

TELKWA AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



Telkwa



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

CONTENTS

1. COMMUNITY PROFILE

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth
Age Structure
Household Income

WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment
Education
Labour Force by Industry

TRANSPORTATION

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

WATER AND WASTE

Water
Solid Waste Disposal Services

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Taxes
Development Processes and Fees
Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents
Incentive Programs
Local Economic Development Services
Mayor Contact

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Housing
Accommodations
Restaurants
Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events
Shopping
Financial Services
Media
Local Community Organizations
Local Community Assets
Schools

2. ELECTORAL AREA A

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth
Age Structure
Household Income

WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment
Education
Labour Force by Industry

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents
First Nations Services
Local Economic Development Services
Electoral Area Director Contact

WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Local Community Organizations
Local Community Assets

3. REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO PROFILE

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth
Age Structure
Ethnic Diversity
Household Income

WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment
Education
Labour Force by Industry
Post-Secondary Education Facilities

CLIMATE

Monthly Temperature
Wind Speed
Precipitation

TRANSPORTATION

Road
Rail
Airport

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Electricity and Gas Service Providers
Commercial and Residential Rates for Electricity and Gas

BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE SUPPORT SERVICES AND FUNDING PROGRAMS

Business Support Services
Business Funding and Tax Credit Programs
Regional Employment Service Providers

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



Telkwa and Surrounding Area

A picturesque, historic village, Telkwa is nestled on the banks of the world-renowned Bulkley and Telkwa Rivers. Surrounded by snow-capped mountain ranges and a myriad of lakes and streams, Telkwa's spectacular natural setting offers extensive outdoor adventure and recreational opportunities.

Residents of Telkwa have their choice of year-round wilderness adventures. Local sightseeing and adventure tour operators offer world-class hunting and sport fishing, hiking, canoeing, rafting, kayaking, bird watching and wilderness photography explorations. The adventures continue in the winter with phenomenal ice climbing, cross-country, backcountry and downhill skiing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. For a quiet day, Telkwa is also home to lush parks and historical buildings, including the restored 1910 St. Stephen's Anglican Church and the Pioneer Museum.

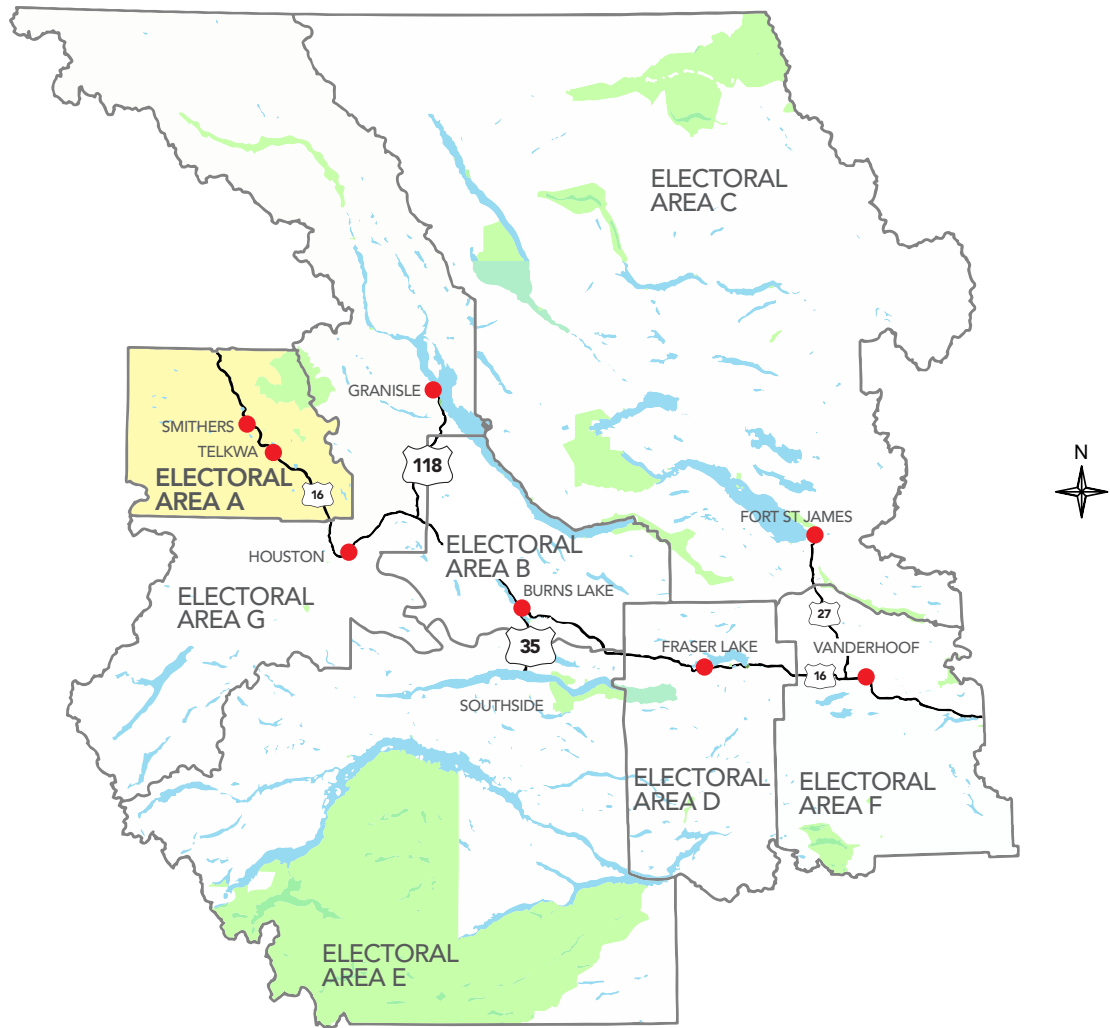
A friendly, safe and family oriented community, Telkwa is attractive to potential buyers as it offers a rural setting, with larger lots and lower priced housing. Telkwa is set for a wide range of interests and needs, with a library, high-speed internet access, building lots, prime commercial spaces, baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, community hall, parks, and retail and home based businesses.

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 Telkwa to:

PLACE	DISTANCE (KM)	DRIVING TIME (HR)
Prince George, BC	356	3 hr 48 min
Kitimat, BC	274	3 hr 25 min
Prince Rupert, BC	362	4 hr 31 min
Edmonton, AB	1,094	12 hr 17 min
Vancouver, BC	1,136	12 hr 33 min
Calgary, AB	1,140	13 hr 31
Seattle, WA	1,250	13 hr 49 min
Whitehorse, YT	1,264	16 hr 50 min
Portland, OR	1,530	16 hr 32 min
Yellowknife, NT	1,960	23 hr 18 min
Anchorage, AK	2,395	31 hr

Legend

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

1: TELKWA AND SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Growth

Population growth in Telkwa, 2006-2016

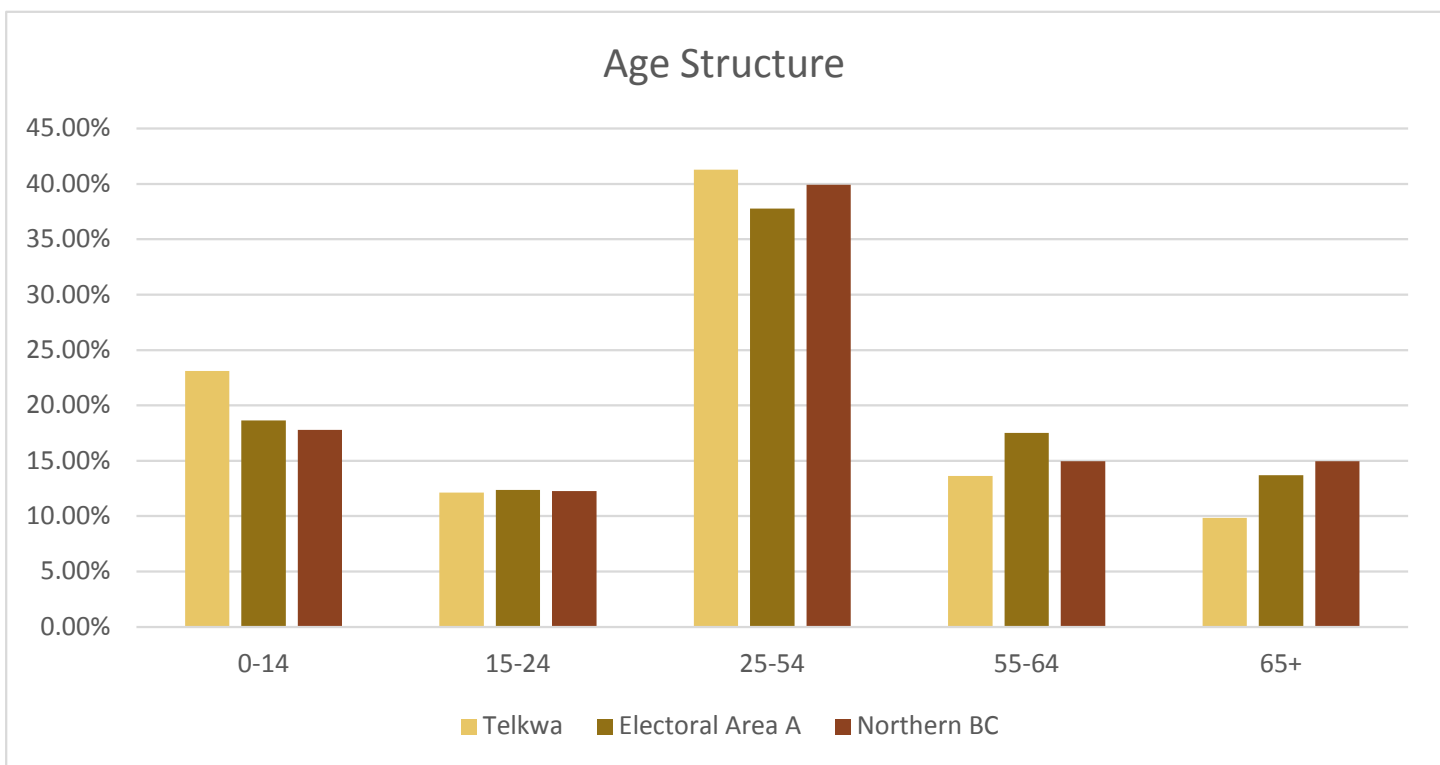
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Telkwa	1,295	1,350	1,327
Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural)	5,290	5,391	5,256
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2006-2016

The Village of Telkwa had a population of 1,327 in 2016 and since continues to see a slow, steady growth. Telkwa experienced a 4.5% increase in population from 2006-2011 outpacing growth rates in Electoral Area A and Northern BC, which increased by 1.9% and 0.1% respectively.

Age Structure

Age structure in Telkwa and Electoral Area A, 2016

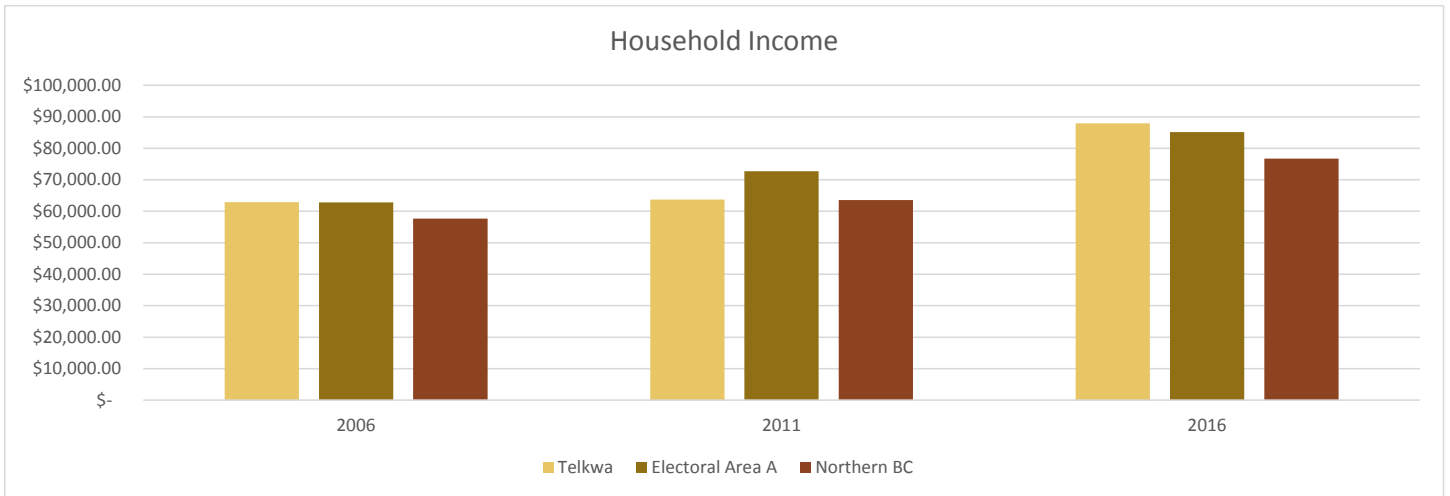


Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

The Village of Telkwa is one of the youngest municipalities in the region. Telkwa is also generally younger than Electoral Area A and Northern BC. The median age in Telkwa is 34 while in the Electoral Area and Northern BC the median is 42 and 39 respectively. The age structure reveals that Telkwa has a higher youth population (ages 0-14) and lower percentage of people between the ages of 55-64 compared to the Electoral Area and Northern BC. Telkwa is also retaining their senior populations.

