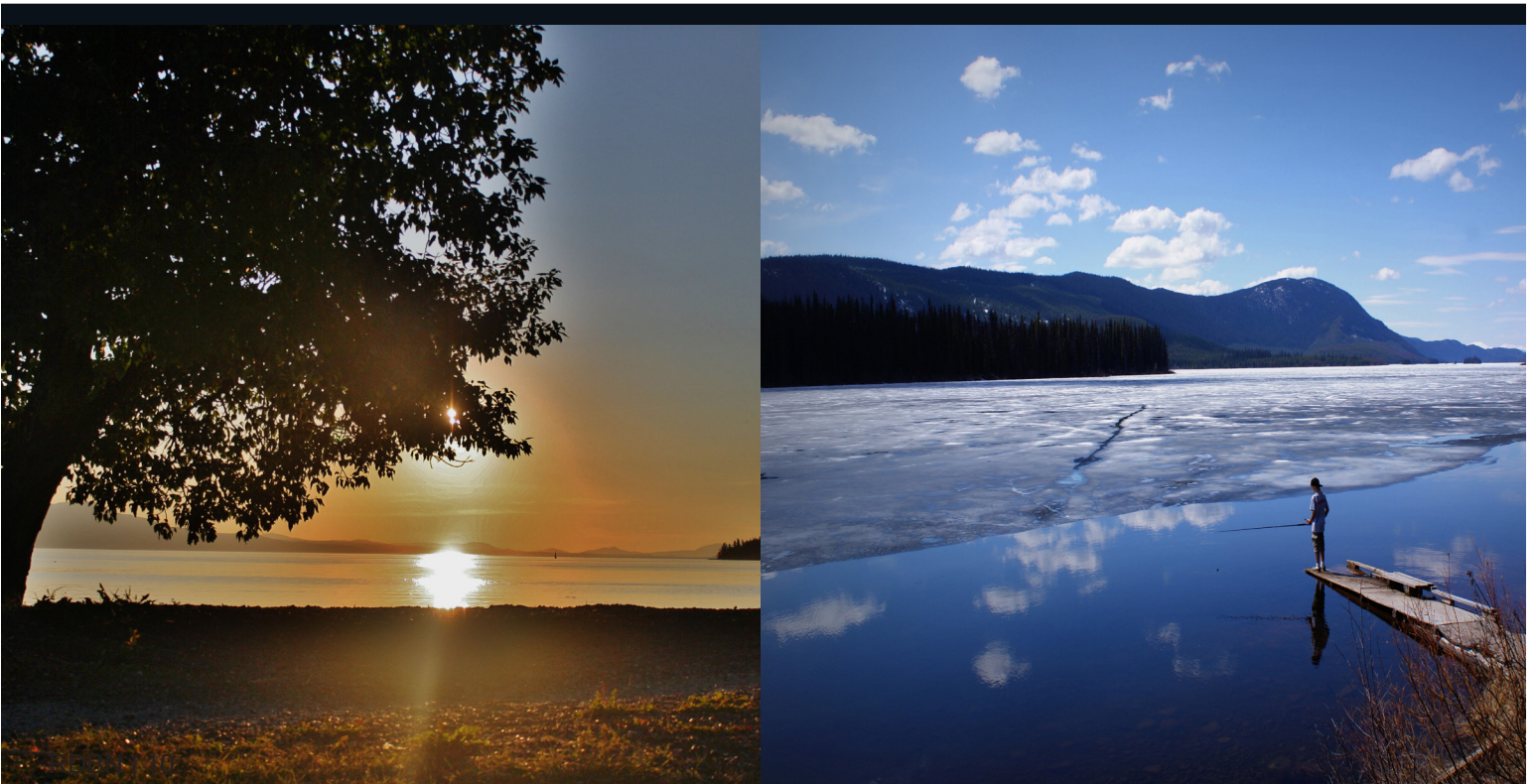
## Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



