

SMITHERS AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



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

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Smithers and Surrounding Area

Tucked between the stunning Hudson Bay Mountain to the west and the Babine Mountain range to the east, the Town of Smithers offers business owners, tourists and residents a mountain town experience far more than you would expect from a town of 5,400.

From fishing and hunting, to downhill and cross-country skiing, to golfing, snowmobiling, canoeing and kayaking, the list of activities that residents enjoy is extensive. Add in a range of urban features such as a downtown bursting with independent shops, cultural pursuits and indoor recreation opportunities, and it's clear Smithers and surrounding rural area is an attractive place to live and work.

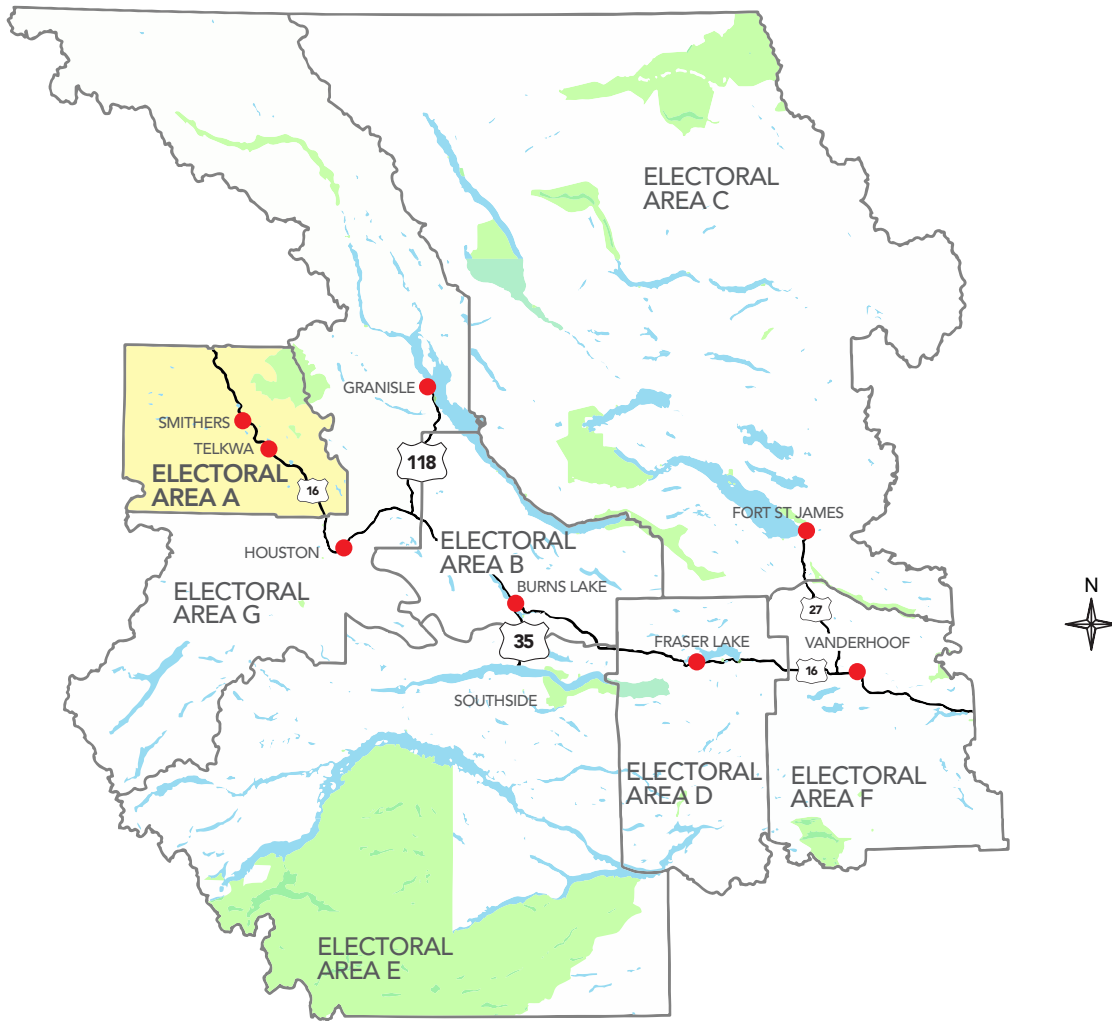
Located directly on the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway (Route 16), approximately half way between the cities of Prince Rupert and Prince George, Smithers is a regional service center for the larger Bulkley Valley.

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 Smithers to:

PLACE	DISTANCE (KM)	DRIVING TIME (HR)
Prince George, BC	371	4 hr
Kitimat, BC	259	2 hr 45 min
Prince Rupert, BC	348	4 hr 21 min
Edmonton, AB	1,109	12 hr 30 min
Vancouver, BC	1,151	12 hr 46 min
Calgary, AB	1,155	13 hr 44 min
Whitehorse, YT	1,249	16 hr 39 min
Seattle, WA	1,265	14 hr 2 min
Portland, OR	1,545	16 hr 45 min
Yellowknife, NT	1,975	23 hr 31 mins
Anchorage, AK	2,380	31 hr

Legend

- Municipalities
- Parks
- Lakes
- Electoral Area Boundary
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- Highway

1: SMITHERS AND SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Smithers and Electoral Area A, 2006-2016

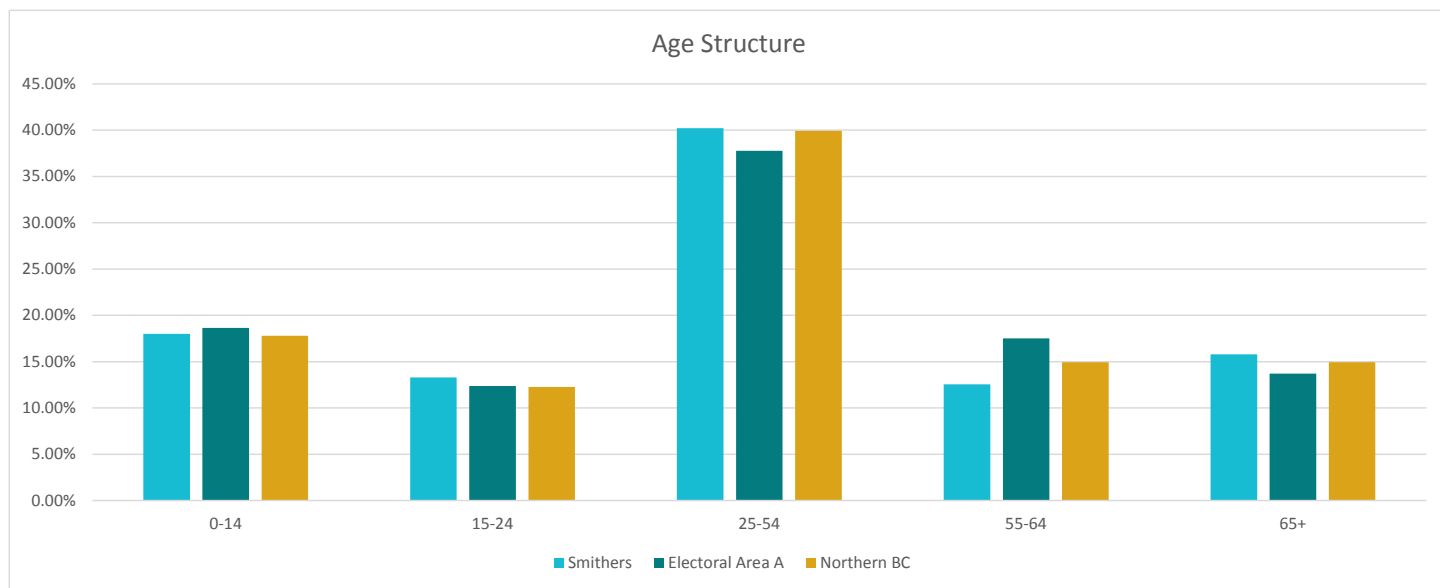
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Smithers	5,217	5,404	5,401
Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural)	5,290	5,391	5,256
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Source: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

In 2016, the Town of Smithers had a population of 5,401. In addition, Smithers has had a relatively stable population over the past 10 years.

Age Structure

Age structure in Smithers and Electoral Area A in 2016

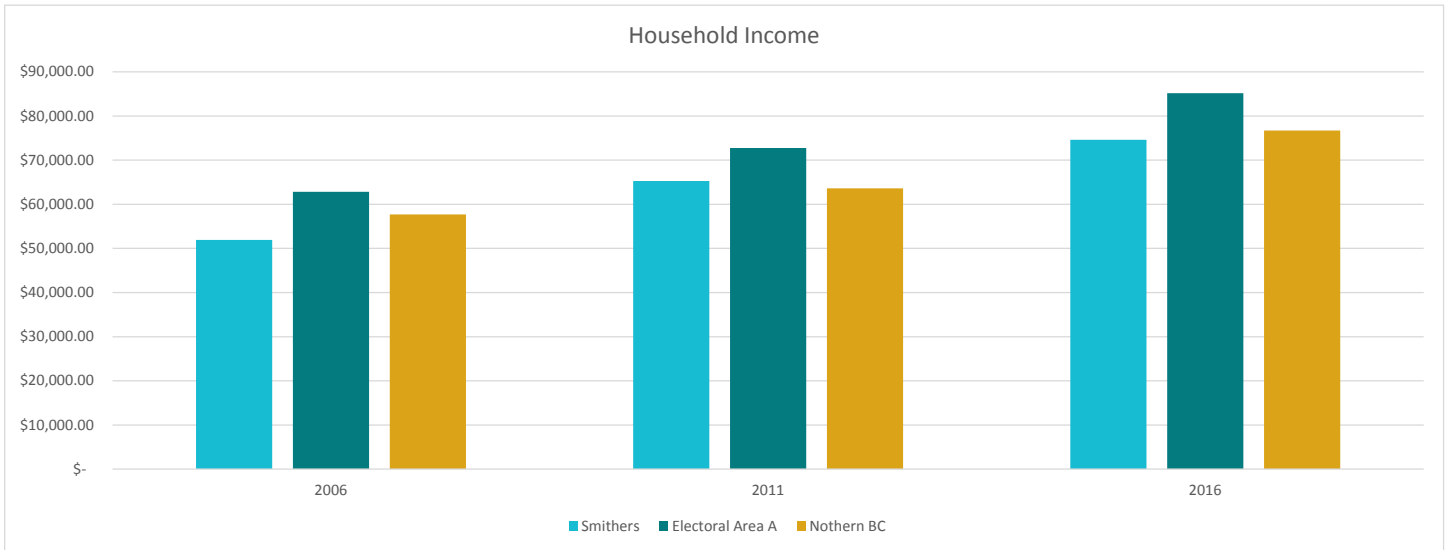


Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

In 2016, residents of Smithers were younger than the population of Northern BC on average. The median age in the Town was 37, while the median age in Electoral Area A and Northern BC was 42 and 39 respectively. The age structure of the region shows that Smithers had a larger youth population (ages 0-14) compared to the surrounding rural area and Northern BC. Smithers also had a relatively low portion of the population between the ages of 55-64.