Household Income

Median household income in Telkwa and Electoral Area A, 2006-2016



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

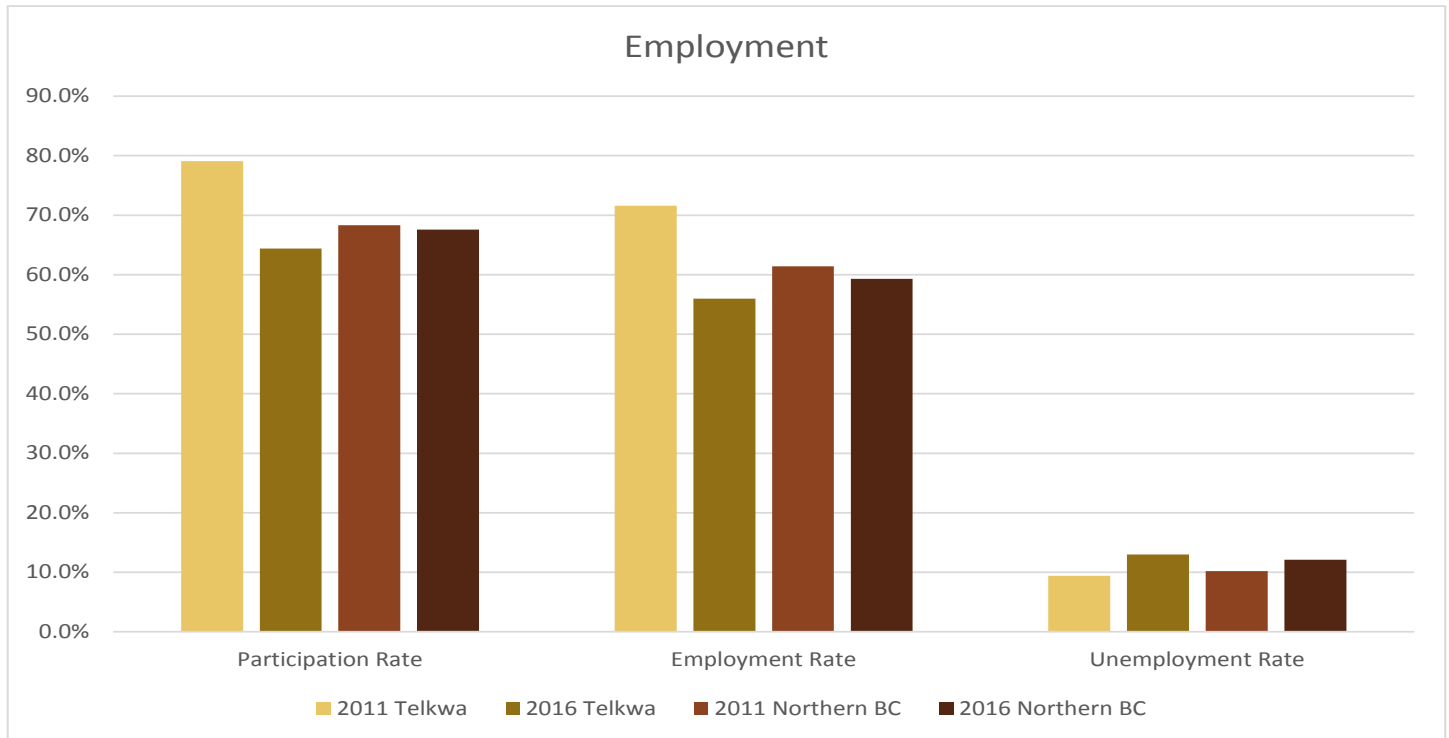
The median household income in Telkwa was higher than Northern BC in 2016. When compared to the Electoral Area, household income in Telkwa was higher in 2006 and lower in 2011.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

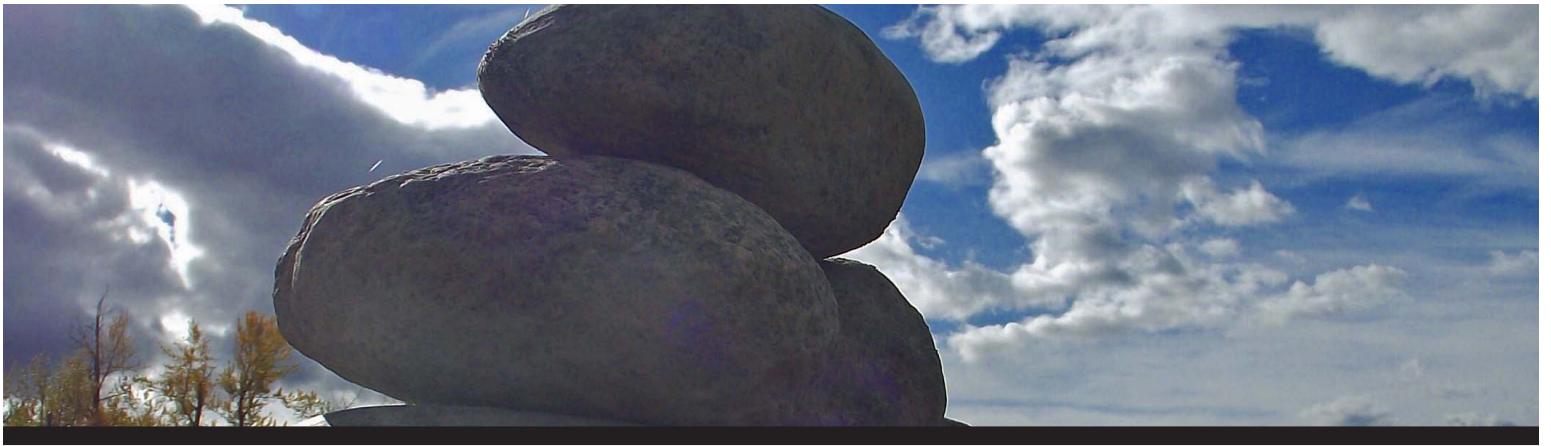
Employment data in Telkwa and Northern BC 2011-2016



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

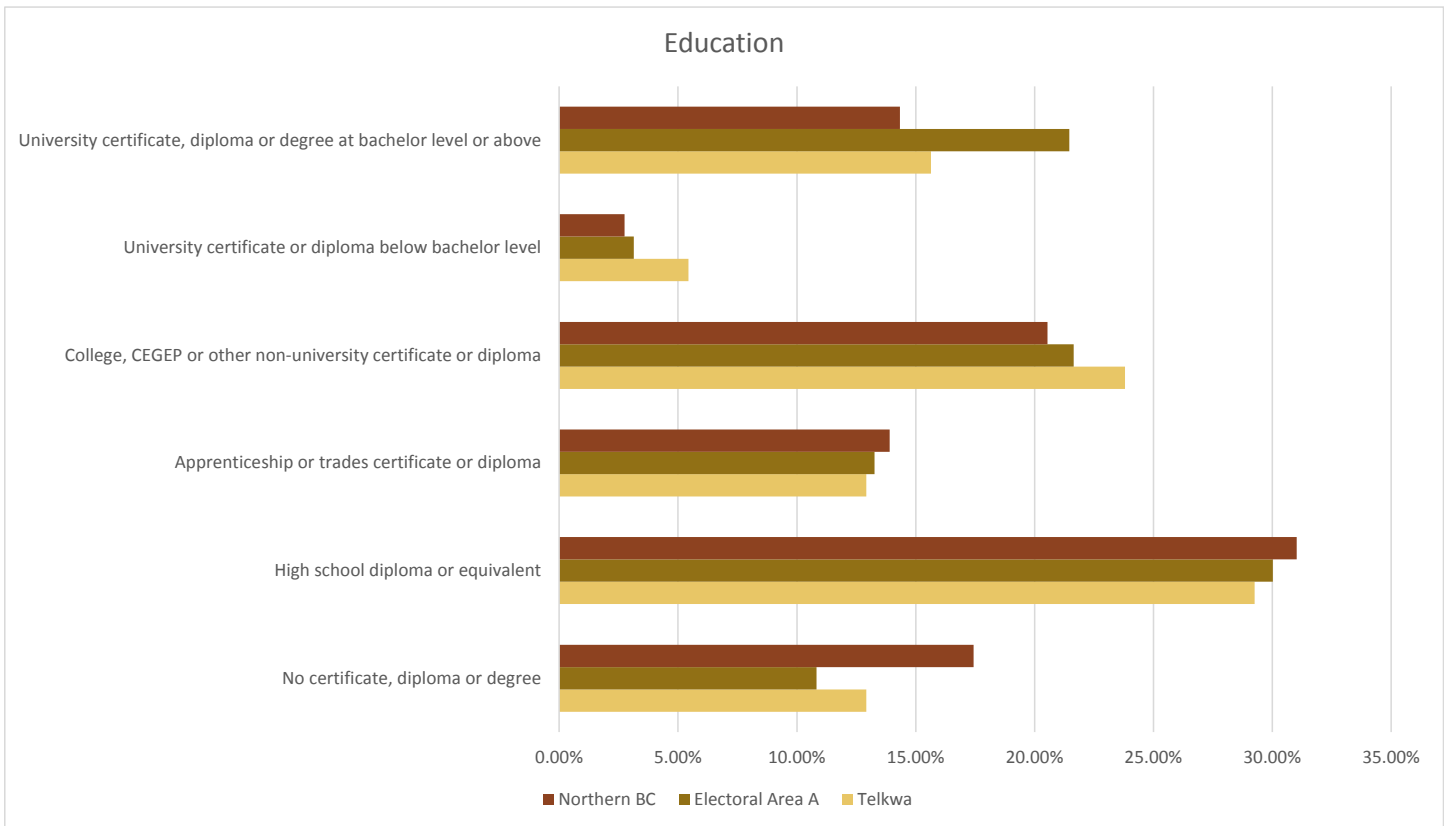
Telkwa has had a relatively stable unemployment rate from 2011-2016. In 2011 Telkwa had a lower unemployment rate compared to Northern BC and the highest participation rate amongst the municipalities in the region.