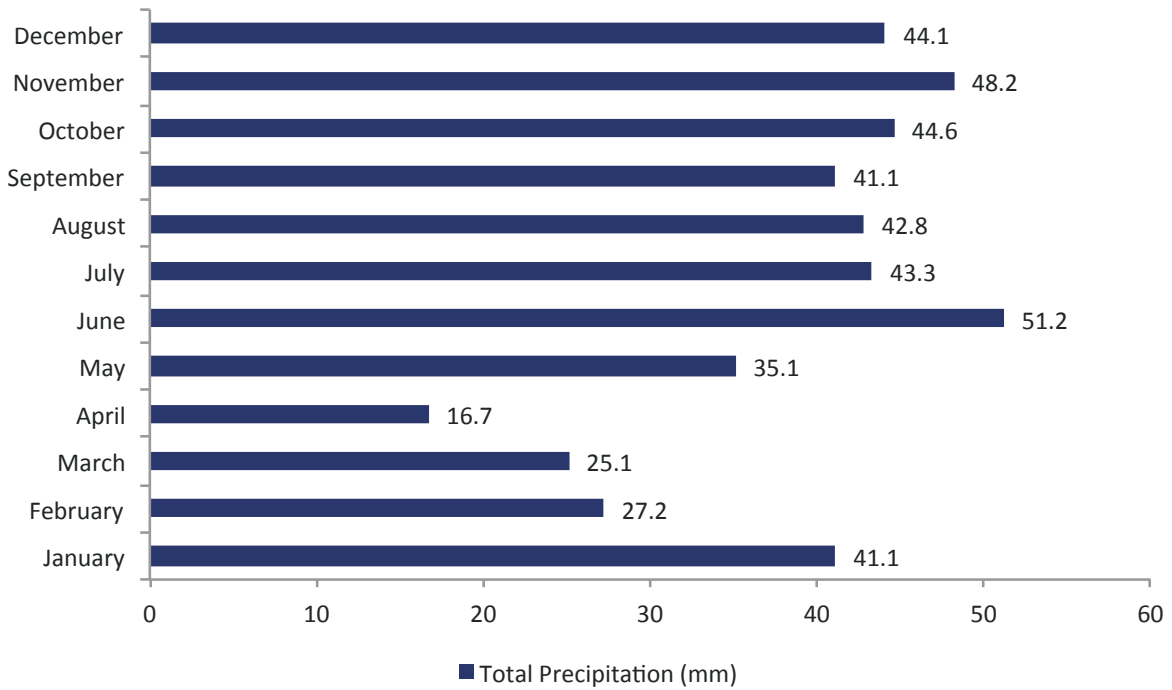
Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

The warmest months of the year in the RDBN are between June and August, when temperatures reach above 20°C. The coldest months of the year occur between December and January, when temperatures drop below -15°C.