Household Income

Median household income in Smithers and Electoral Area A in 2006-2016



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

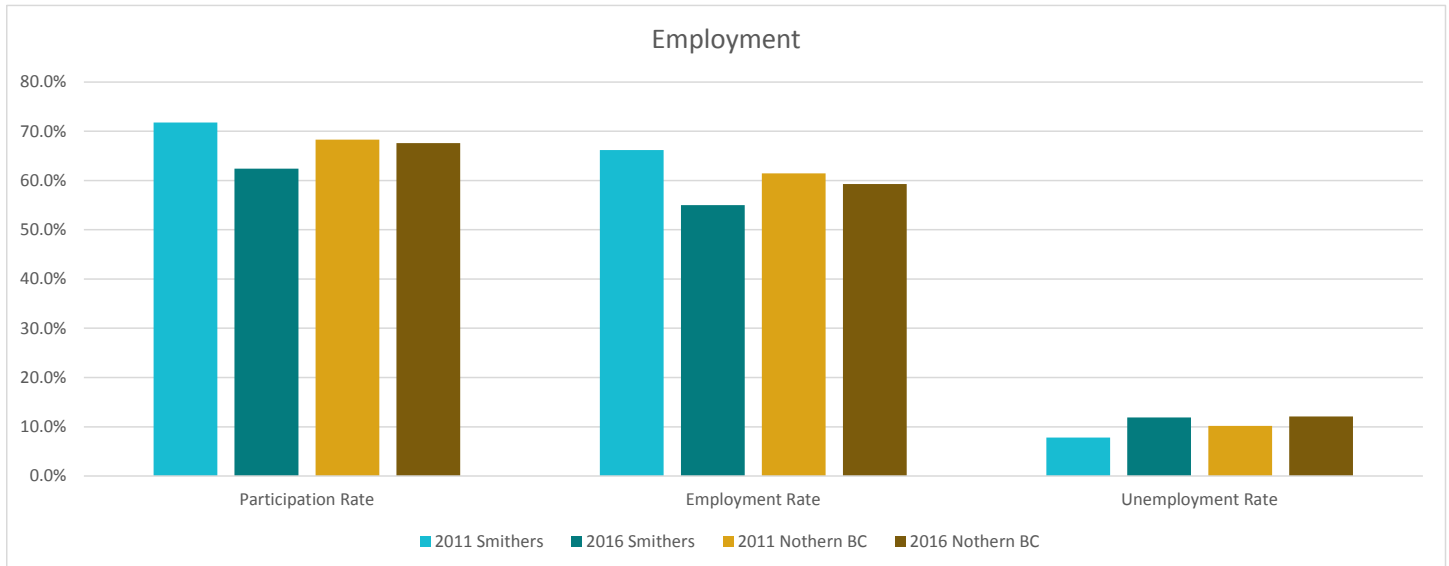
Median household income in the Town of Smithers has generally been higher than in Northern BC from 2011 to 2016, with the exception of 2006. Residents of Electoral Area A had a higher median income than the Town throughout the 10 year period.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

Employment data in Smithers and Northern BC from 2011-2016



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

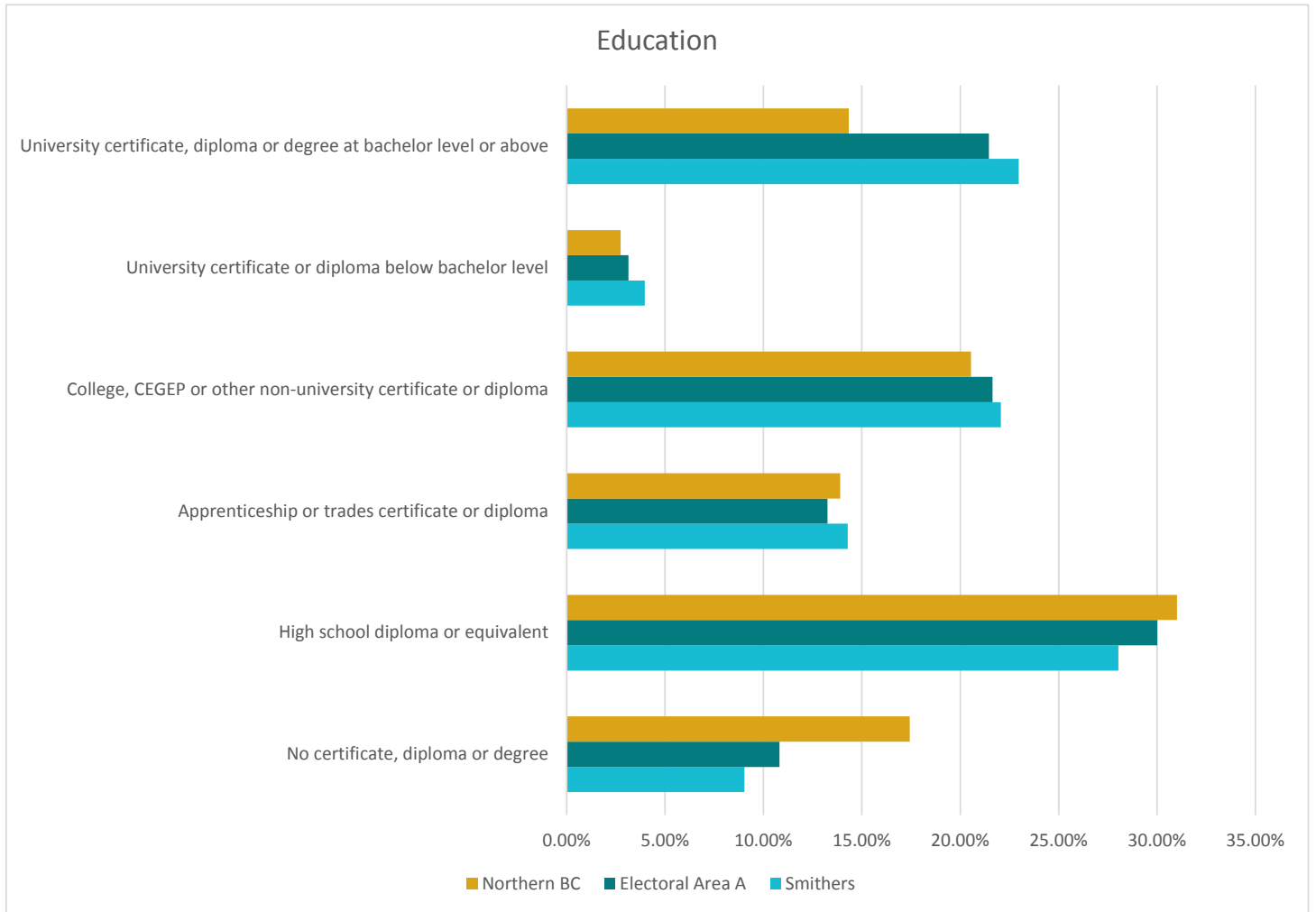
Smithers had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011 and 2016. The unemployment rate increased from 2011-2016. In 2011, Smithers had the highest level of participation in the labour force. A high participation rate suggests that residents tend to be active in the labour force.





Education

Educational attainment in Smithers and Electoral Area A in 2016

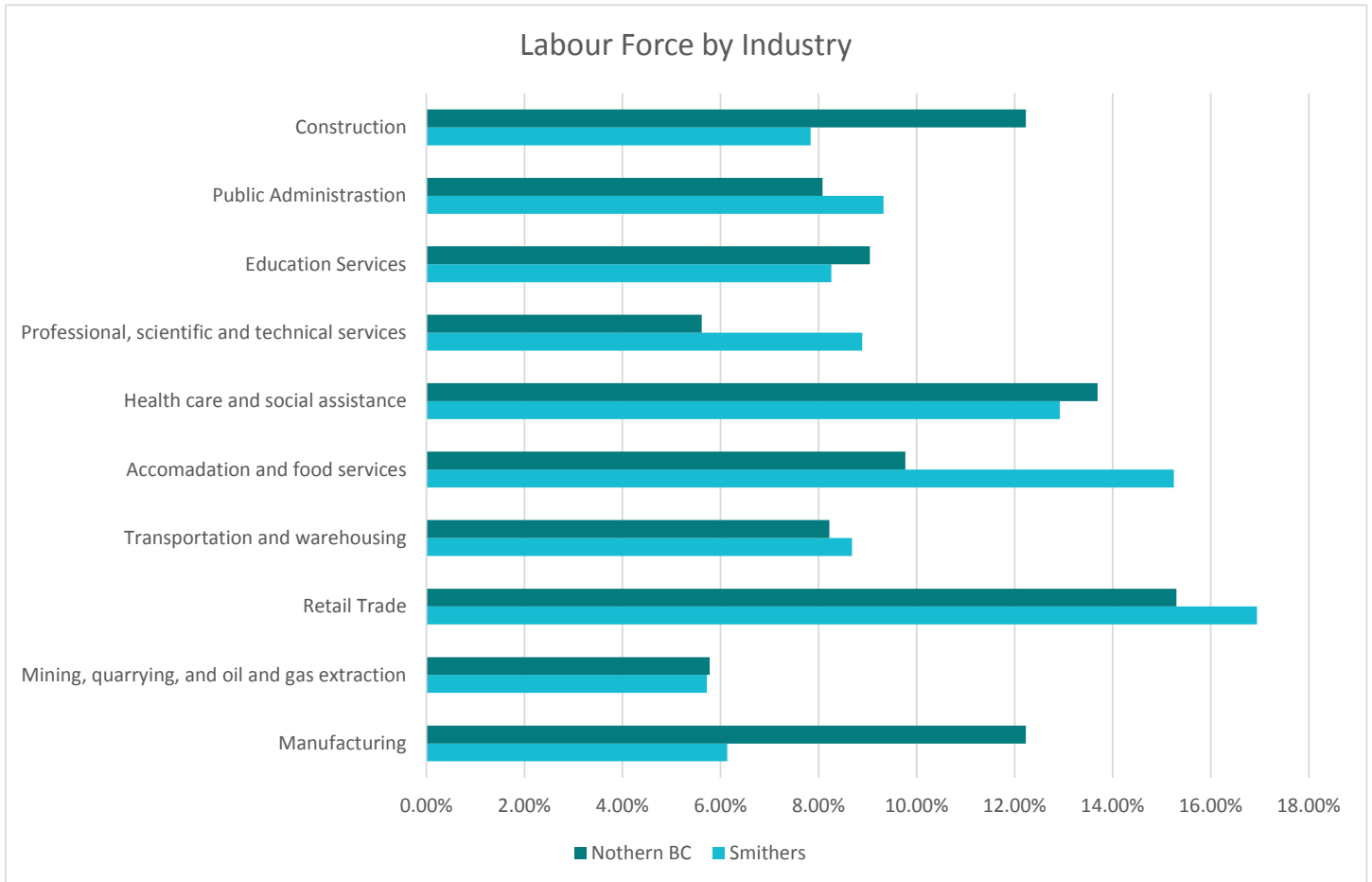


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

Smithers had a higher portion of the population with a university education and lower portion with no certificate, diploma or degree than the rest of Northern BC in 2016. Compared to Smithers, Electoral Area A had a lower percentage of the population with a university degree and a higher portion with no certificate, diploma or degree.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Smithers and Northern BC in 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

In 2016, Smithers and Northern BC, employment is distributed across the economy in a number of sectors. The sectors that employed the most people in Smithers were retail trade and accommodation and food services.



Major employers in Smithers are balanced between the private and public sectors. Some major employers in Smithers include the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
School District No. 54	425
Northern Health - Smithers	400
Hy-Tech Diamond Drilling	294
Government of British Columbia	278
Pacific Inland Resources	220
Bulkley Valley Credit Union	81
Town of Smithers	64
Pinnacle Renewable Energy	50

Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
Coast Mountain College	Post-Secondary Institution
Community Living BC	Training Services
Smithers Community Services Association	ESL Training
WorkBC Employment Services Centre	Employment Services

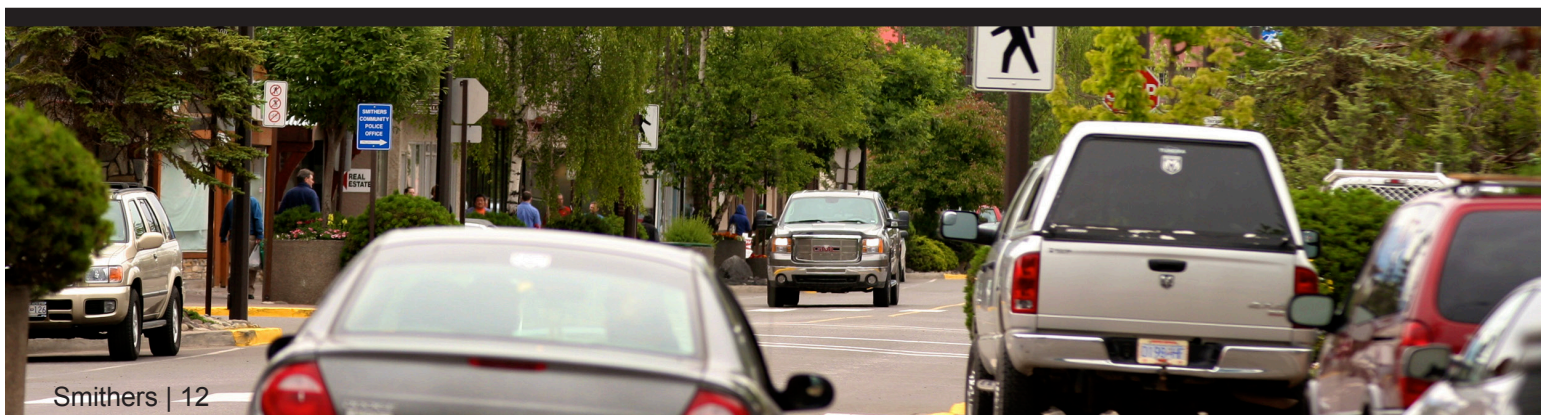
TRANSPORTATION

The following transportation businesses and facilities are found in Smithers.