Education

Education in Telkwa and Electoral Area A, 2016

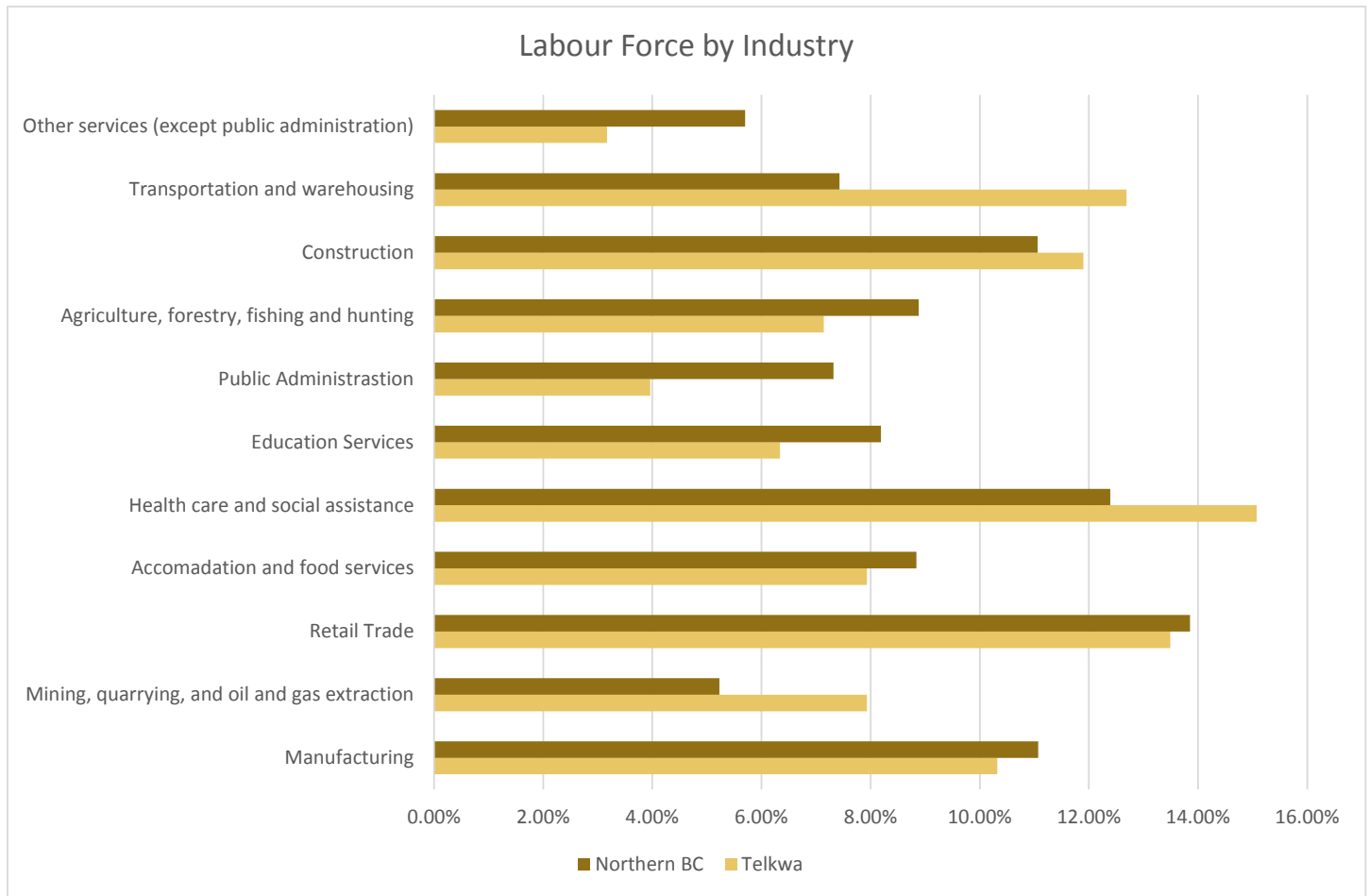


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

Telkwa's population has the highest percentage of residents with an apprenticeship or trades certificates or diploma among the municipalities in the RDBN. The village has a higher percentage of people with a college and university degree and higher portion of people with an apprenticeship or trades certificates or diploma compared to Northern BC. The Electoral Area has a higher percentage of people with college and university degree and lower percentage with an apprenticeship or trades certificates or diploma compared to Telkwa.

Labour Force by Industry

Labour force by industry in Telkwa and Northern BC, 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey

In 2016, Village of Telkwa, manufacturing, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services and public administration sectors were major sources of employment. Among these sectors, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service and public administration employ a much larger portion of the labour force than in Northern BC. The percentage of the labour force that works in transportation and warehousing in Telkwa is the highest among the municipalities in the RDBN.

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

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Pro-Tech Forest Resources Ltd	40
Bulkley Valley Home Centre Ltd	17
Telkwa Elementary School (School District #54)	17
Woodmere Nursery RD (seasonal)	40-70
Village of Telkwa	10

TRANSPORTATION

- [BC Transit - Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit System](#)
- [BC Bus](#)

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Telus
- Citywest
- Uniserve
- Rogers
- Cybernet

WATER AND WASTE

Water

Source of Water Supply and Means of Access

The Village of Telkwa's water is sourced primarily from the Bulkley River. The water is treated in a traditional Water Treatment Facility. The water is pumped from the Bulkley River to the water treatment plant which is located on the west side of the bridge. The distribution system includes two reservoirs with a combined capacity of approximately 2,500 m³. The Village has a well that can be used as a back-up water source.

Water Supply vs. Projected Demand

Rated Capacity	2,555 m ³ /d
Average Daily Demand	750 m ³ /d
Peak Demand	2,150 m ³ /d

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

Single Family	\$481.36/year
Light Commercial/Industrial	\$707.72/year

For further information on water rates in Telkwa please visit the following: [Water Rates](#)

Description of Waste Treatment Facility and Capacity

Telkwa has aerated lagoons and a capacity of 2,000 residential customer equivalent.

Solid Waste Disposal Services

Curbside garbage is picked up weekly.

Recycling

Telkwa is leading the way with recycling services and since 2011 has carried out curbside recycling services every second week to the residents of Telkwa.

SOURCES OF POWER

The Village of Telkwa is an energy provider with their 300 Kilowatt equivalent district heating system. There is potential for expansion of this system. Local businesses can contact the municipality for more information and current rates.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Taxes

The following chart summarizes the 2019 tax rates in Telkwa. 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	5.8881	30.1424	0.0000	18.0670	12.0724	0.0000	5.0173	0.6147
Regional District	1.3770	4.7106	0.0000	4.6945	3.2500	0.0000	1.3770	1.3760
Hospital District	0.6419	2.2717	0.0000	2.2055	1.5902	0.0000	0.6491	0.6491
School	2.5825	13.2000	3.7000	3.7000	3.7000	1.9000	2.3000	7.1000
Other	0.4029	1.7570	1.7207	1.3459	1.0000	1.3182	0.4029	0.4029
Total	10.8996	52.0817	5.4207	30.0129	21.6126	3.2182	9.7462	10.1427

Development Processes and Fees

A business license with the Village of Telkwa costs \$90 per year. A seasonal rate of \$45 per year is also available from May 1st -September 30th.

Links to Official Plan and Zoning Documents

Telkwa's official community plan and zoning bylaw are available at the community www.telkwa.ca.

The following plans are internationally award winning planning documents.

- Official Community Plan
- Zoning Bylaw
- Affordable Housing Needs Assessment
- Integrated Community Sustainability Plan
- Age Friendly Assessment
- Housing Needs Survey
- Housing Needs Report
- Parks and Trail Master Plan
- Flood Mitigation Planning
- Village of Telkwa Annual Report

Incentive Programs

Business Support Services

The Village of Telkwa offers economic development services to the business community. Telkwa staff and elected officials welcome strategic and sustainable investment and work with prospective developers and entrepreneurs to assist investors.

Once a month a Love Telkwa Business is named "Telkwa's Business of the Month". The business of the month is featured in the monthly municipal mail-out newsletter.

Each year, all businesses with current business licences are included in a Business Directory. The Directory is updated in March and is available on the website or in print at the museum (open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm May-September) or at the Village office.

In 2012 Telkwa created mobile vendor areas to encourage caterers and potential restaurateurs to test the market. This was a great success that shows the need and demand for food service and retail providers in the community.

The Downtown Telkwa Business Facade Improvement Program will match, dollar per dollar, a reimbursement grant up to the maximum of \$5,000 per building/project to improve the facades of business in Telkwa's downtown. The building must be located in either the downtown commercial or the service commercial zones. Projects must have minimum total cost of \$2,500 in order to qualify for the program.

The Village of Telkwa participates in the Love Northern BC Initiative.

Local Economic Development Services

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

Richard Darko

Economic Developer/Deputy Corporate Officer

Email: edo-dco@telkwa.ca

Phone: 250-846-5212

Mayor Contact

Mayor Brad Layton

1415 Hankin Ave, PO Box 220

Telkwa, BC V0J 2X0

Email: mayor@telkwa.ca



QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

Housing

Housing in Telkwa is primarily residential. Telkwa has an eight unit low income seniors housing facility.

The housing stock in the municipality consists of the following:

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2016 census)	539
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2016 census)	495
Single detached houses (2016 census)	450
Other attached dwellings (2016 census)	20
# of owned dwellings (2016 census)	445
# of rented dwellings (2016 census)	50

TYPE OF HOUSING	COST
Average value of dwellings (2016 census)	\$274,304





Accommodations

- Eddy Park Lodge
- The River House Accommodations
- Fort Telkwa RV Park Ltd.
- Riverside Endeavours Ltd.
- Tyhee Lake Provincial Park

Restaurants

- Quick Eats (seasonal)
- Telkwa Pub
- Madi Lee's Sweets
- Riverbend Ice Cream Shoppe (seasonal)
- Riverside Kitchen Co.
- Telkwa Honey Bee

Other Facilities with Capacity for Hosting Events

- Community Stage
- Telkwa Community Hall
- Tree House Housing Association, "The Ark" Community Daycare
- St. Stephen's Anglican Church
- Telkwa Seniors Hall
- Telkwa BBQ Grounds
- Eddy Park
- Riverside Park
- Woodland Park

Financial Services

- CIBC
- Scotiabank
- RBC Royal Bank
- TD Canada Tust ATM
- Bulkley Valley Credit Union

Shopping

Shopping District: Downtown Telkwa

Media

- Interior News
- CFTK
- CJFW
- The Moose
- CBC

Local Community Organizations

- Telkwa Community Initiatives Society
- Telkwa Seniors Association
- Telkwa Seniors Housing Society
- Bulkley Valley Kinsmen and Kinettes
- Telkwa and District Volunteer Fire Department
- Telkwa Elementary School
- Parent Advisory Committee
- Telkwa Christian Reformed Church
- Faith Reformed Church of Telkwa
- Mt. Zion Lutheran Congregation at St. Stephens
- Telkwa Museum Society

Local Community Assets

- Telkwa Senior Centre
- Bulkley River and Telkwa River
- Perimeter Walkway throughout Village
- Timber Framed Outdoor Stage (electricity)
- Community Grounds, “BBQ Grounds”
- Eddy Park
- St.Stephen’s Heritage Anglican Church
- Telkwa Visitor Information Centre
- Telkwa Reading Center
- Telkwa Museum Society
- Telkwa Community Hall
- Dockrill Outdoor Ice Rink
- Woodland Park Outdoor Ice Rink

Schools

- Telkwa Elementary School (K-7).

“The Village of Telkwa is not only the place we choose to live, it is the place we choose to operate our business. We are surrounded by majestic mountains, world class rivers, and nature trails to satisfy daily walkers or the more serious hiker. Our business community is growing because of the loyal people who choose to support local businesses whether big or small. The residents of Telkwa themselves are who we are most proud of. Telkwa is our home, yet the door is always open to prospective new businesses.”