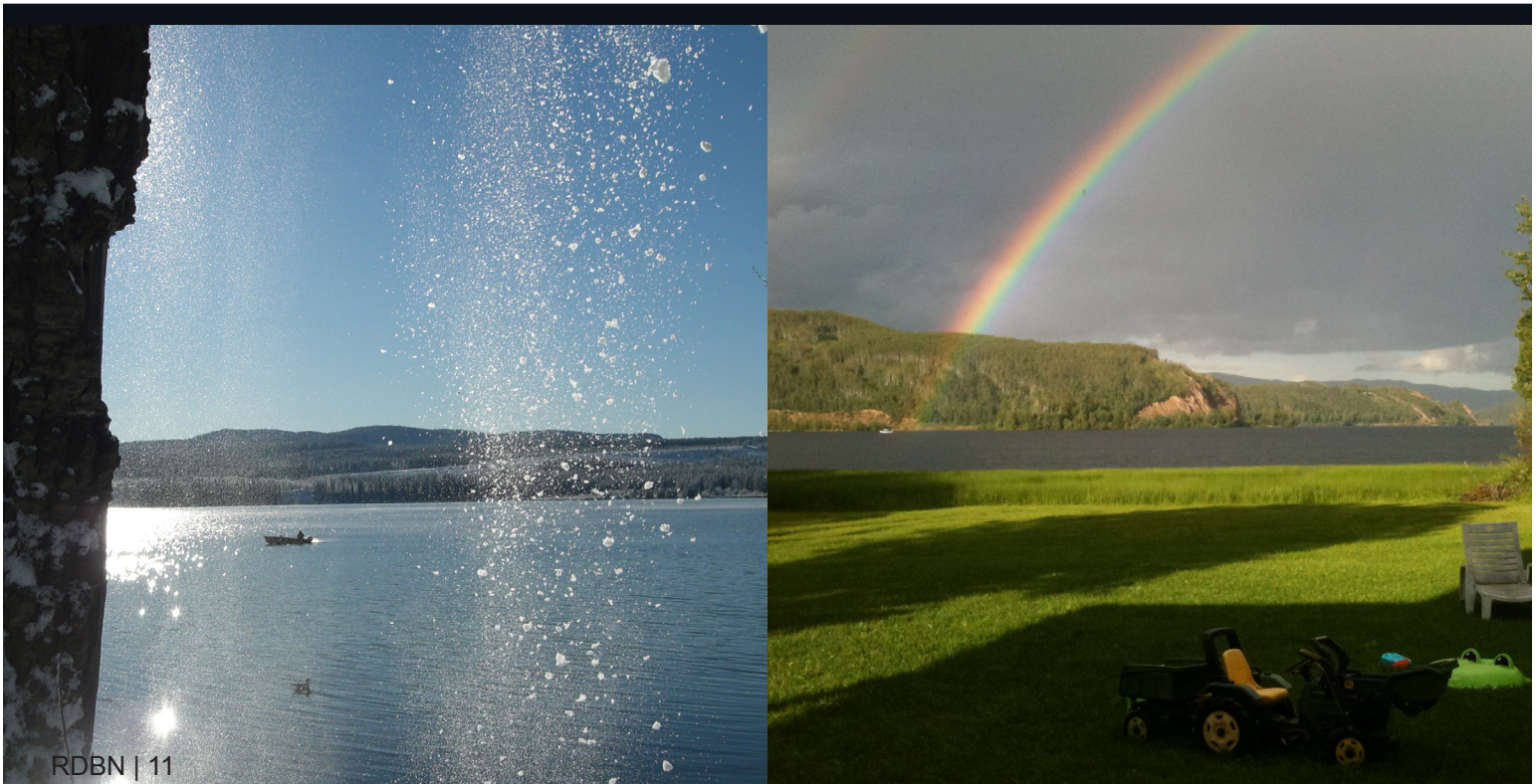
# Precipitation

## Precipitation in the RDBN in 2010



Source: Environment Canada, 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

The RDBN experienced the lowest amount of precipitation during the months of February to April in 2010, as little as 17mm per month. In contrast, the most precipitation fell during June and November, surpassing 50mm per month.



# TRANSPORTATION

## Road

Highway 16 is the main paved transportation route running east to west through the RDBN. Highway 16 is the transportation route for goods being shipped in and out of the region.

The following provincial highways connect communities to the Highway 16 corridor:

- Highway 27 to Fort St. James from Highway 16 (Vanderhoof)
- Highway 35 to Francois Lake/Southbank from Highway 16 (Burns Lake)
- Highway 118 to Granisle from Highway 16 (Topley)

## Rail

The Canadian National Railway follows the Highway 16 corridor from Prince George to Prince Rupert, with service through the RDBN. Prince George, to the east of the RDBN, is the regional trading centre for Northern BC, where CN Rails Intermodal Terminal is located. The Intermodal terminal is designed to support customers shipping to and from Asia through the Port of Prince Rupert.

VIA Rail operates 'The Skeena' passenger train, running from Jasper to Prince Rupert and back again, with stops in many of the communities within the RDBN. Passengers are able to disembark and take in the splendor of the communities on route. The journey passes through some of Canada's most scenic areas.

## Airport

Airports are an integral part of the RDBN economy. Air services support the region's economic drivers of forestry, mining, tourism, and agriculture. Charter, passenger, and cargo services are available. The following airports operate within the region:

NAME	LOCATION	OPERATOR
Smithers Regional Airport	Smithers	Town of Smithers
Vanderhoof Airport	Vanderhoof	District of Vanderhoof
Baker Airport	Burns Lake	Lakes District Airport Society
Fort St James Perison Airport	Fort St. James	District of Fort St. James
Fraser Lake Airport	Fraser Lake	Village of Fraser Lake
Houston Airport	Houston	District of Houston

The Smithers Regional airport is located 5 kms north of the Town of Smithers. This airport is the only airport in the region with scheduled passenger flights. Three commercial passenger airlines operate at the Smithers Airport:

- Air Canada—Daily service to Vancouver.
- Central Mountain Air—Service to and from Terrace, Prince George, Kamloops, and Kelowna.
- Northern Thunderbird Air

# ENERGY AND UTILITIES

## Electricity and Gas Service Providers

The following businesses provide electricity and gas services:

- BC Hydro
- Pacific Northern Gas

## Commercial and Residential Rates for Electricity and Gas

### BC Hydro electricity rates:

(The electricity and gas providers are the same throughout the RDBN)

BC Hydro residential rates are listed as follows:

- 6.90 cents per kWh for the first 1,350 kWh
- 10.34 cents per kWh after first 1,350 kWh

BC Hydro commercial rates are listed as follows:

SERVICE RATE	BASIC CHARGE	ENERGY CHARGE	MINIMUM CHARGE
Small General Service Rate	\$0.3645 per day	\$0.1253 per kWh	\$0.3645 per day (equal to the Basic Charge)
Medium General Service Rate	\$0.2673 per day	\$0.0968 per kWh	Equal to 50% of the highest Demand Charge during the previous November 1 to March 31 period. The basic Charge, Energy Charge, and Demand Charge are replaced by the minimum Charge if their sum is less than this amount.
Large General Service Rate	\$0.2673 per day	\$0.0606 per kWh	Equal to 50% of the highest Demand Charge during the previous November 1 to March 31 period. The basic Charge, Energy Charge, and Demand Charge are replaced by the minimum Charge if their sum is less than this amount.

Small General Service (SGS) accounts have an annual peak demand less than 35 kW.

Medium General Service (MGS) accounts have an annual peak demand between 35 kW and 150 kW and use less than 550,000 kWh of electricity per year.

Large General Service (LGS) accounts have an annual peak demand equal or greater than 150 kW or total annual energy usage of at least 550,000 kWh.

Pacific Northern Gas: Residential and Commercial Gas Rates

	BASIC MONTHLY CHARGE	DELIVERY CHARGE	COMPANY USE RIDER	RSAM RIDER	INTERIM RATE ADJUSTMENT RIDER	TOTAL DELIVERY CHARGE	COMMODITY CHARGE	GCVA RIDER	TOTAL COMMODITY CHARGE	DELIVERY + COMMODITY CHARGE
Rate Class	\$/Month	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ	\$/GJ
Residential	10.75	12.159	0.098	0.327	0.000	11.930	2.274	0.013	2.261	14.191
Small Commercial	25.00	10.259	0.098	1.327	0.000	10.030	2.260	0.013	2.247	12.277
Large Commercial	150.00	8.247	0.098	N/A	0.000	8.345	2.260	0.013	2.247	10.592
Small Industrial	410.00	3.699	0.098	N/A	0.000	3.797	1.740	0.013	1.727	5.524



# BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE SUPPORT SERVICES AND FUNDING PROGRAMS

## Business Support Services

The following business support services are available for businesses and residents located within the RDBN:

ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
<b>Community Futures Nadina</b>	Assistance with Building a Business Plan, Startup steps, or planning for existing businesses
<b>Community Futures Stuart Nechako</b>	Business Start-up Assistance
<b>Burns Lake Native Development Corporation</b>	Technical Services Including Business Plan Assistance, Training and Project Development Assistance
<b>Small Business BC</b>	Business Start-Up / Growth Assistance
<b>ThriveNorth</b>	Support for Young, Emerging Business Owners

## Business Funding and Tax Credit Programs

ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
<b>Community Futures Nadina</b>	Small Business Loans
<b>Community Futures Stuart Nechako</b>	Business Loans Program
<b>Burns Lake Native Development Corporation</b>	Small Business Loans Program
<b>Northern Development Initiative Trust</b>	Capital Investment and Training Rebate Program
<b>Northern Development Initiative Trust</b>	Competitiveness Consulting Rebate
BC Hydro	PowerSmart Programs for Business
Investment Agriculture Foundation	Funding to support innovative projects that support the Agri-food industry in British Columbia.

## Regional Employment Service Providers

The following employment service providers are available within the RDBN.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	MUNICIPALITY
<b>Community Living BC</b>	Smithers
<b>Smithers Community Services Association</b>	Smithers
<b>WorkBC Fort St. James (PESL*)</b>	Fort St. James
<b>WorkBC Vanderhoof (PESL*)</b>	Vanderhoof
<b>WorkBC Burns Lake (PESL*)</b>	Burns Lake
WorkBC Fraser Lake (Outreach**)	Fraser Lake
<b>WorkBC</b>	Smithers
<b>Skilled Trades Employment Program (BCCA)</b>	Region Wide

\* Progressive Employment Services

\*\* Contact WorkBC Vanderhoof office

# Local Economic Development Services

Visit [Local Economic Development Services website](#) for information on:

- [RDBN Business Forum](#)
- [RDBN Start-up Business Contest](#)
- [Grant writing services for nonprofit organizations](#)
- [Visit Bulkley-Nechako - Tourism Site](#)
- [Regional Skills Gap Analysis](#)
- [Industrial Land Inventory Reports](#)

Visit [opportunities.bc.ca](#) for information on:

- Regional Skills Gap Analysis
- Industrial Land Use Inventory Reports

For any further assistance with local economic development services please contact the Regional Economic Development Department:

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