NAME	CATEGORY
Alpine Lakes Air Ltd.	Airplane Services
BC Bus	Bus Service
BC Transit - Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit System	Bus Service
Canadian Helicopters Ltd.	Helicopter Services
Central Mountain Air Ltd.	Airplane Services
DJ Airside Services	Airplane Services
Glacier View Aviation Ltd.	Airplane Services
Hawkair Aviation Services Ltd.	Airplane Services
Highland Helicopters Ltd.	Helicopter Services
Interior Helicopters	Helicopter Services
Jazz Air Inc.	Airplane Services
Mustang Helicopters	Helicopter Services
Northern Thunderbird Air	Airplane Services
Silver King Helicopters	Helicopter Services
Smithers Regional Airport	Airport
Tsayta Aviation Ltd.	Airplane Services
VIA Rail Canada Inc.	Rail Service

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Telus
- CityWest
- Cybernet
- Starlynx
- Bell
- Rogers



WATER AND WASTE

Water

Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

Water supply for the majority of Smithers' residents is sourced from three deep wells on the southeast side of town. The water quality sourced is very good and is only treated approximately one month of the year with sodium hypochlorite during the Town's annual water main flushing operations. The Town currently does not fluoridate its water. The wells feed into a single pressure zone distribution grid which includes two water storage reservoirs capable of holding 505 ML. The Smithers Airport is supplied by a separate water system from the Town. It consists of one deep well and three underground storage cisterns, two small distribution pumps and a fire pump. The airport system also services a 29 lot subdivision on Lake Kathlyn and an elementary school.

Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

Avg daily demand	0.73 (mgd)
Peak Demand	1.5 (mgd)

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

Residential	\$244
Non-Residential	\$0.7064/cubic metre

Description of Waste Treatment Facility and Capacity

Rated Capacity	2.2 mgd
Average Daily Demand	0.57 mgd

Solid Waste Disposal Services

Commercial and residential garbage is picked up once a week. Residential solid waste is pickup weekly from the curbside. Self serve recycling depot located in Smithers.

Capacity of Waste Disposal Site vs. Projected Demand

Landfill Name	Knockholt Regional Landfill
Location	8072 Aitken Road, 81 km east of Smithers
Capacity Left at Current Site	64 years
Plans for New Capacity	Current plans will add an additional 3-5 years
Transfer Station	6150 Donaldson Rd

Recycling

Although no curb side recycling is available at this time several recycling options are available to residents of Smithers. For more information go to www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/environmental-services/recycling

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Taxes

The following chart summarizes 2019 tax rates in Smithers. For up to date information contact the municipality. 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	4.8427	41.8096	63.0867	21.7410	16.7239	14.5282	3.9704	4.8427
Regional District	1.5852	5.5483	5.3898	5.3898	3.8838	4.7557	1.5852	1.5852
Hospital District	0.6426	2.2492	2.1849	2.1849	1.5744	1.9279	0.6426	0.6426
School	2.5825	13.2000	3.7000	3.7000	3.7000	1.9000	2.3000	7.1000
Other	0.0391	0.4837	0.4837	0.1089	0.1087	0.2268	0.0391	0.0391
Total	9.6922	63.2908	74.8452	41.0576	25.9909	23.3386	8.5373	14.2097

Development Processes and Fees

Before signing a lease or moving into a building where a business will be located, the Town of Smithers recommends contacting Development Services Department to verify basic information about a property. This can prevent future obstacles in permits and development projects.

Currently, there are 629 licenced businesses in Smithers. Business license fees range from \$160 to \$660 per year.

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Smithers' official community plan and zoning bylaws are available at www.smithers.ca

- [Official Community Plan](#)
- [Zoning Bylaw](#)
- [Zoning Bylaw map](#)

Incentive Programs

Startup Smithers is a free, volunteer-based program created by local entrepreneurs to assist new entrepreneurs in getting their business off the ground. It is done in the spirit of an open and inclusive community with the benefit of having new businesses creating a better community for everyone.

Business Support Services

- Community Futures Nadina
- Startup Smithers
- Smithers District Chamber of Commerce
- Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association

Business Funding Programs

- Community Futures Nadina

Local Economic Development Services

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

Sheena Miller

Chamber Manager
Smithers District Chamber of Commerce
1411 Court Street, Box 2379
Smithers BC, V0J 2N0
Email: info@smitherschamber.com

Mayor Contact

Gladys Atrill

Acting Mayor
1027 Aldous St, PO Box 879
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Email: mayor@smithers.ca

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Housing

The housing stock in Smithers consists of the following:

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2016 census)	2,389
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2016 census)	2,291
Single detached houses (2016 census)	1,520
Other attached dwellings (2016 census)	655
# of owned dwellings (2016 census)	1,575
# of rented dwellings (2016 census)	715

Average value of dwelling (2016 census) was \$284,454.

Rental Vacancy Rates

The availability of rental accommodation is currently low in Smithers.

Accommodations

- Aspen Inn and Suites
- Capri Motor Inn
- Fireweed Motor Inn
- Florence Motel
- Hudson Bay Lodge
- Mountain View Motel
- Sandman Inn
- Sidewinder Inn
- Smithers Guesthouse
- Stork Nest Inn
- Sunshine Inn
- Twin Valley Inn

Restaurants

- Alpenhorn Bistro and Bar
- Aspen Riverhouse
- A&W
- Blue Water Sushi
- Boston Pizza
- Bugwood Bean
- Bulkey Valley Brewery
- Capri Family Restaurant
- Chatters Pizzeria
- Daddios Family Restaurant
- Dairy Queen
- Don Cherry's Sport Bar
- Lalazar Restaurant
- Louise's Kitchen
- Masa-Yama Japanese Restaurant
- McDonalds
- Noir Kitchen
- Northern Star Cafe
- Panago Pizza
- Pizza Hut
- Roadhouse
- Smithers Brewing Company
- Streak House on Main
- Subway
- Tandoori Bistro
- Telly's Grill
- Tim Hortons
- Trackside Cantena
- Twin Valley
- Two Sisters
- UFO on Main

Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events

- Hudson Bay Lodge Convention Centre
- The Old Church
- The Legion
- Aspen Inn
- Della Herman Theatre
- Smithers Civic Centre
- Dan Hamhuis Arena

Shopping

Shopping District: Main Street retail district
Shopping Mall: Smithers Mall

Financial Services

- Bulkley Valley Credit Union Smithers Branch
- Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
- Complete Mortgage Services
- Driftwood Financial
- Edward Jones
- FCM Financial Services Inc
- Investors Group Financial
- Manulife Securities Incorporated
- Royal Bank Of Canada
- Scotia Bank
- Western Financial Services

Legal Services

- G.E. Greene Law Corporation
- Giddings MacEachern Law
- Katheryn Johnson Notary Public Inc
- Legal Sevices Society/Parents Legal
- Perry & Company
- Yuen Westwood Law Corporation

Media

- CICK community radio
- CJFW Radio (Astral Media)
- The Moose
- Smithers Interior News
- Smithers/Telkwa Online
- CFTK-TV BC North
- Northword Magazine

Local Community Assets

Community assets are the services and organizations that enrich or support the experience of living in the community.

- Bulkley Valley Gymnastics Association
- Bulkley Valley Fall Fair Grounds
- Bulkley Valley Museum
- Bulkley Valley Pool & Recreation Centre
- BV Backpackers
- BV Saddle Club
- Hudson Bay Mountain Resort
- Red Door Studio & Gallery
- Reggio Kids Nature School & Early Learning Centre
- Roi Theatre
- Smithers Art Gallery
- Smithers Curling Rink and Association
- Smithers Golf and Country Club
- Smithers Figure Skating/Can Skate
- Smithers Jr. Softball
- Smithers Minor Hockey Association
- Smithers Mountain Bike Association
- Smithers Old-timer Hockey
- Smithers Recreational Hockey League
- Smithers Slow Pitch
- Smithers Tae Kwon Do Club
- Smithers Womens Hockey
- Smithers Youth Soccer
- Town of Smithers - Chanlder Park Soccer Fields
- Town of Smithers - Civic Centre and New Arena
- Town of Smithers - Elks Park - Ball Diamonds
- Town of Smithers - Mountain Bike Park
- Town of Smithers - Riverside RV Park
- Town of Smithers - Skateboard Park

Local Community Organizations

- Access Smithers
- BVD Hospital Auxiliary
- Bulkley Valley Arts Council
- Bulkley Valley Kinsmen
- Bulkley Valley Museum Society
- Community Living BC
- Dze L Kant Friendship Centre
- Northern Society for Domestic Peace
- Positive Living North
- Royal Canadian Legion Smithers Branch 63
- Rotary Club of Smithers
- Salvation Army
- Smithers and Area Recycling Society
- Smithers Community Radio
- Smithers Community Services Association
- The Grendel Group
- The Meadows Assisted Living - Smithers
- The North West Animal Shelter Society

Schools

- SD 54 - Bulkley Falley Education Connection
- SD 54 - Bulkley Valley Learning Centre
- SD 54 - Muhiem Elementary School (K-7)
- SD 54 - Smithers Secondary (grade 8-12)
- SD 54 - Walnut Park Elementary School (K-7)
- Bulkley Valley Christian School (K-12)
- Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School (K-12)
- Project d'école francophone à Smithers (K-12)
- St. Joseph's Catholic School (K-7)

Health Services

- **Bulkley Valley District Hospital**
- **Bulkley Lodge**
- **Smithers Health Unit**
- **Smithers Family Chiropractic**
- **Alpine Physiotherapy**
- **Transitions Physiotherapy**
- **Smithers Physiotherapy Centre**
- **Smithers Naturopath**
- **Tyhee Dental**
- **Driftwood Dental**

Bulkley Valley District Hospital

The Bulkley Valley District Hospital is a 25 bed acute care facility providing emergency, medical, surgical, maternity and palliative services. A specialist nursing team provides care for those under cancer treatment. The medical staff in Smithers consist of family physicians, three anesthetists, a pediatrician, visiting surgeons and other specialists. Some community services are also based at the hospital, including home support, home care nursing, and rehabilitation therapy.

Bulkley Lodge

Bulkley Lodge provides long-term care for the elderly.

Smithers Health Unit

The Smithers Health Unit offers Public Health Nursing services including family health services, post-partum support, parent-baby drop-in, immunization clinics, school health, Options for Sexual Health, communicable disease services, harm reduction and needle exchange services, injury prevention, quit smoking services, and community development.

“Smithers is the quintessential community. It has the geography, the resources, and the beauty. Most of all it has the people. There is an amazing energy of collaboration that is present in Smithers and it is felt throughout the community at large and it is certainly present in the business community. There is no better place for a startup. We have already started.”

Tim Tchida, President, Summit Reforestation.

“I came to Smithers because it was a great place to bring a family. It was conveniently located for my business to grow.”

Dan Young, President and Founder, All-West Glass Ltd.

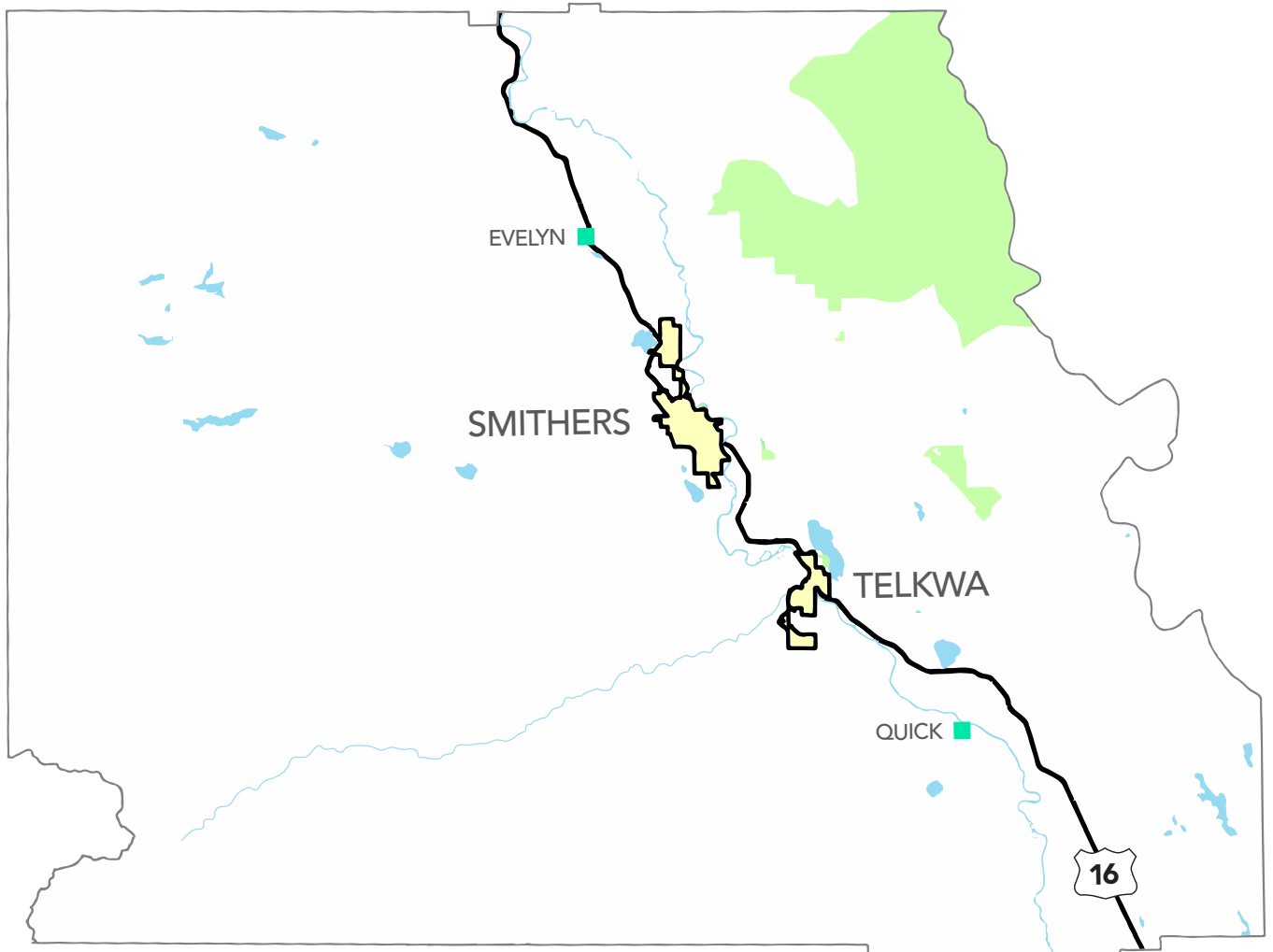
www.smithers.ca

2: ELECTORAL AREA A (SMITHERS RURAL)