Leroy & Patricia Dekens, Midway Services

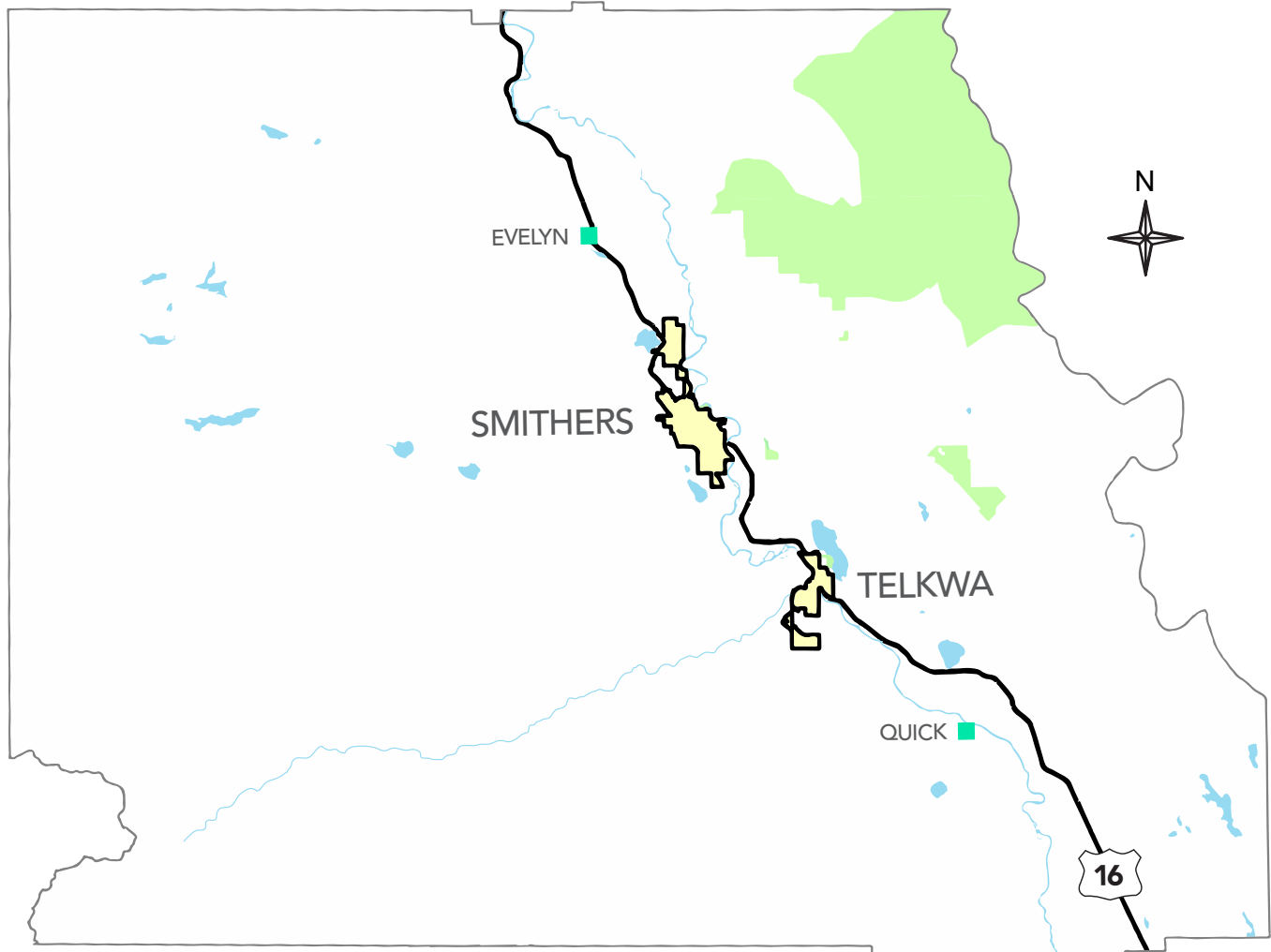
www.telkwa.ca

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

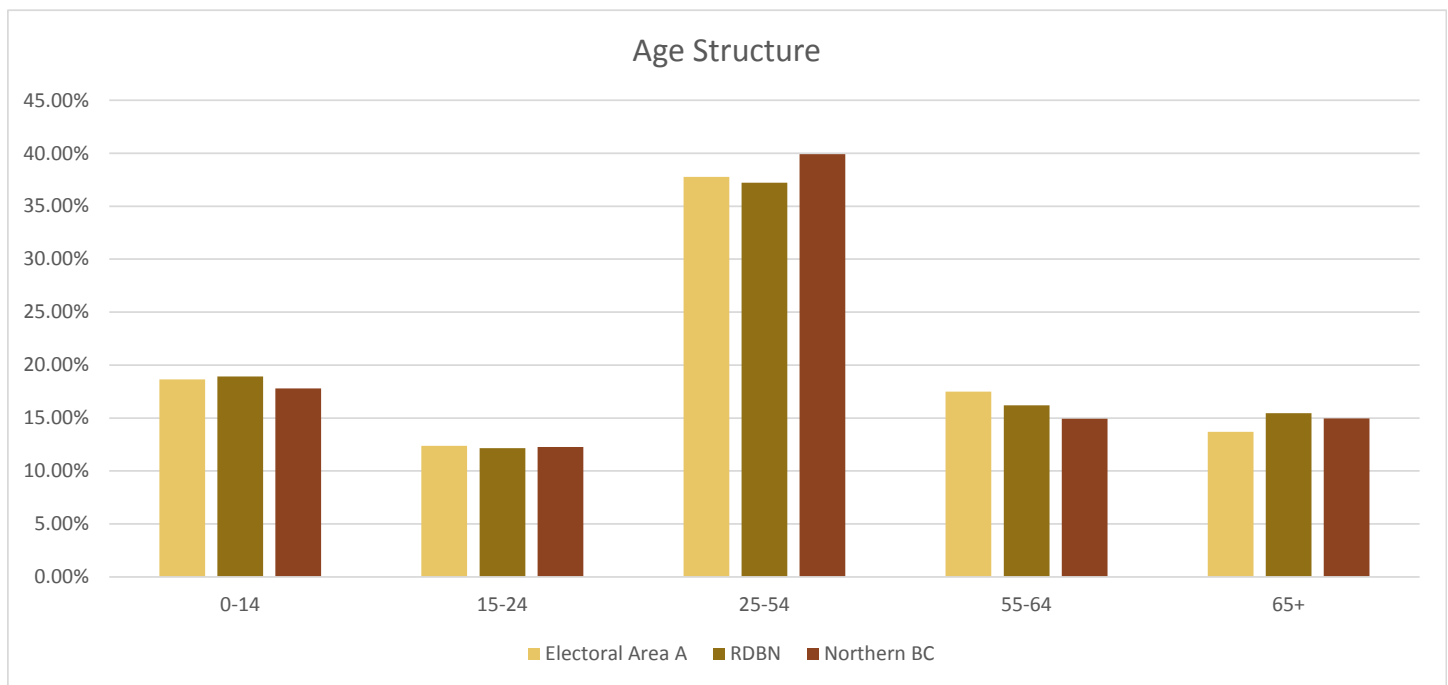
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Electoral District A	5,290	5,391	5,256
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

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

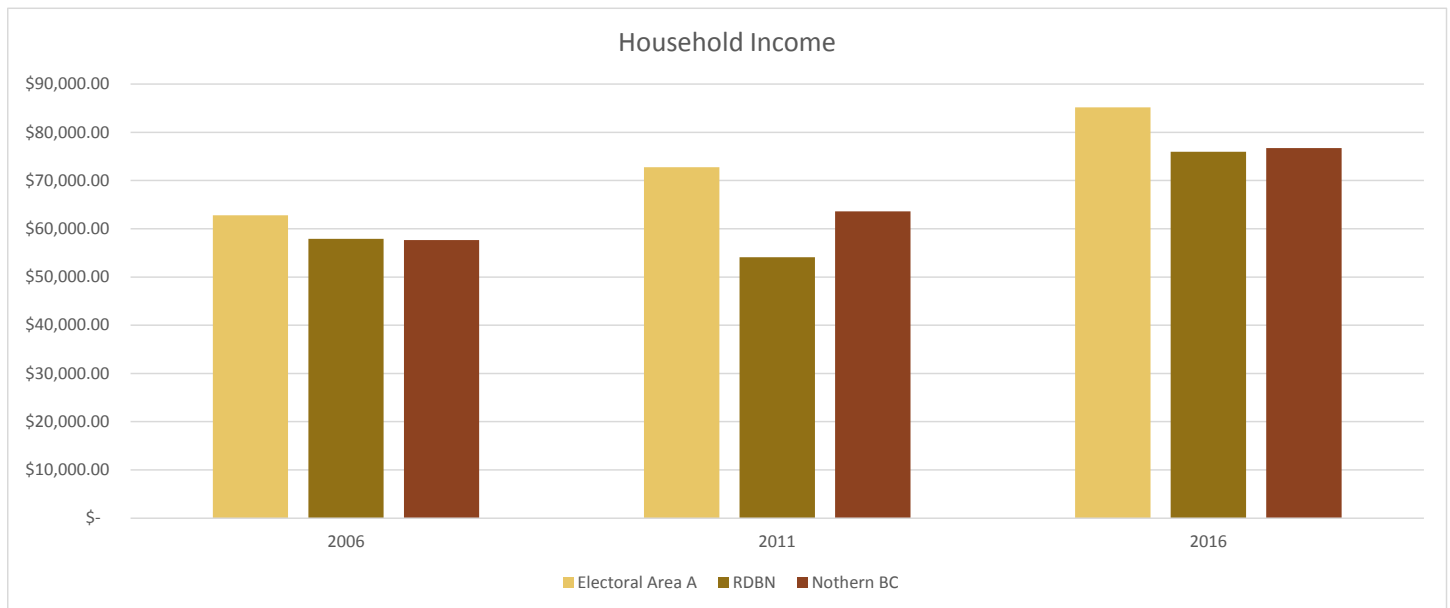


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016.

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.

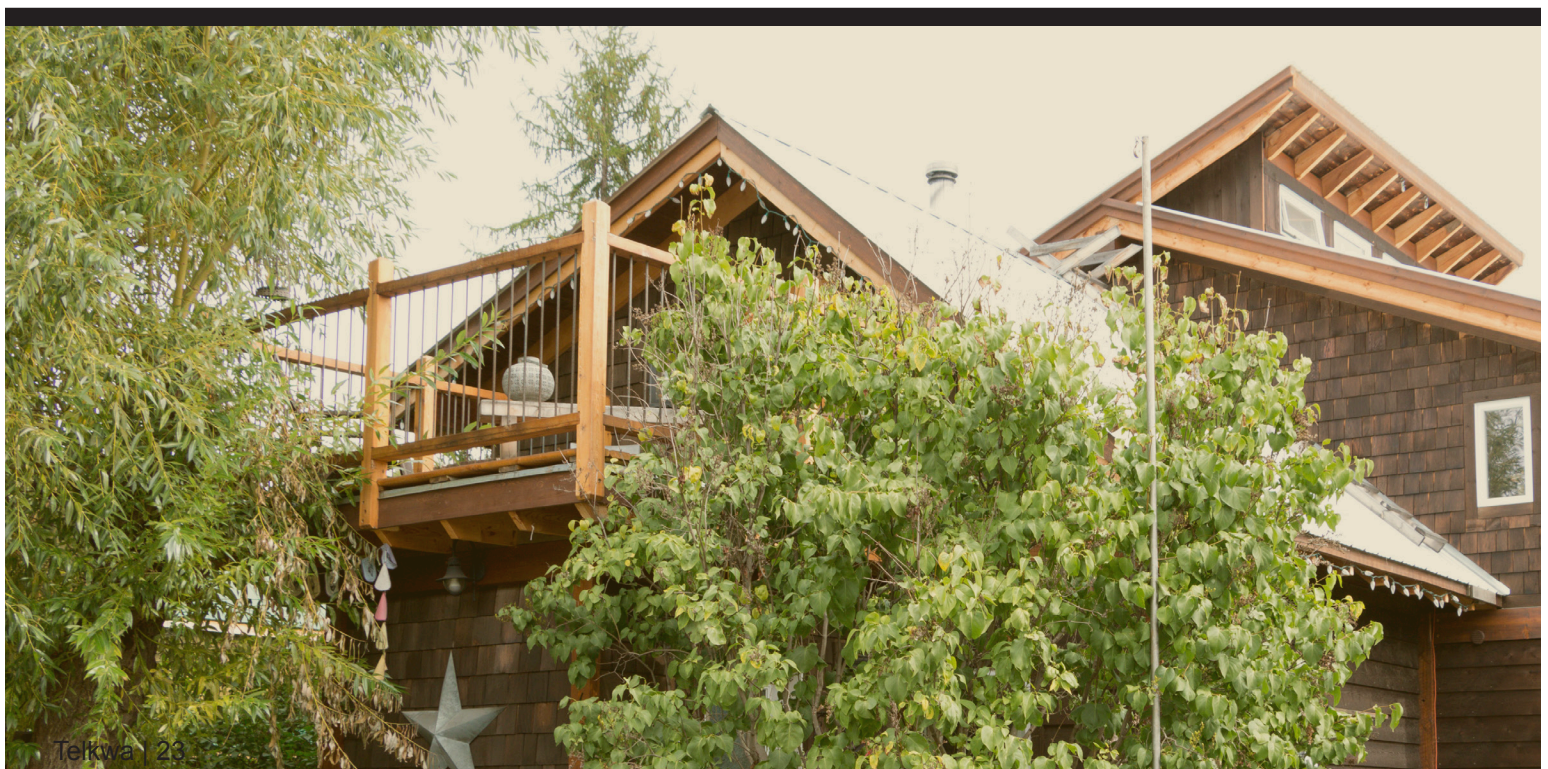
Household Income

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.