ELECTORAL AREA 'A'

(Smithers Rural)



Legend

-  Municipal Boundary
-  Parks
-  Electoral Area Boundary
-  Lakes
-  Unincorporated Communities
-  Highway



Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural)

Smithers Rural, or Electoral Area A, is the most populated Electoral Area in The RDBN. The rural area is known for its mountainous landscape and the municipalities of Smithers and Telkwa within its boundaries.

The rural area has a relatively high median household income, a high percentage of university and college graduates in its population and relatively high participation in the local labour force.

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en is located in Smithers, which manages the surrounding traditional territory.



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) 2006-2016

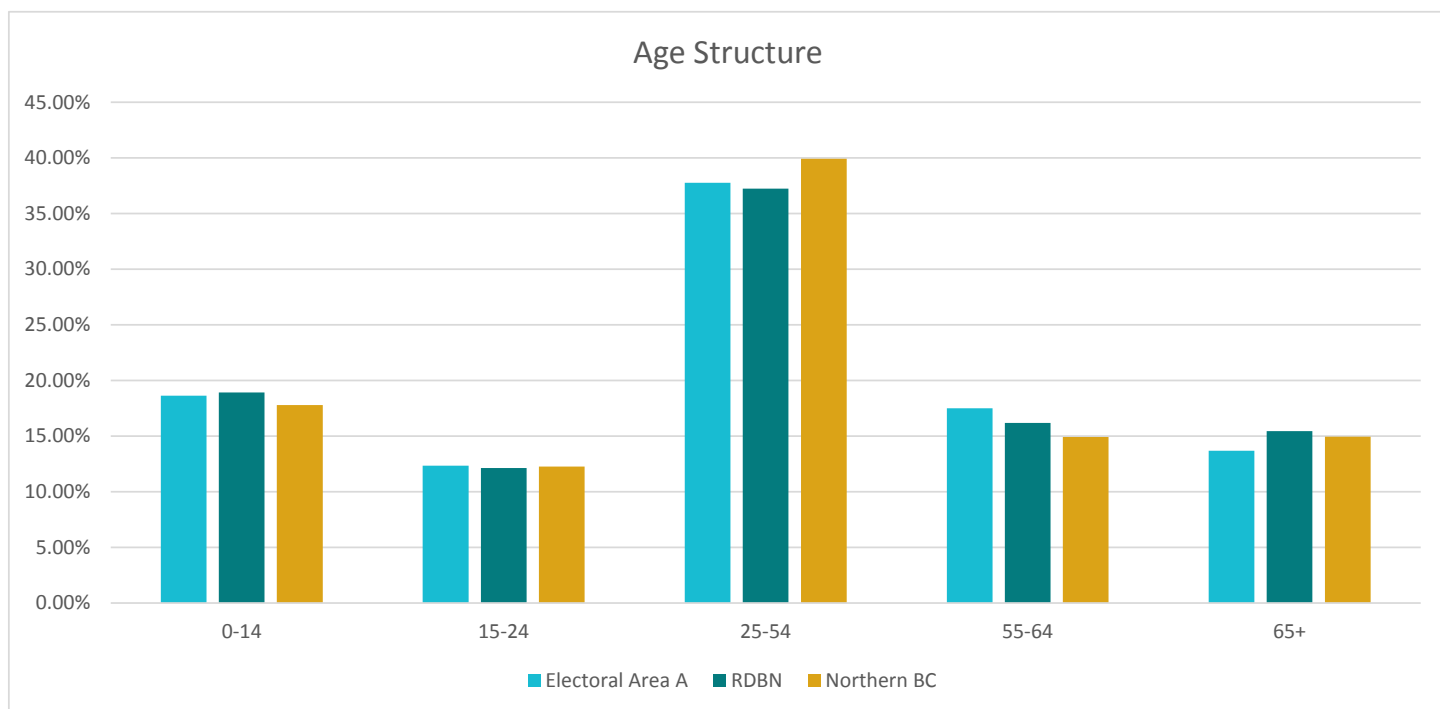
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Electoral Area A	5,290	5,391	5,256
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile 2006-2016.

Electoral Area A had the highest population among the electoral areas in the RDBN with a total population of 5,256 in 2016. The population has remained relatively stable over the past 5 years.

Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2016

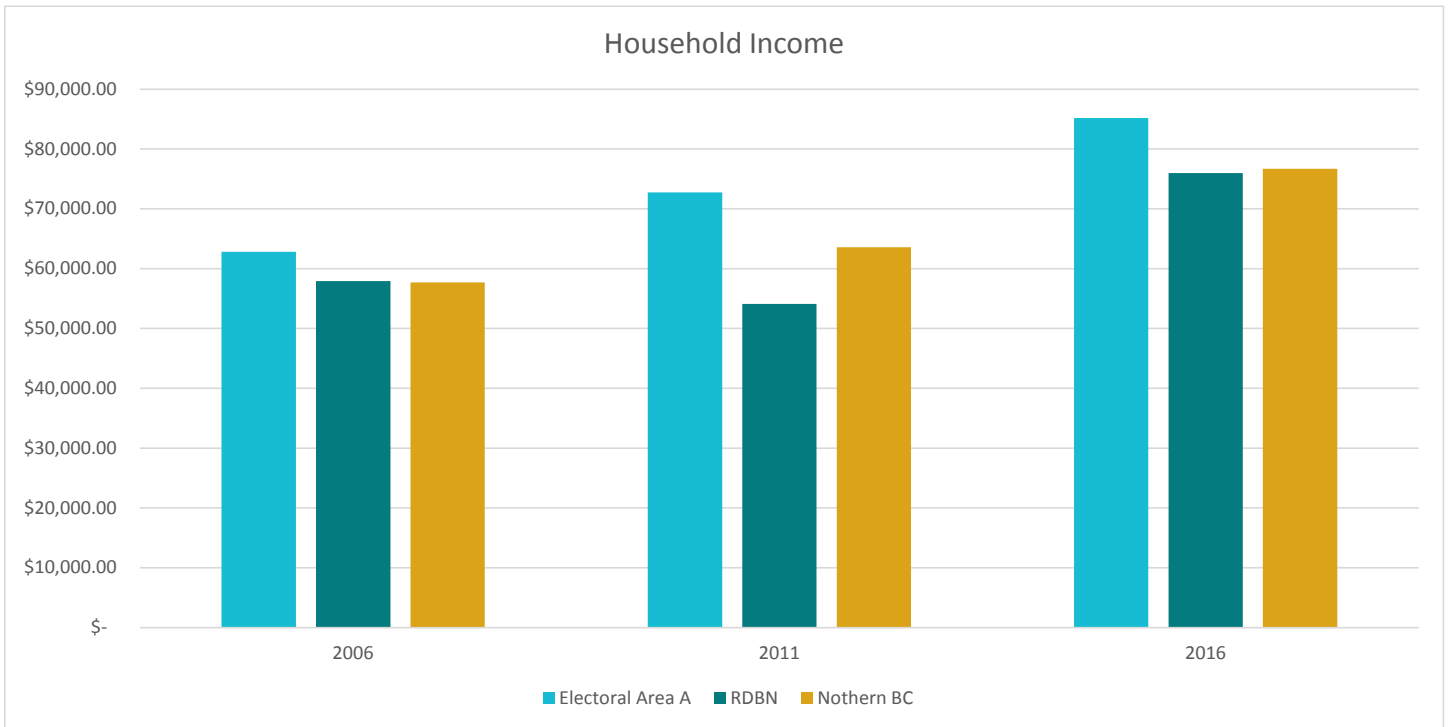


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016.

The population of Electoral Area A tended to be older than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016. The median age in the Electoral Area was 42 while in the RDBN and Northern BC the median was 39. Its age structure reveals that Electoral Area A had a higher older worker population (ages 55-64) and slightly lower proportion of residents aged 65+ years and older compared to the RDBN and Northern BC.

Household Income

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



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

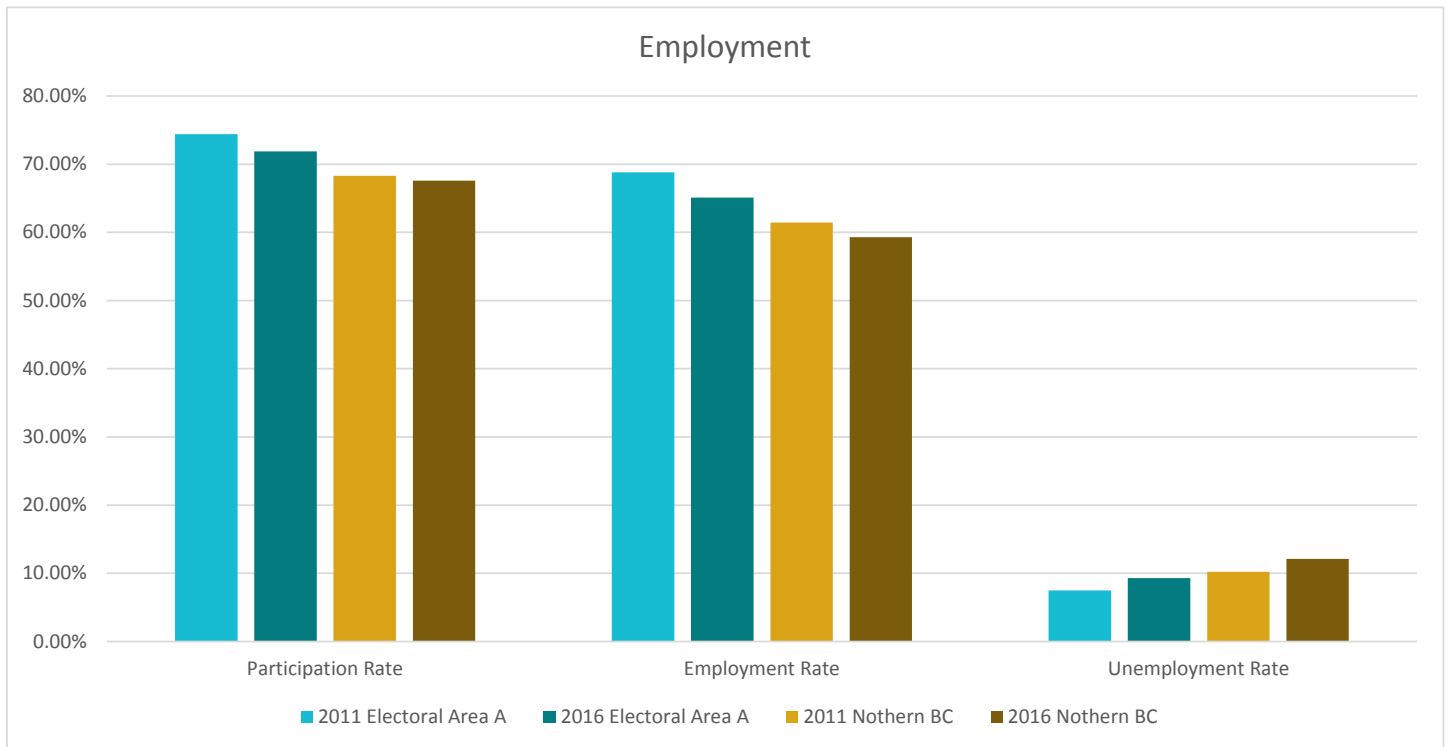
In 2016, Electoral Area A had the highest median household income among the electoral areas, of \$85,184. The household income in Electoral Area A has been higher than in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006 to 2016.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

Employment data in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2011-2016



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

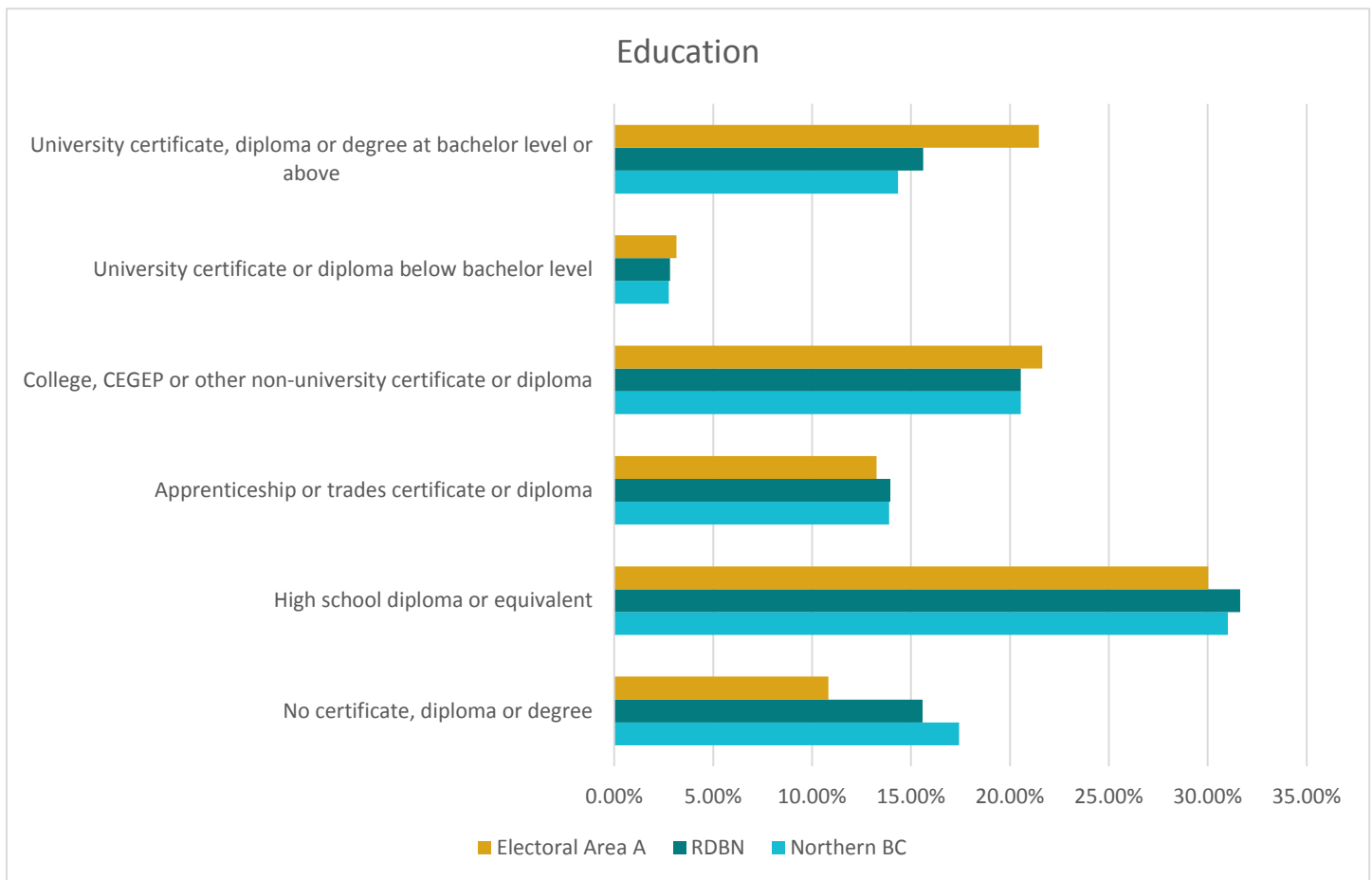
Electoral Area A had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011 and 2016.





Education

Education in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2016

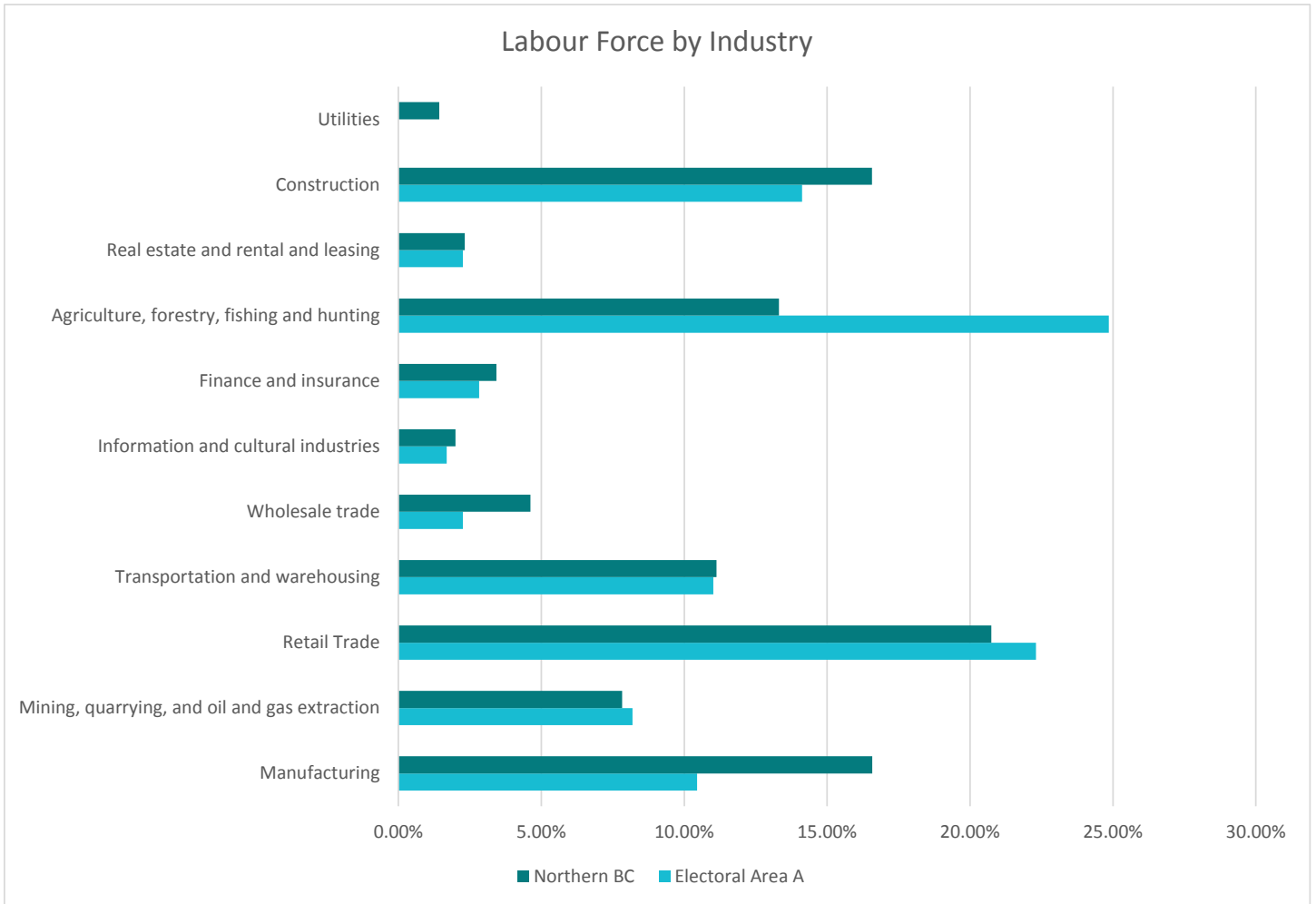


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

Electoral Area A had a well-educated population compared to Northern BC in 2016. A higher portion of the population in the Electoral Area had a university or college education compared to the RDBN and Northern BC. Electoral Area A also had an equivalent portion people with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma to the RDBN in 2016.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

In 2016, Electoral Area A, the major sources of employment came from primary industries such as agriculture, forestry, and fishing.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Electoral Area A, Smithers Rural, official community plan is available at: www.rdbn.bc.ca/department/planning.

- [Smithers Telkwa Official Community Plan](#)

First Nations Services

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en is located in Smithers and was created as a central office for a number of First Nations in the area. The office offers many services throughout the traditional territories focusing on lands and resources, fisheries & wildlife, human and social services and treaty negotiations.

Local Economic Development Services

For any further assistance with local economic development services please contact:

Nellie Davis

Manager Regional Economic Development

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Email: nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca

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

Electoral Area Director Contact

Director Mark Fisher

Phone: 250-877-8434

Email: mark.fisher@rdbn.bc.ca

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Local Community Organizations

The following civic and social organizations are present in the area:

- Evelyn Community Hall
- Round Lake Community Hall
- Driftwood Community Hall
- Smithers Motocross Association
- Smithers Ski Club
- Smithers Snowmobile Association
- Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club

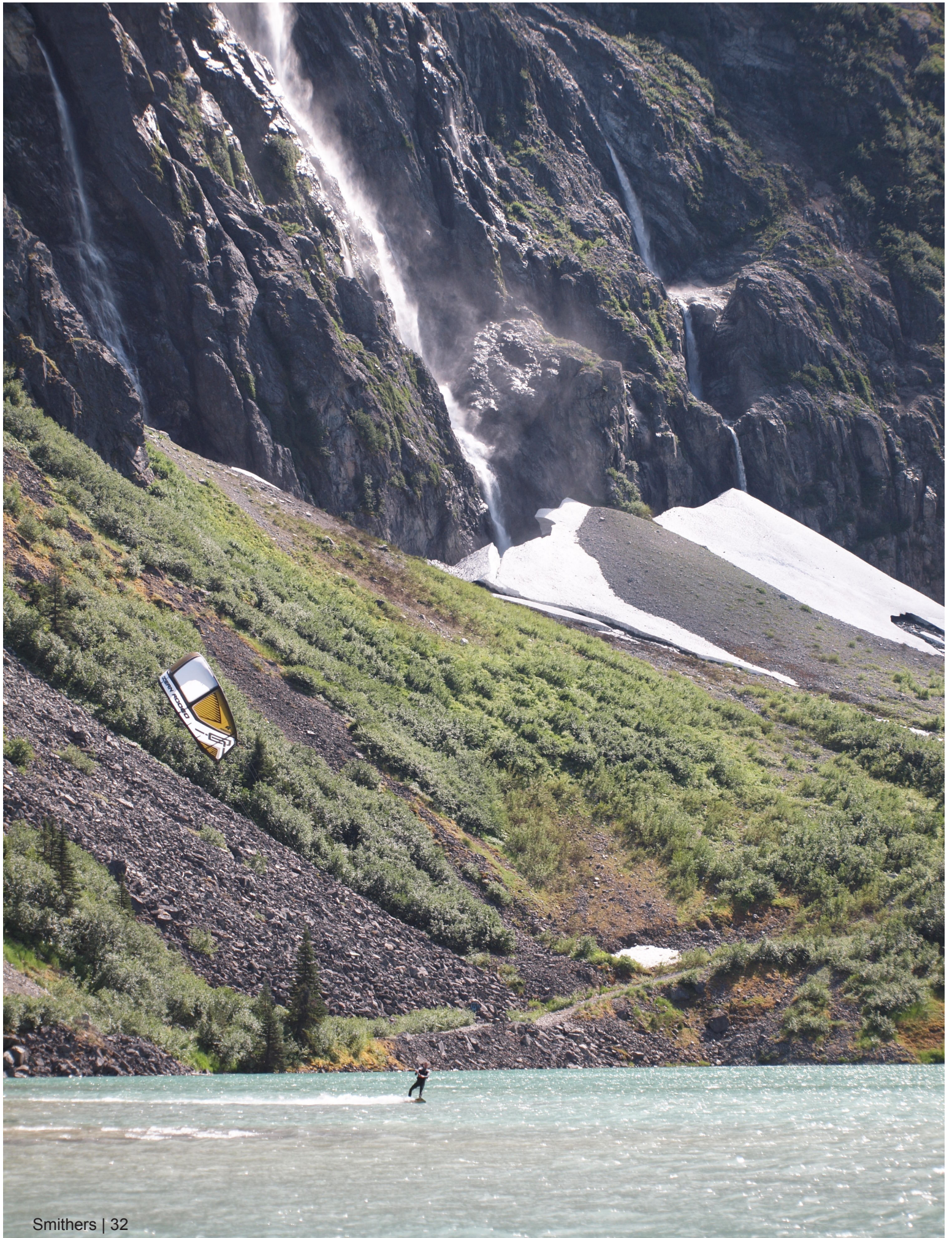
Local Community Assets

The following is a list of physical and intangible assets within the community:

- Riverside Golf Course and RV Park
- Smithers Golf and Country Club
- Hudson Bay Mountain Resort
- Hankin Evelyn Back Country Ski Area



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

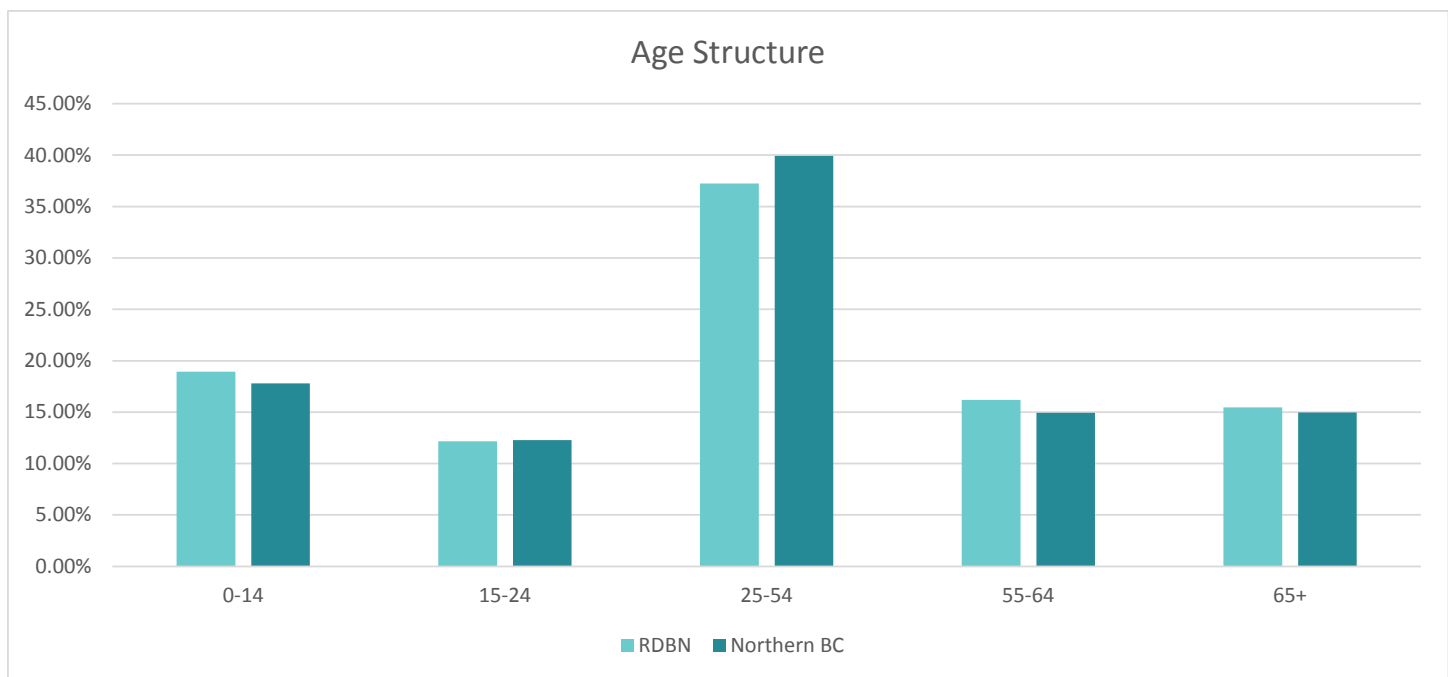
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

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

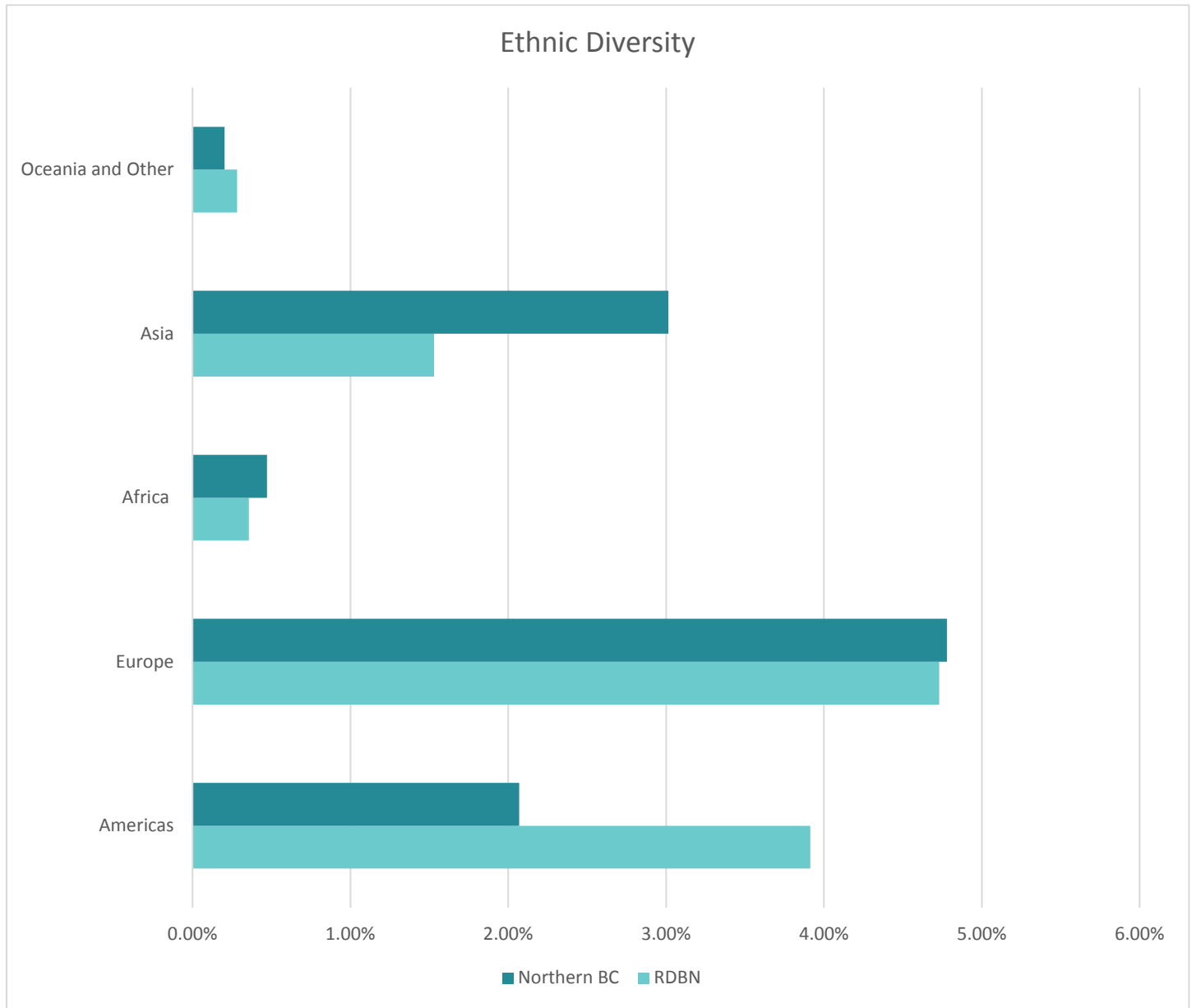


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

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



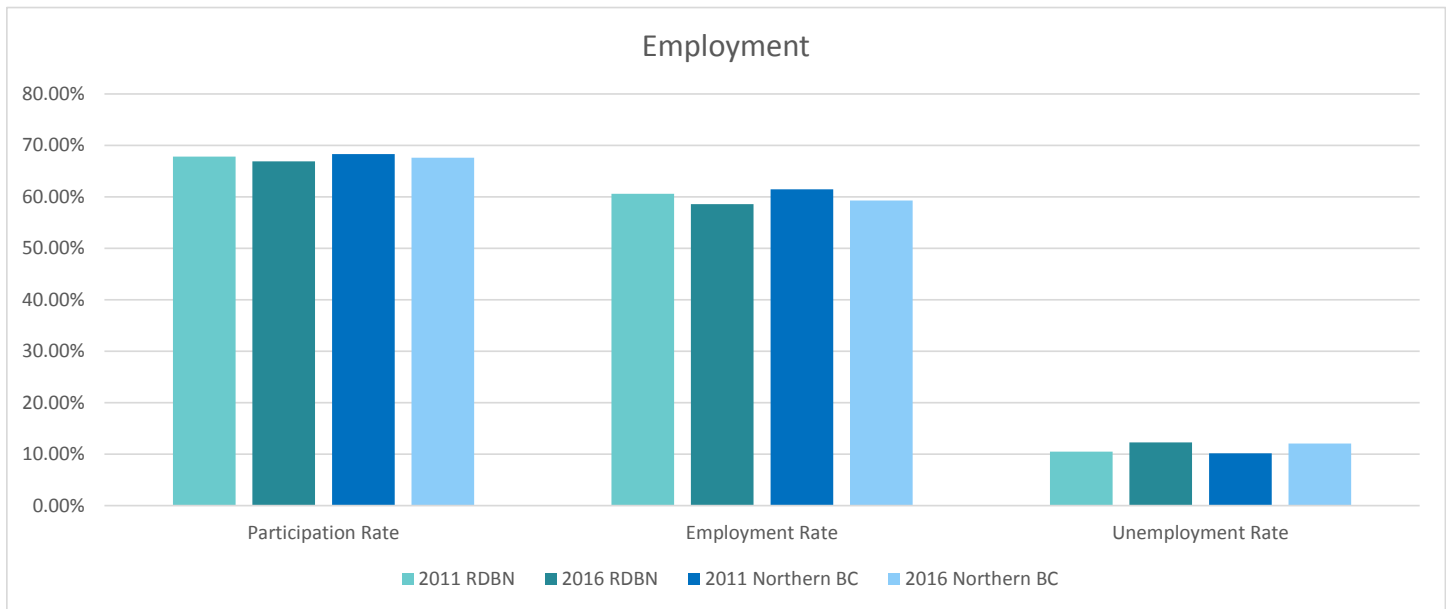
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