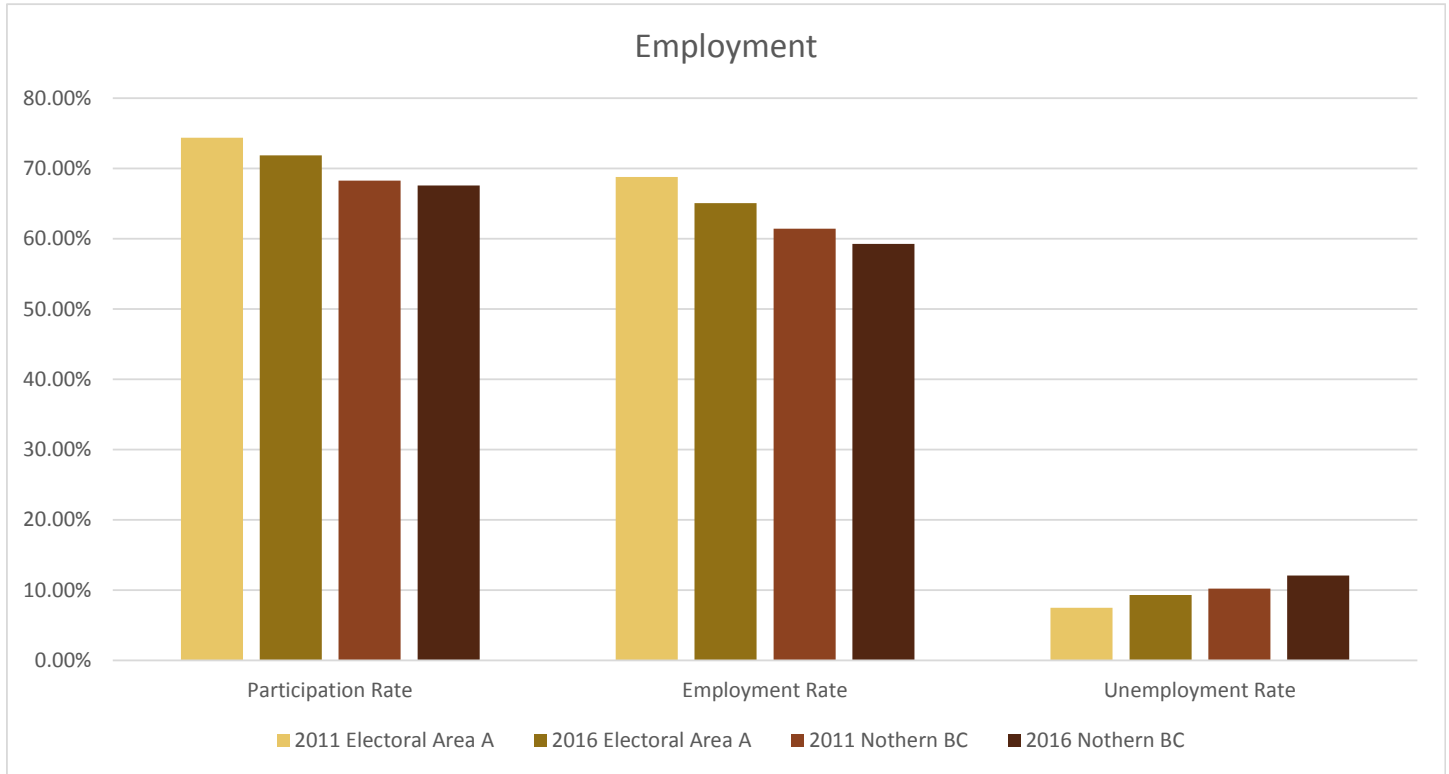
In 2016, Electoral Area A had the highest median household income among the electoral areas, of \$85,184. The household income in Electoral Area A has been higher than in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006 to 2016.



WORKFORCE PROFILE

Employment

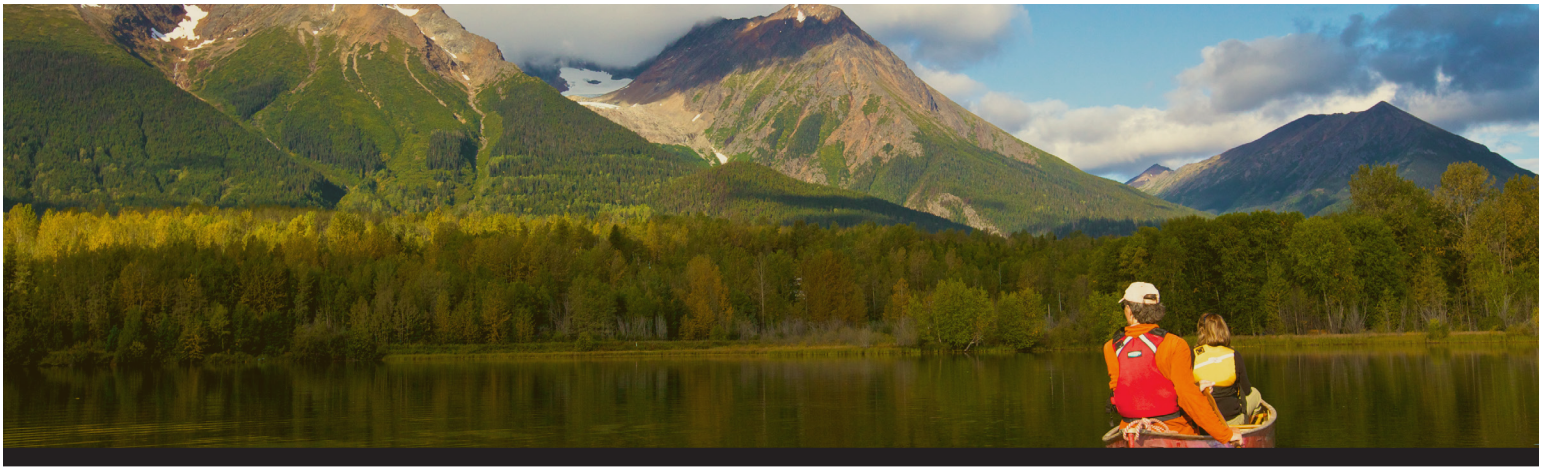
Employment data in Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the RDBN, 2011-2016



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

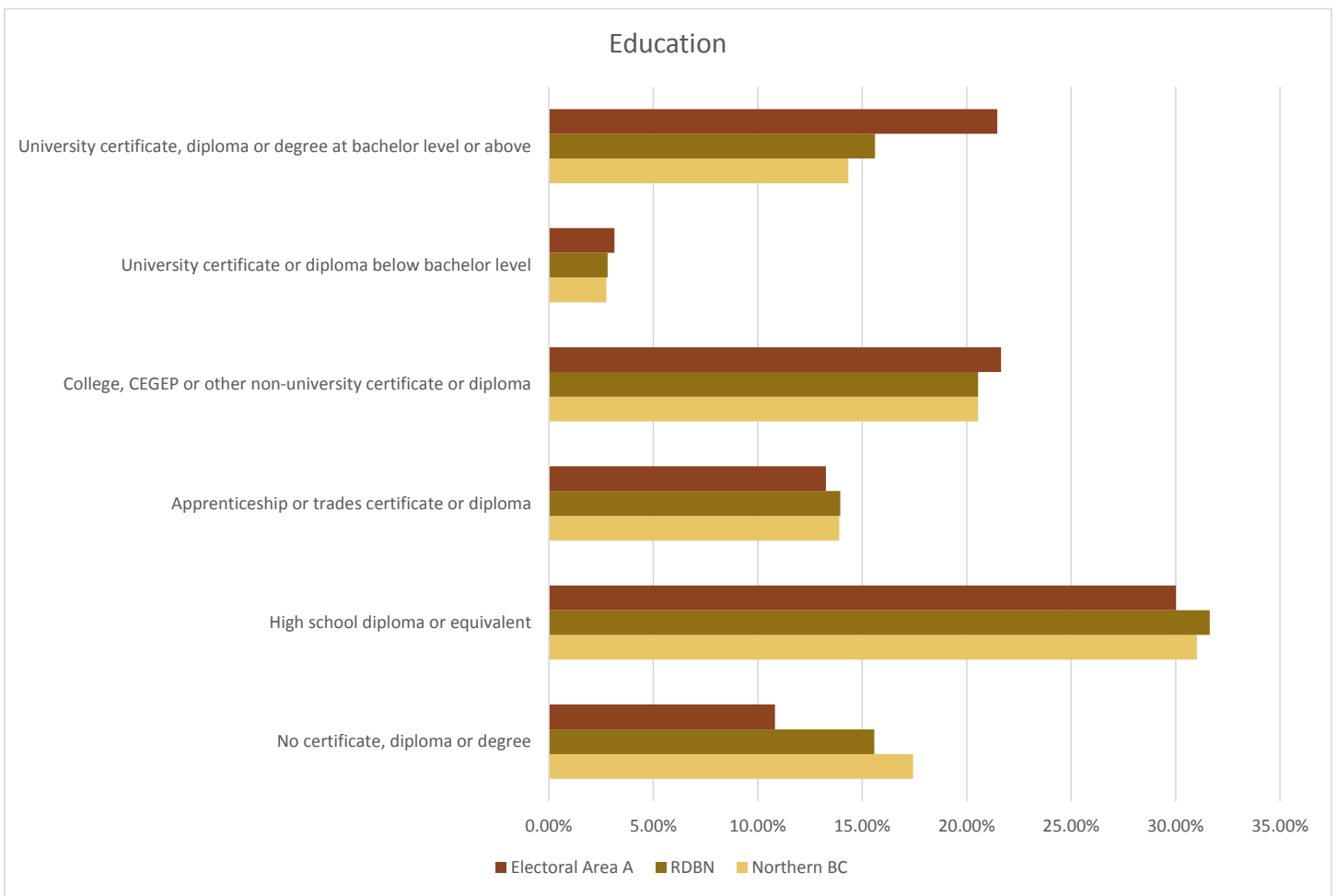
Electoral Area A had a lower unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2011 and 2016.





Education

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

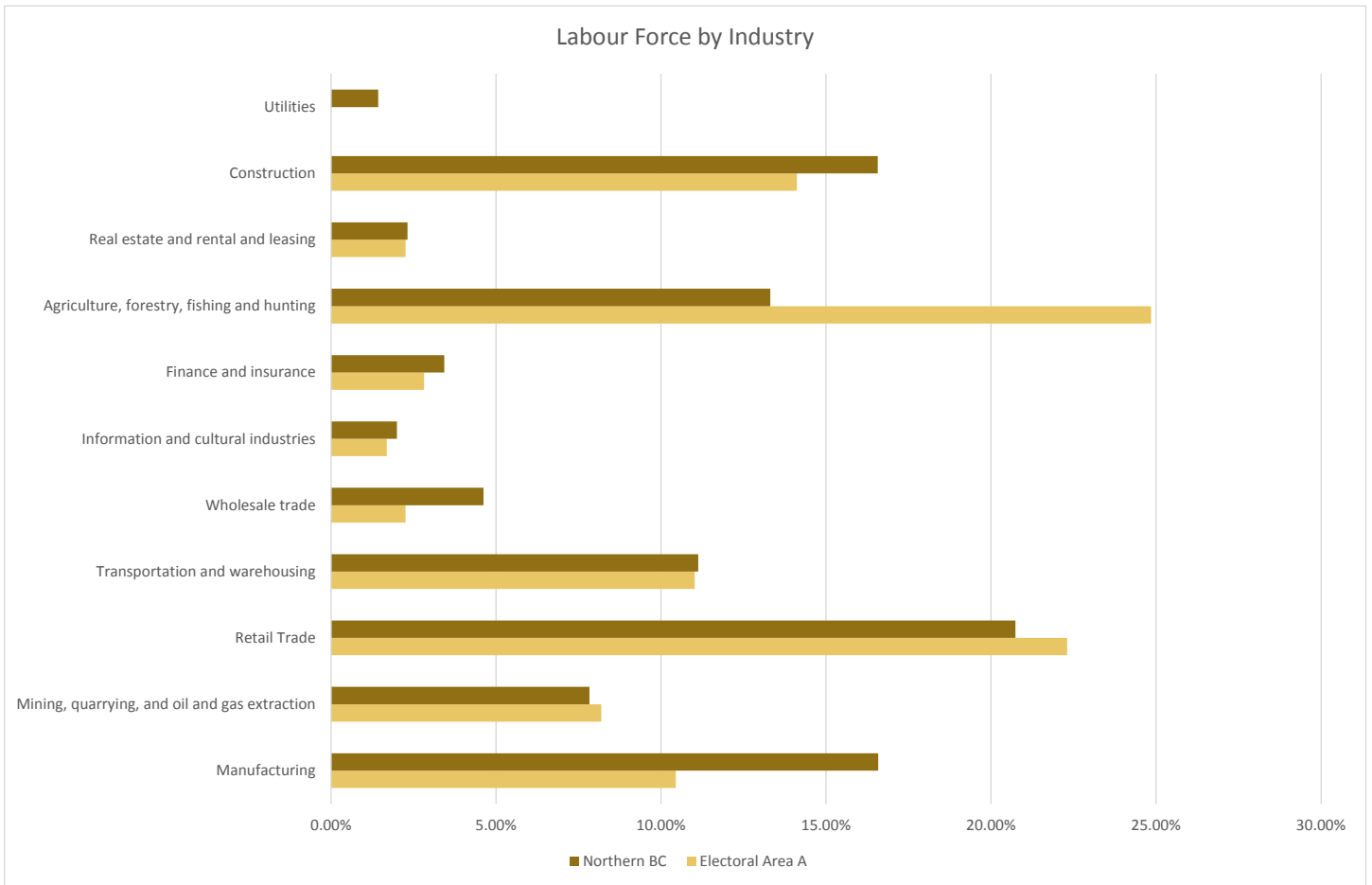


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

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.