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

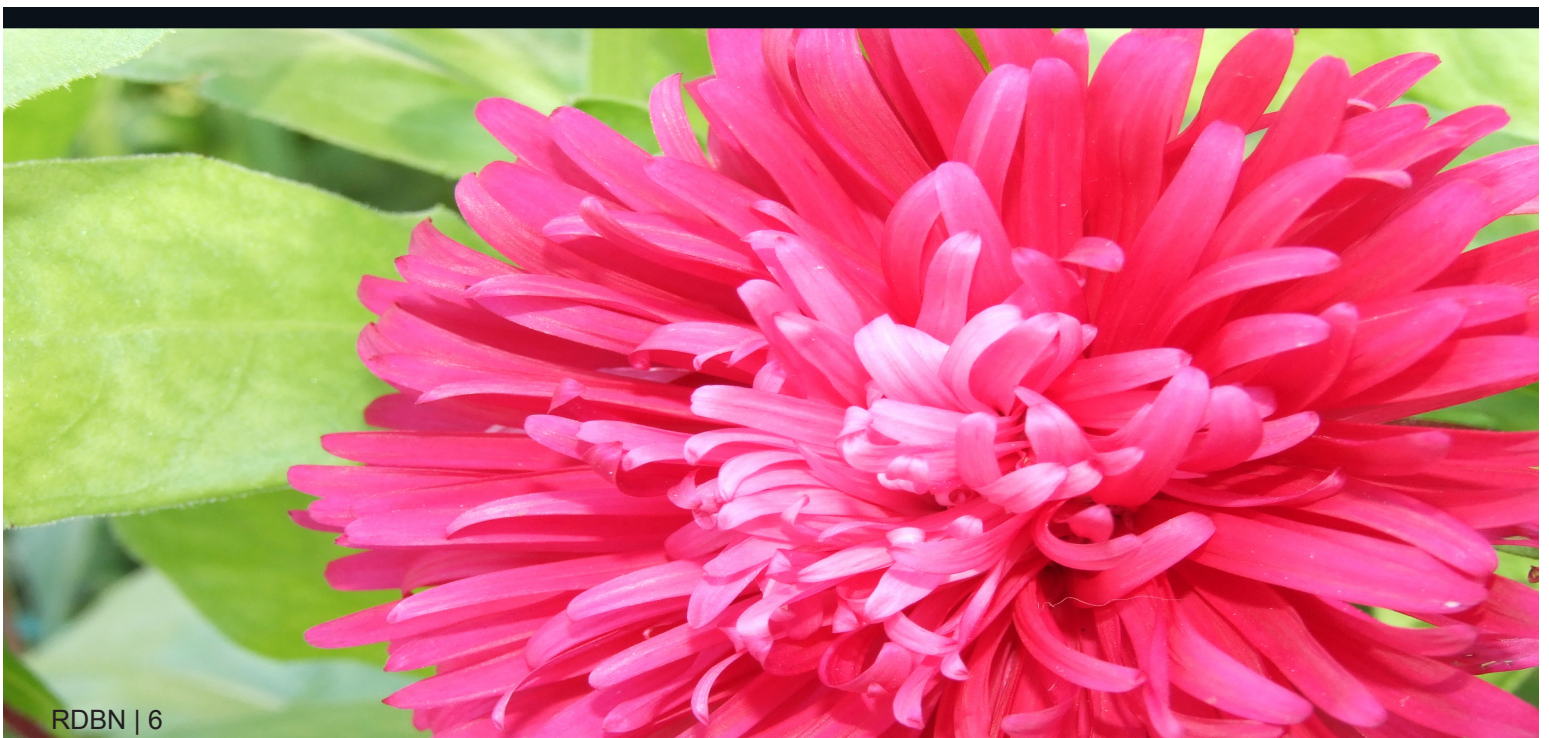
Employment

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



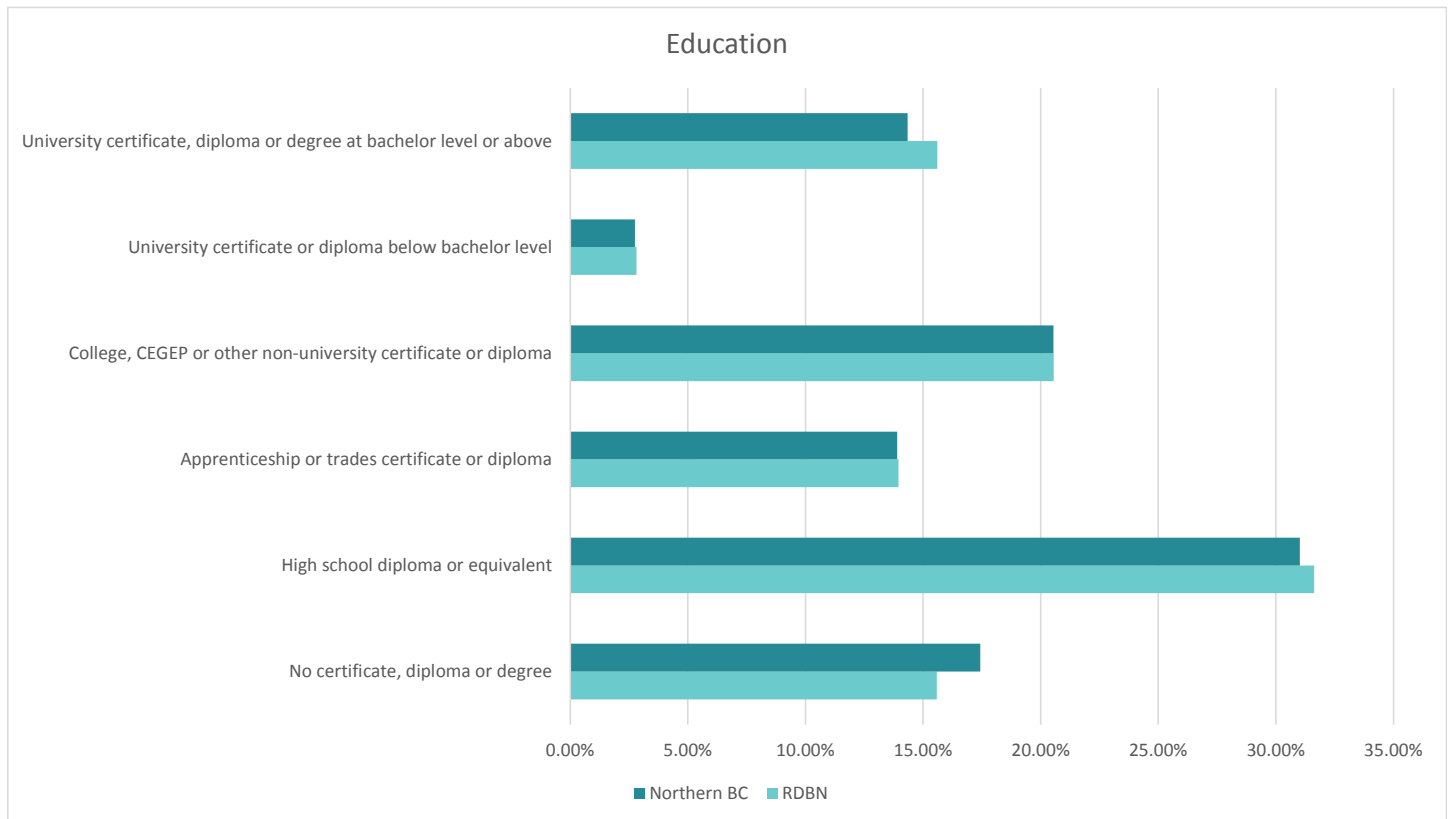
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

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.



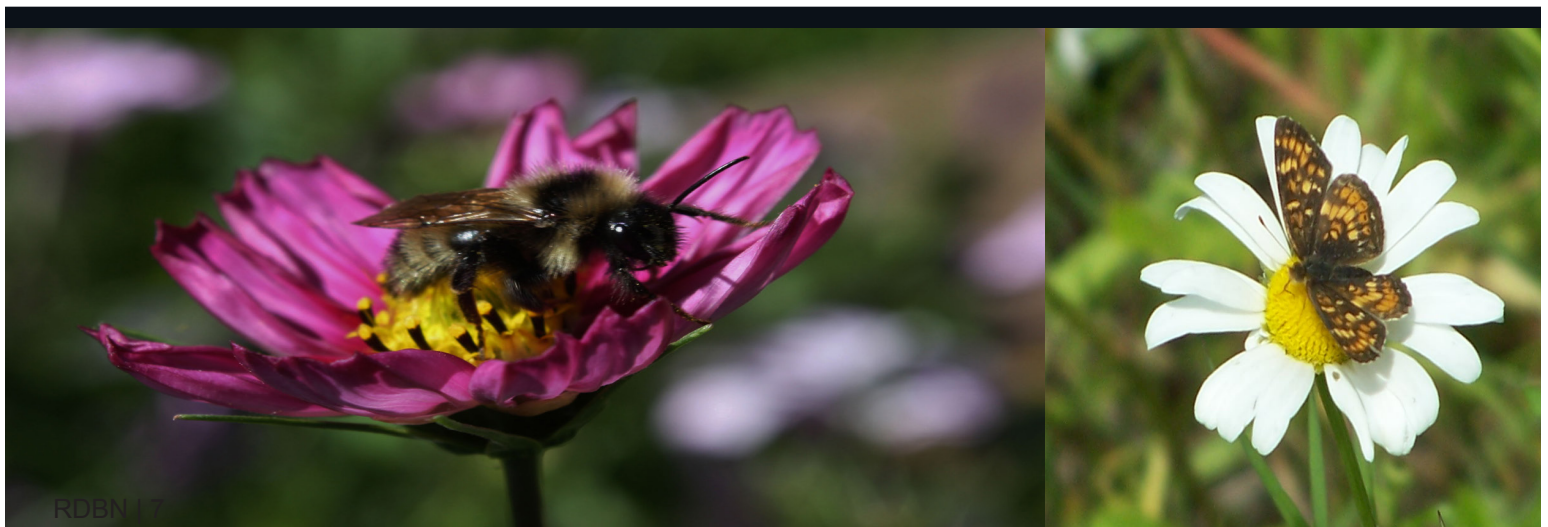
Education

Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



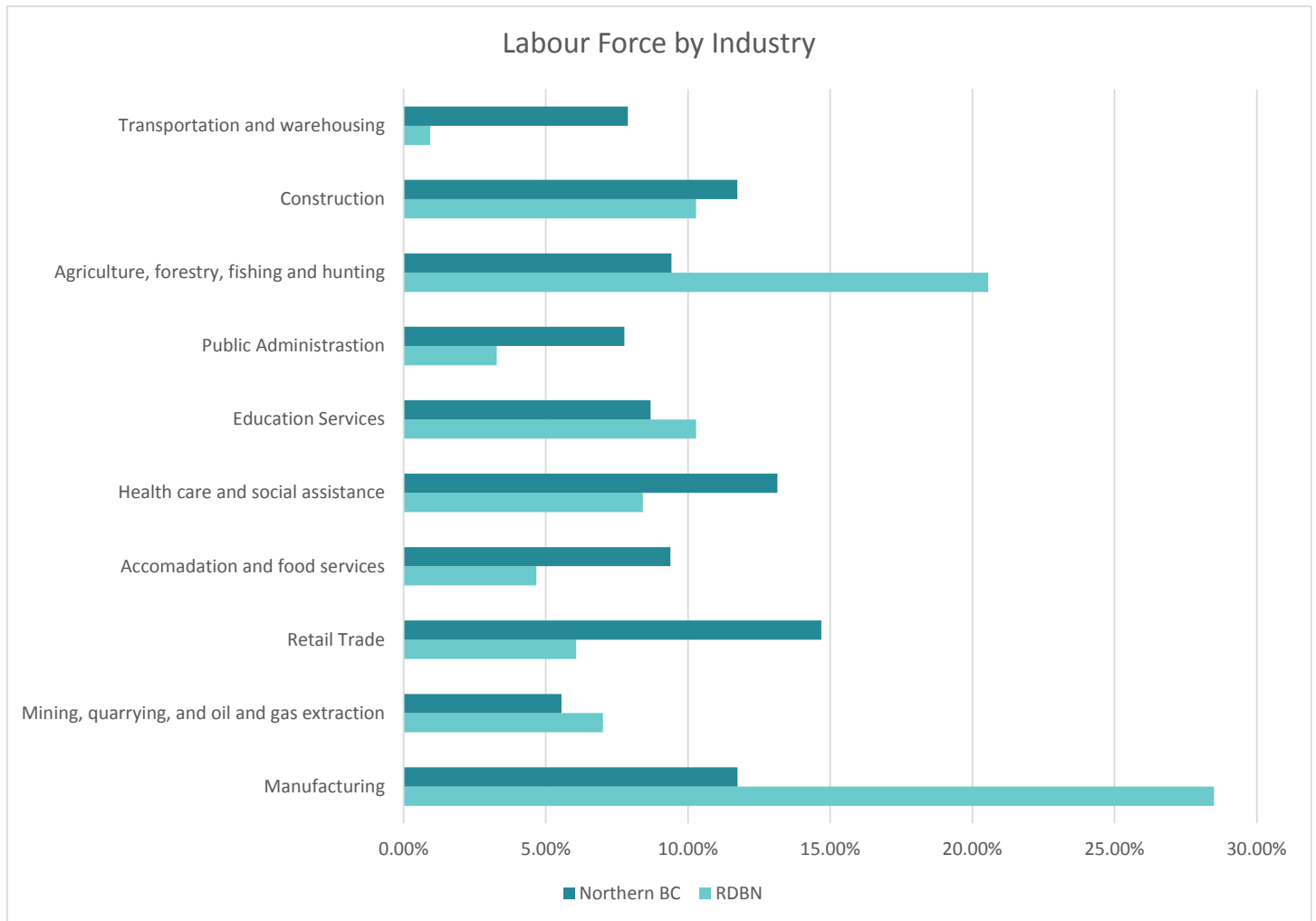
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

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
Northern Health	150	Regional
Bulkley Valley Credit Union	100	Regional
College of New Caledonia	100	Burns Lake
DH Manufacturing	60	Houston