- [Electoral Area “A” Smithers Telkwa Rural OCP](#)

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

Email: Mark.Fisher@rdbn.bc.ca

Phone: 250-877-8434

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

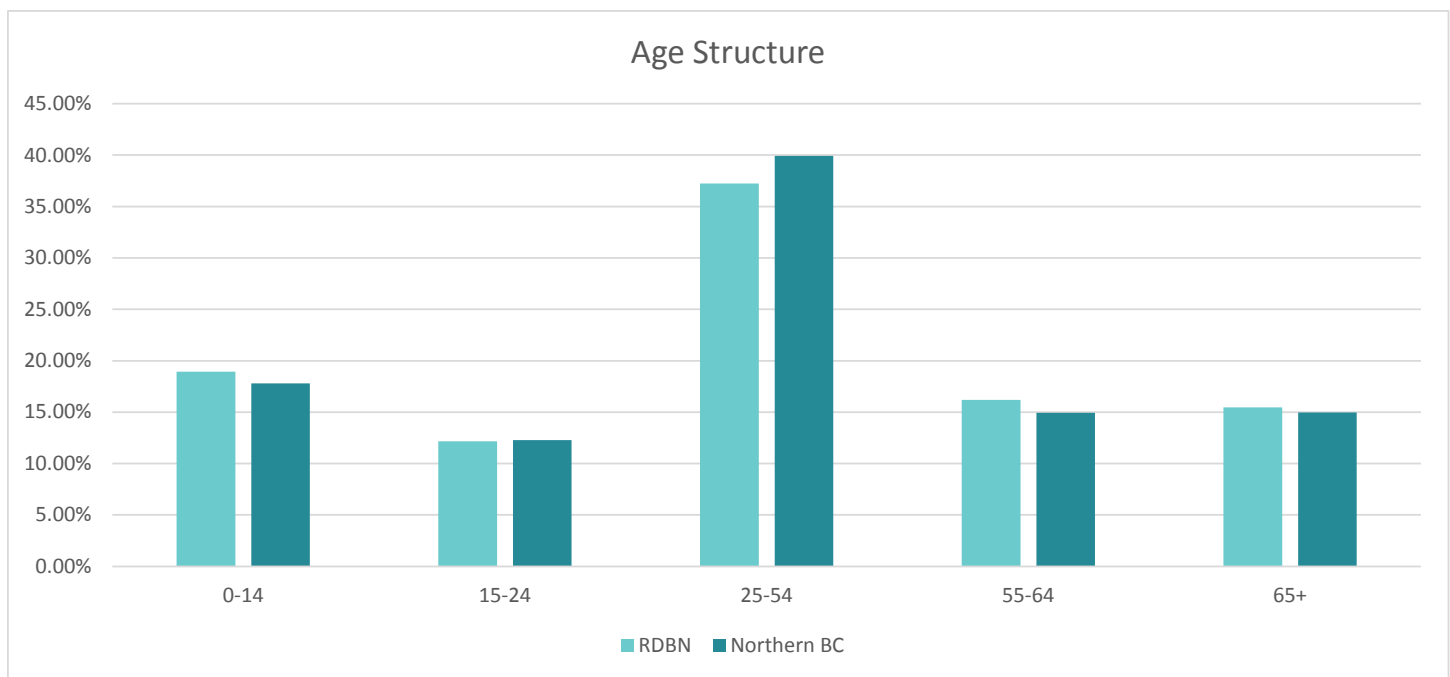
POPULATION GROWTH	2006	2011	2016
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	38,243	39,208	37,896
Northern BC	314,771	315,284	318,225

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

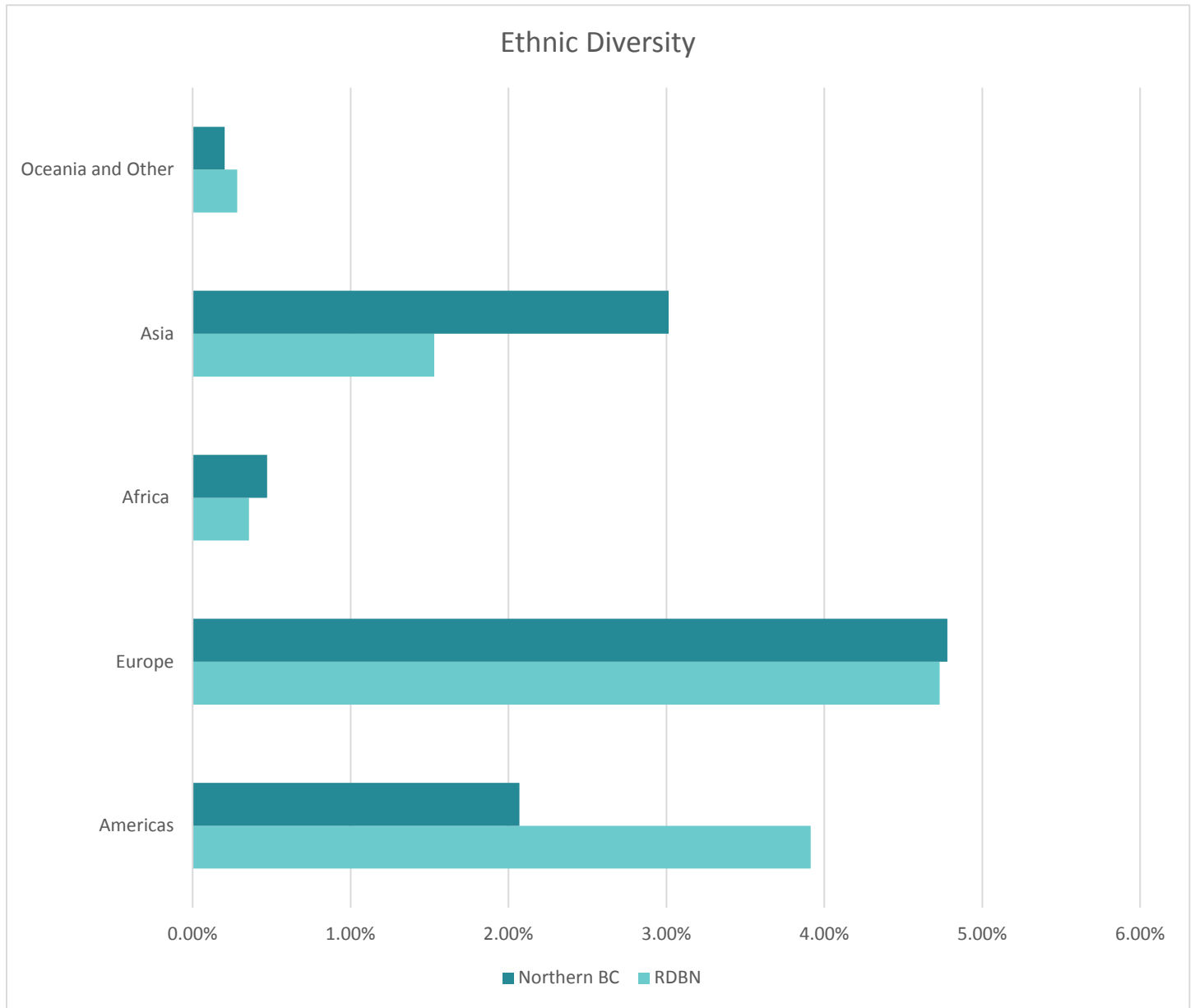


Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2016

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



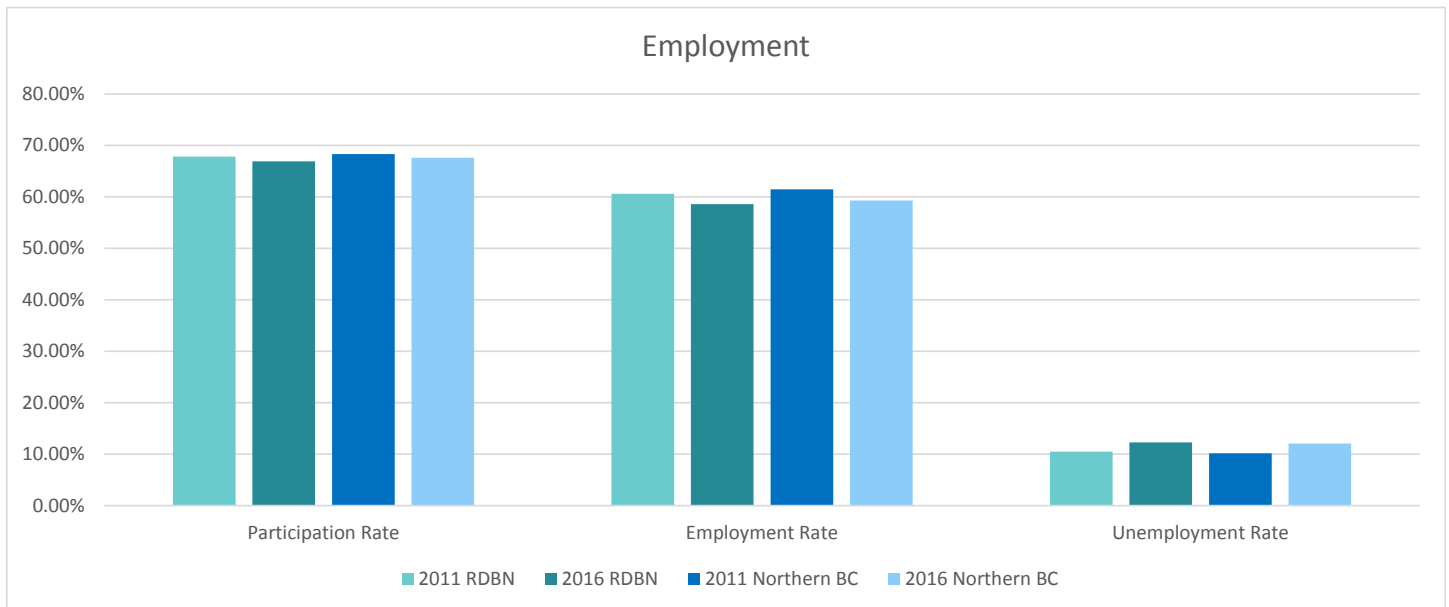
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006-2016

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

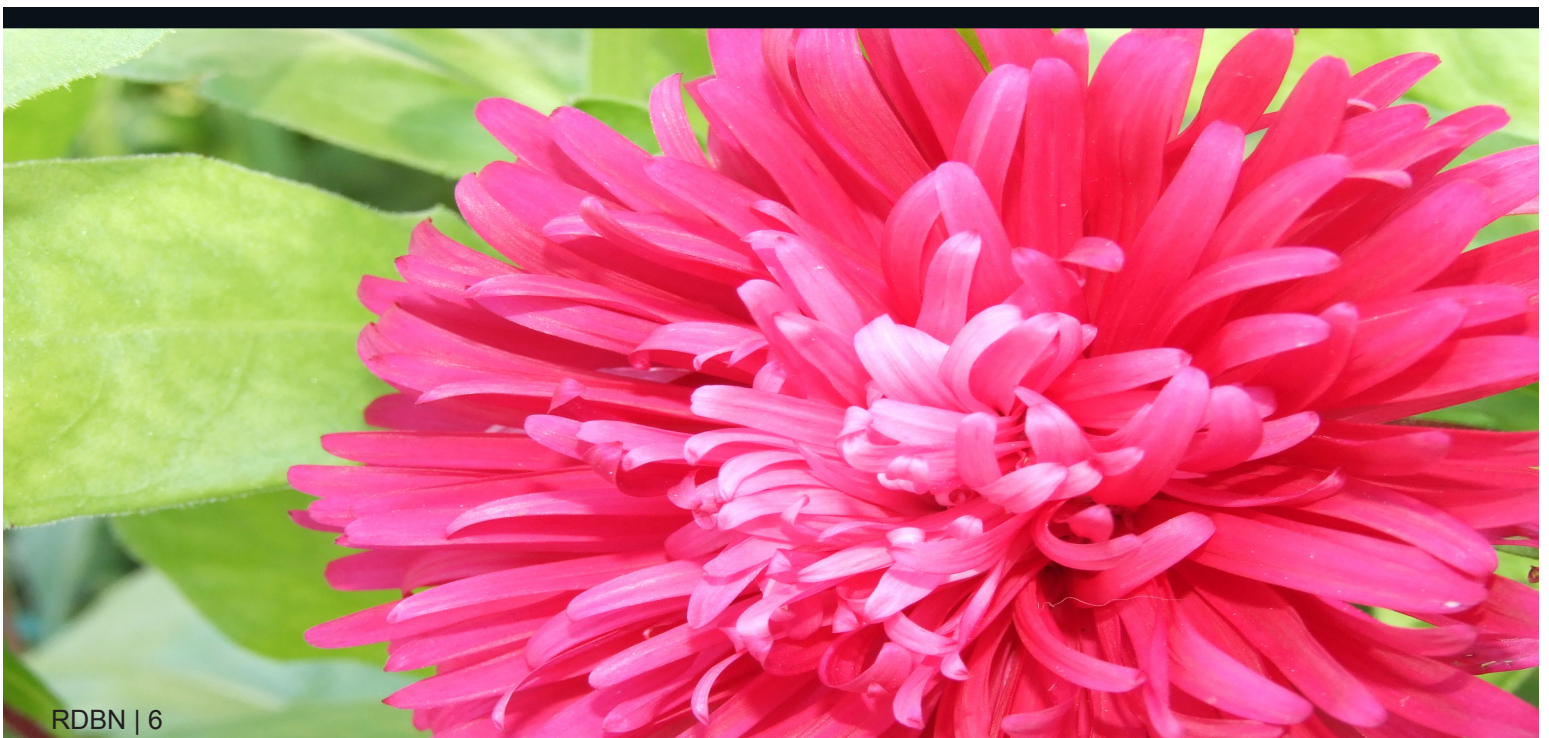
Employment

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



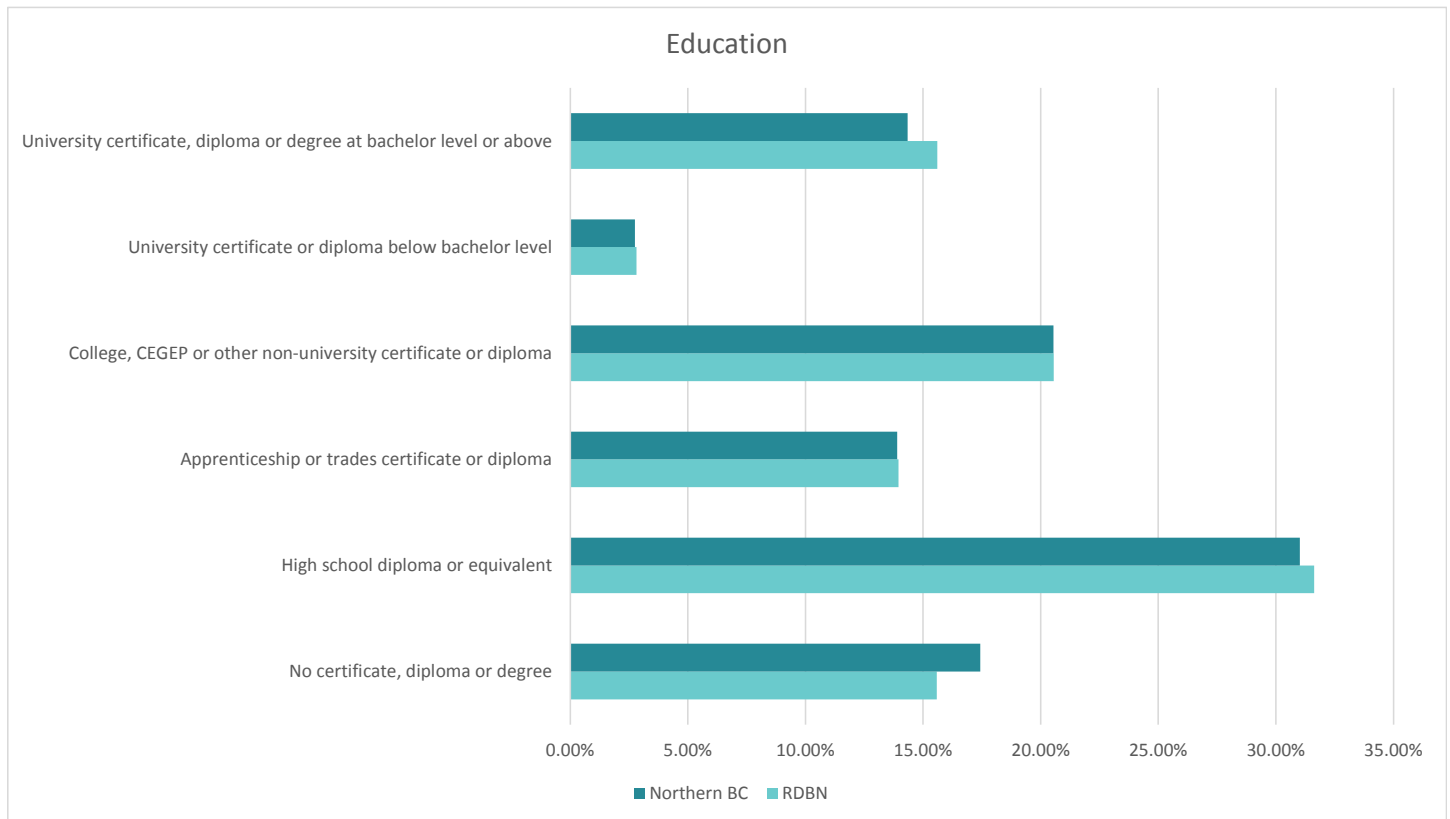
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2016

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.



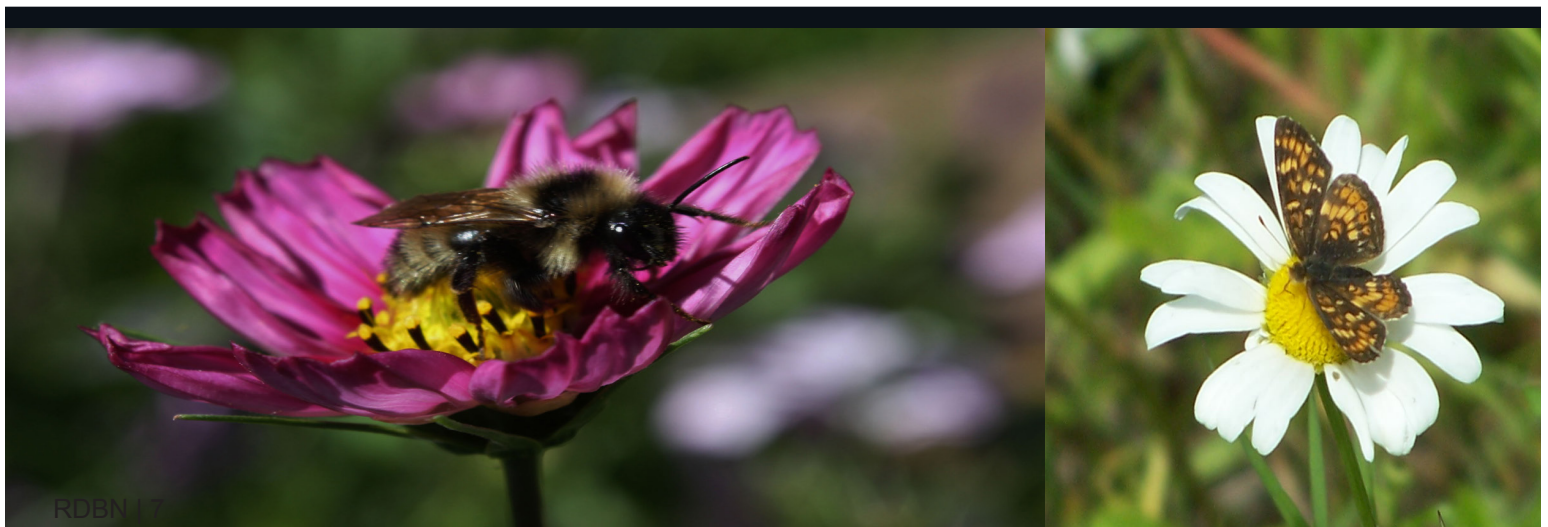
Education

Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2016



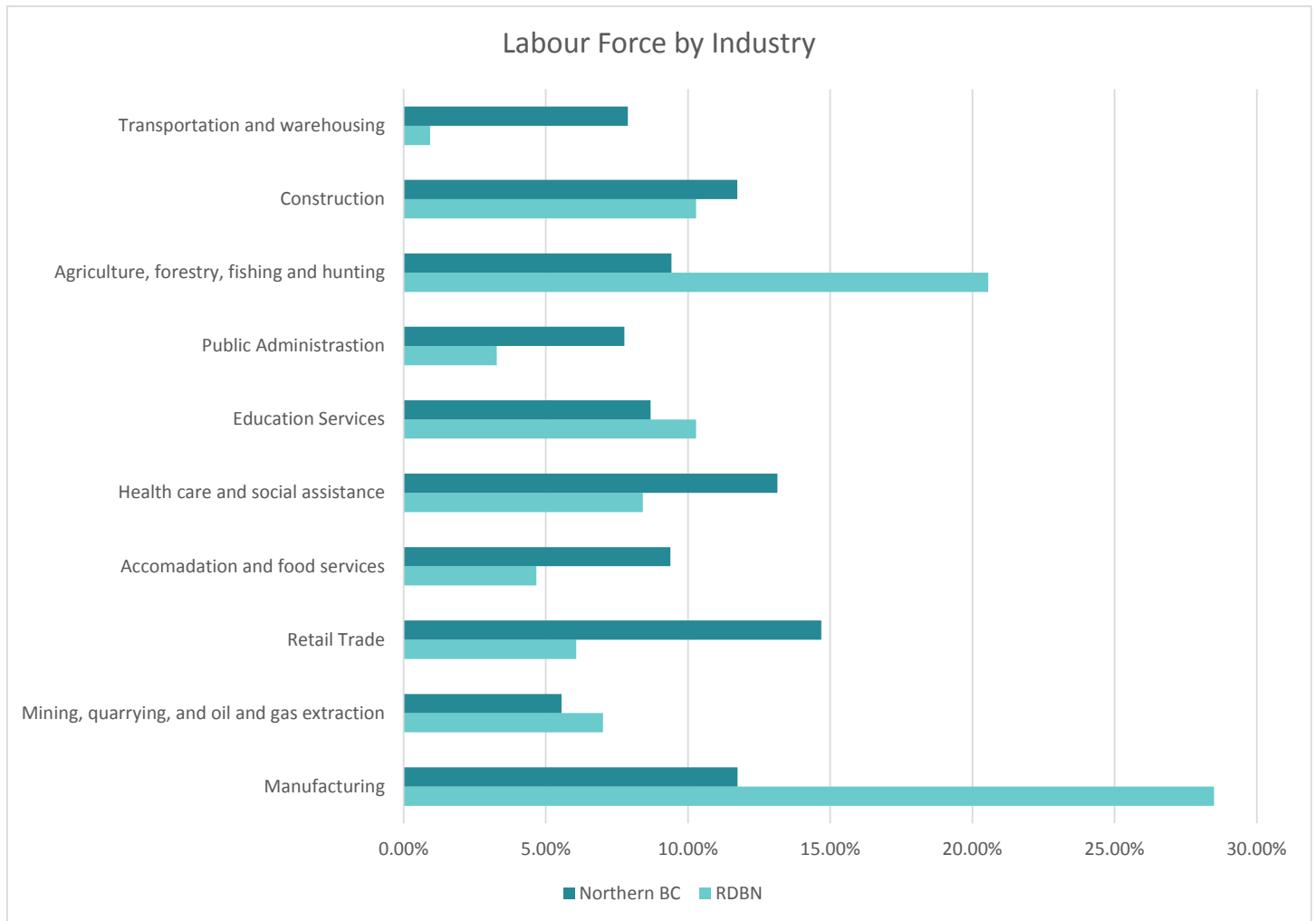
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2016 National Household Survey.