Post-Secondary Education Facilities

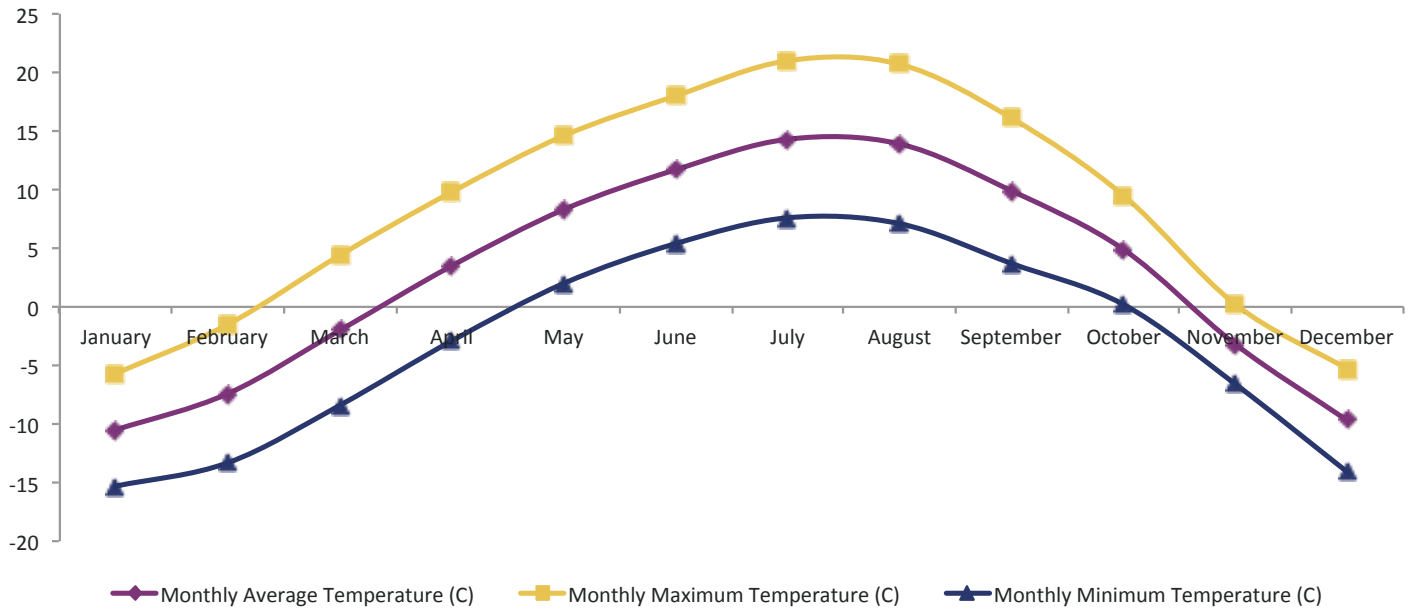
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

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

CLIMATE

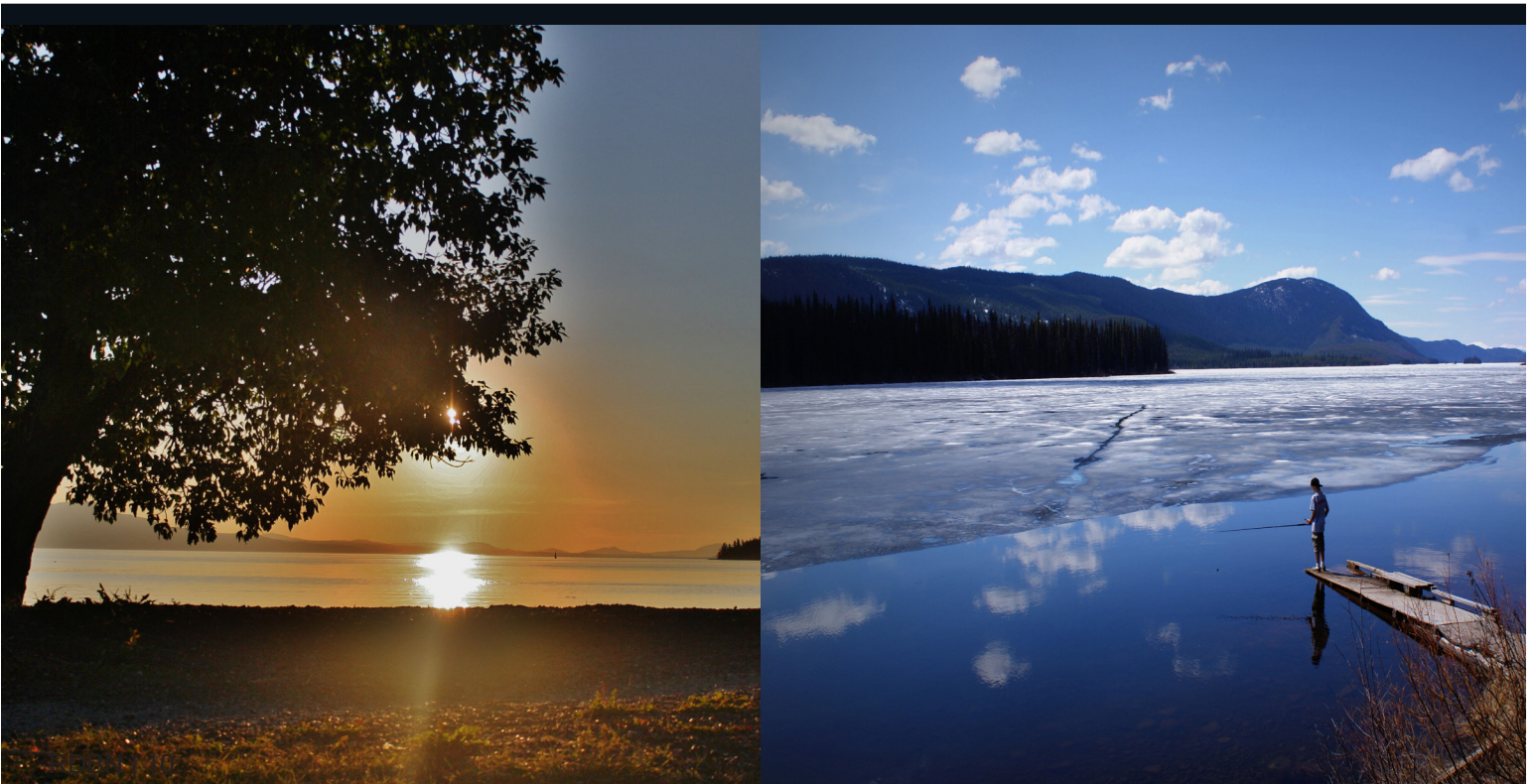
Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



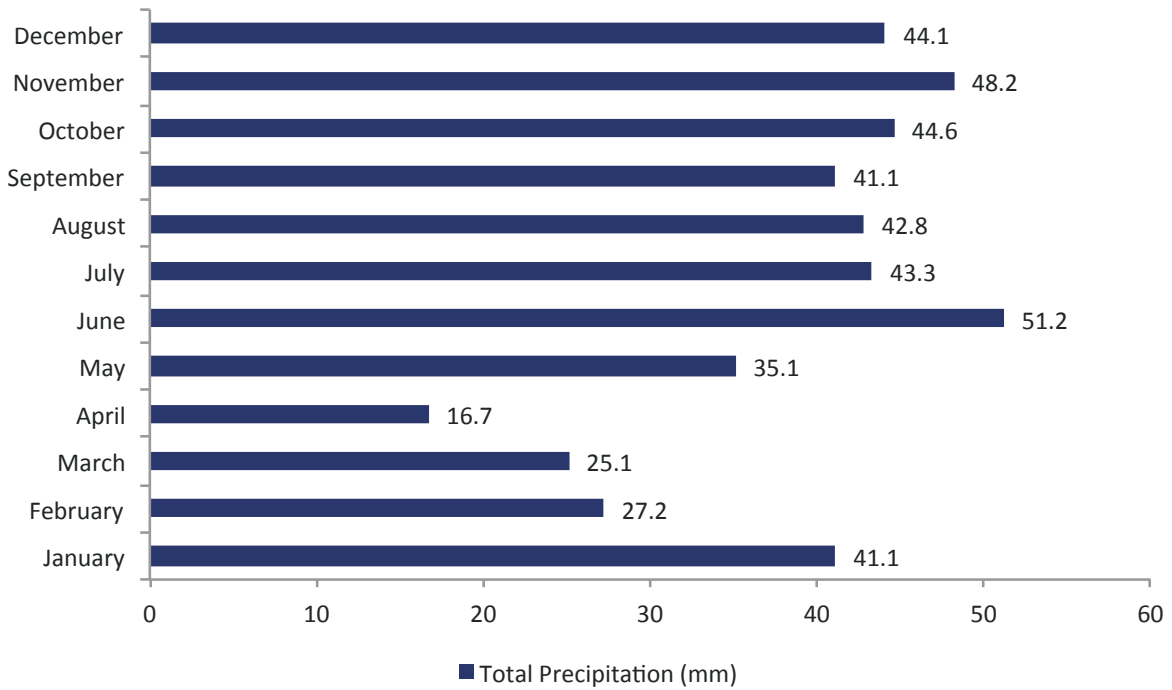
Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

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.



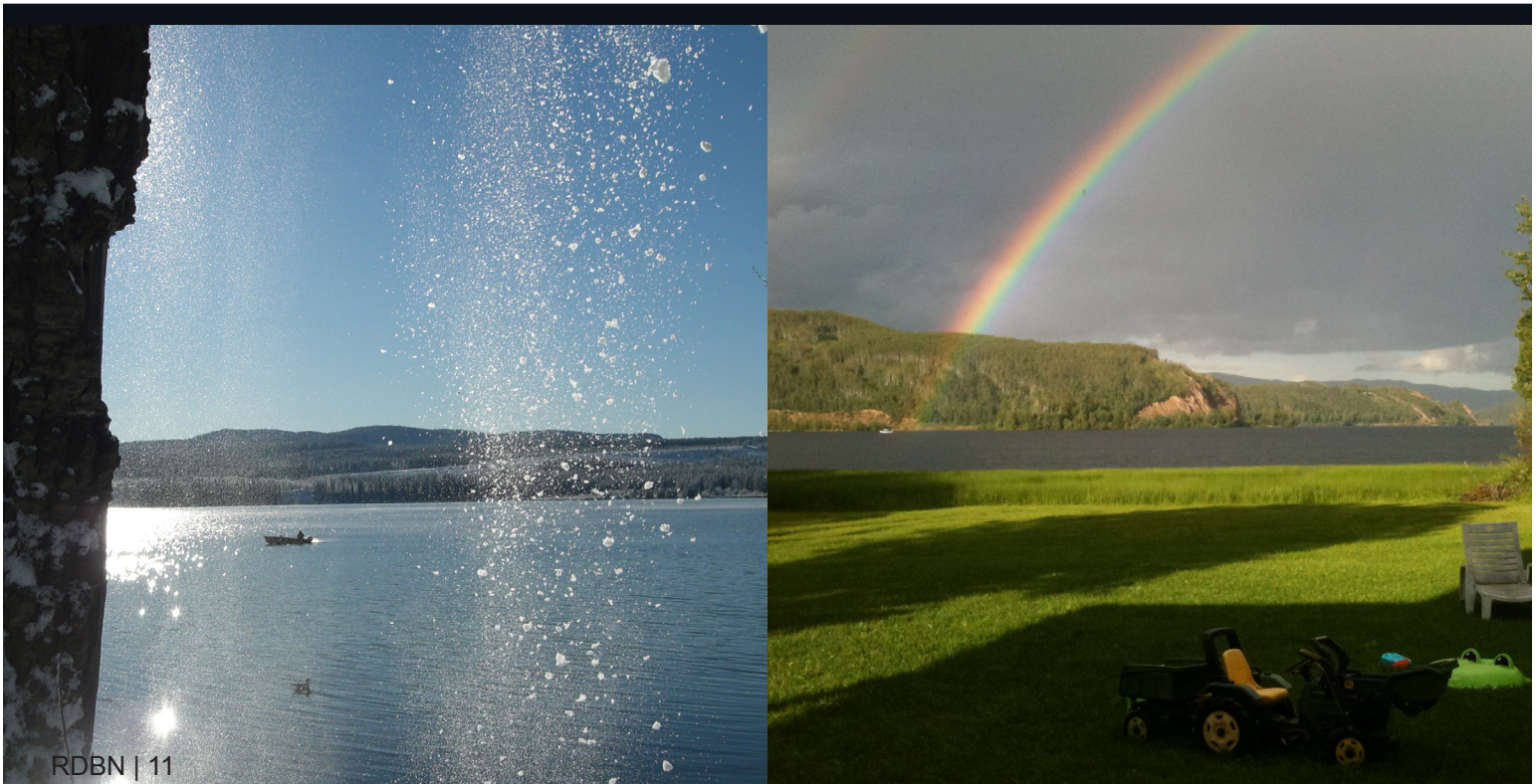
Precipitation

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

Business Funding and Tax Credit Programs

ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
Community Futures Nadina	Small Business Loans
Community Futures Stuart Nechako	Business Loans Program
Burns Lake Native Development Corporation	Small Business Loans Program
Northern Development Initiative Trust	Capital Investment and Training Rebate Program
Northern Development Initiative Trust	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
Community Living BC	Smithers
Smithers Community Services Association	Smithers
WorkBC Fort St. James (PESL*)	Fort St. James
WorkBC Vanderhoof (PESL*)	Vanderhoof
WorkBC Burns Lake (PESL*)	Burns Lake
WorkBC Fraser Lake (Outreach**)	Fraser Lake
WorkBC	Smithers
Skilled Trades Employment Program (BCCA)	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:

Nellie Davis

Manager Regional Economic Development
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Email: nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca
Phone: 250-692-3195 / 1-800-320-3339

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