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

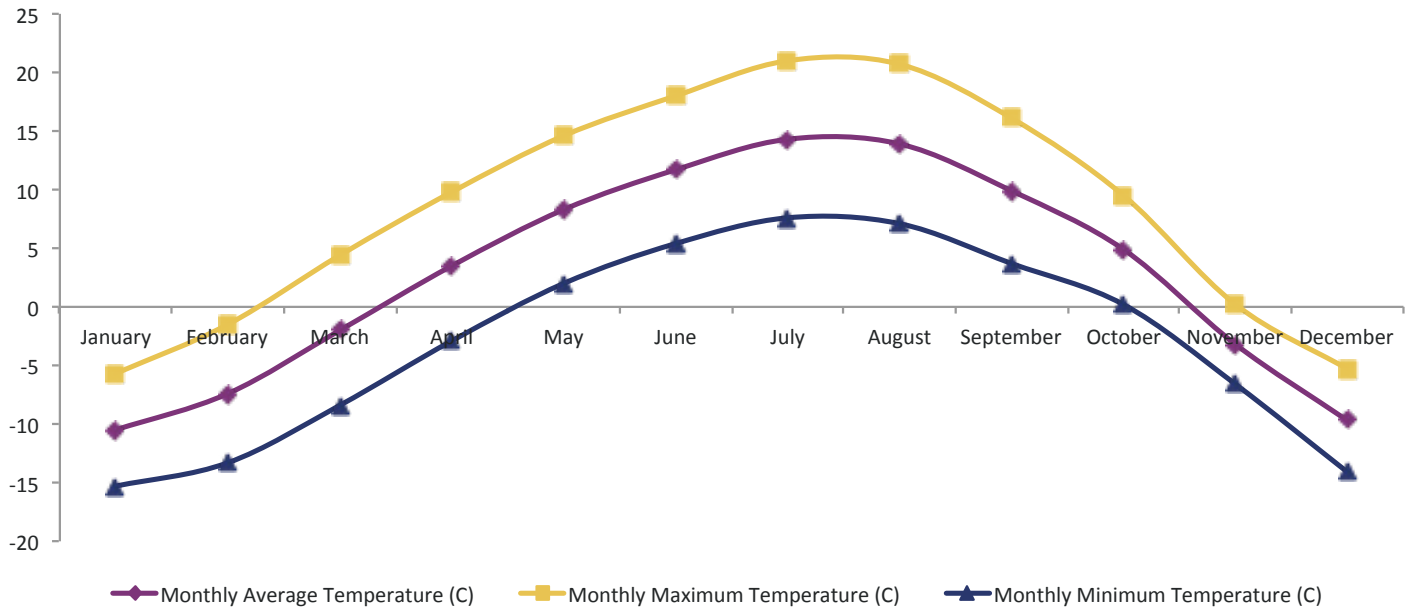
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

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

CLIMATE

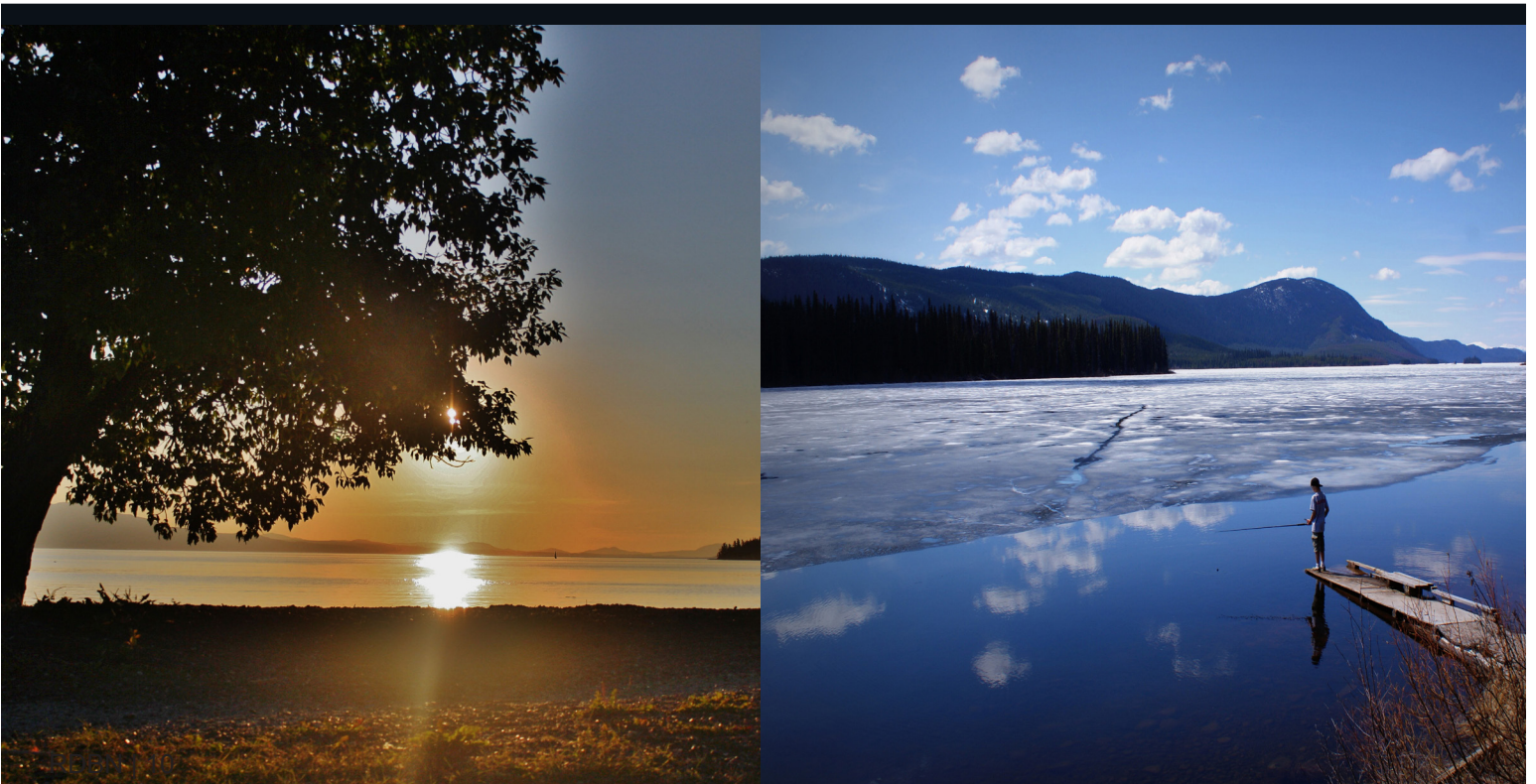
Monthly Temperature

Monthly temperature in the RDBN in 2010



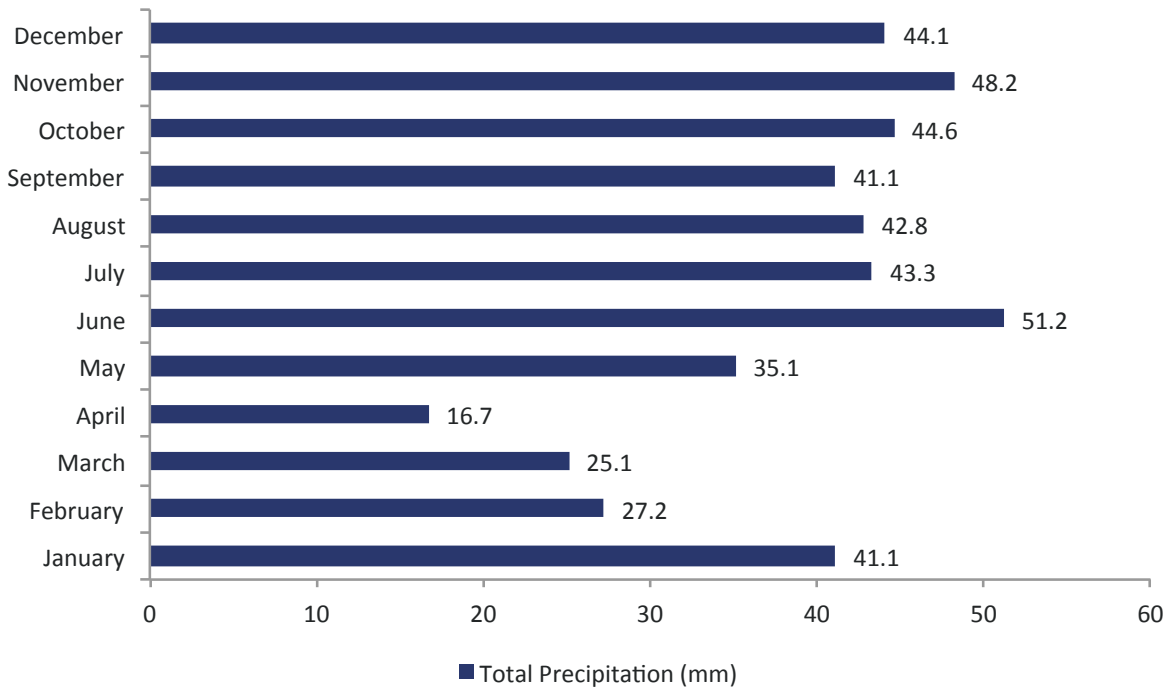
Environment Canada: 1981 to 2010 Canadian Climate Normals

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.



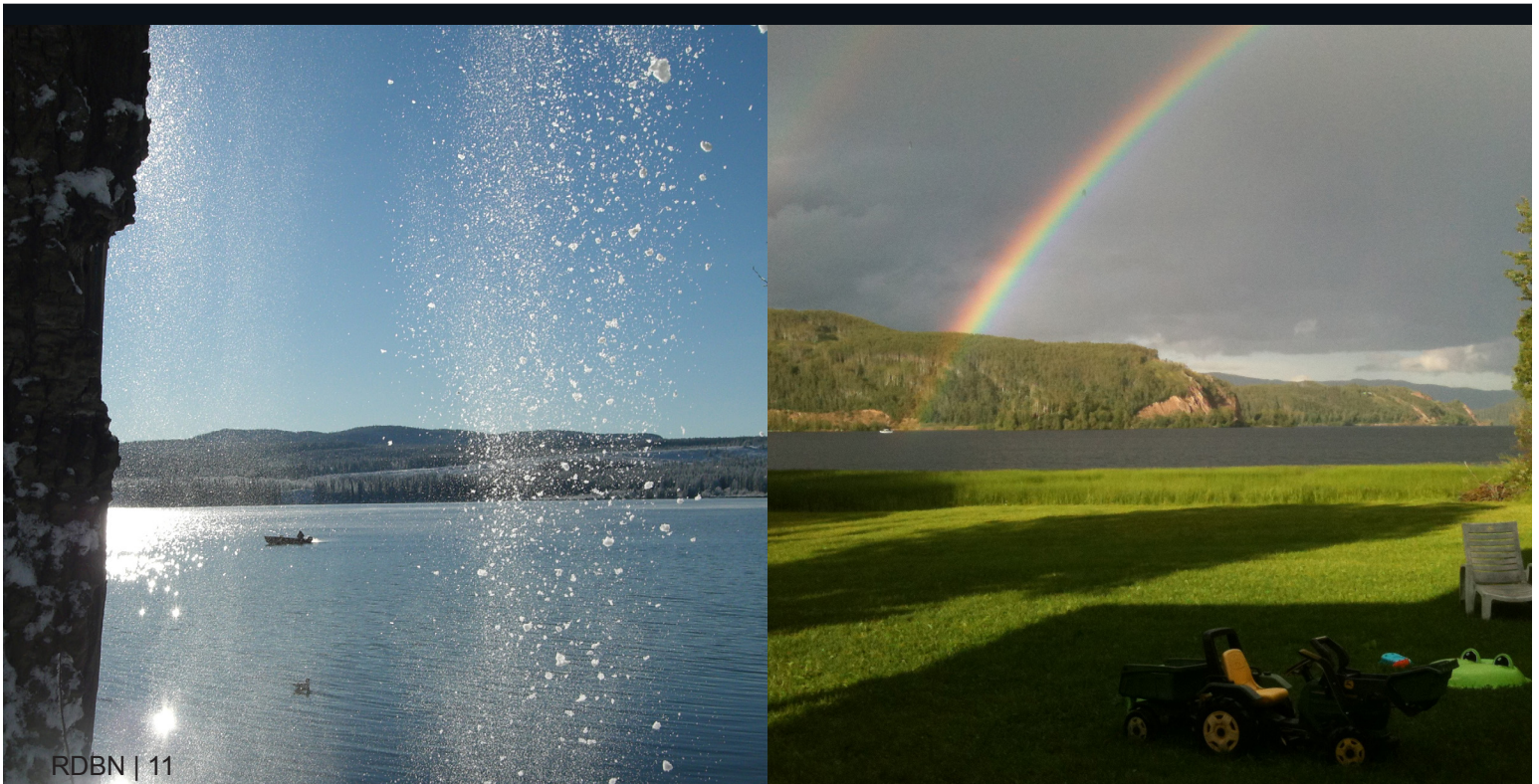
Precipitation

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

Chair Gerry Thiessen

PO Box 820
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Email: gerry.thiessen@rdbn.bc.ca
Phone: 250-567-4711

A World of
Opportunities
Within Our Region

www.rdbn.bc.ca

