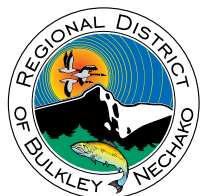


# HOUSTON AND SURROUNDING AREA PROFILE



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

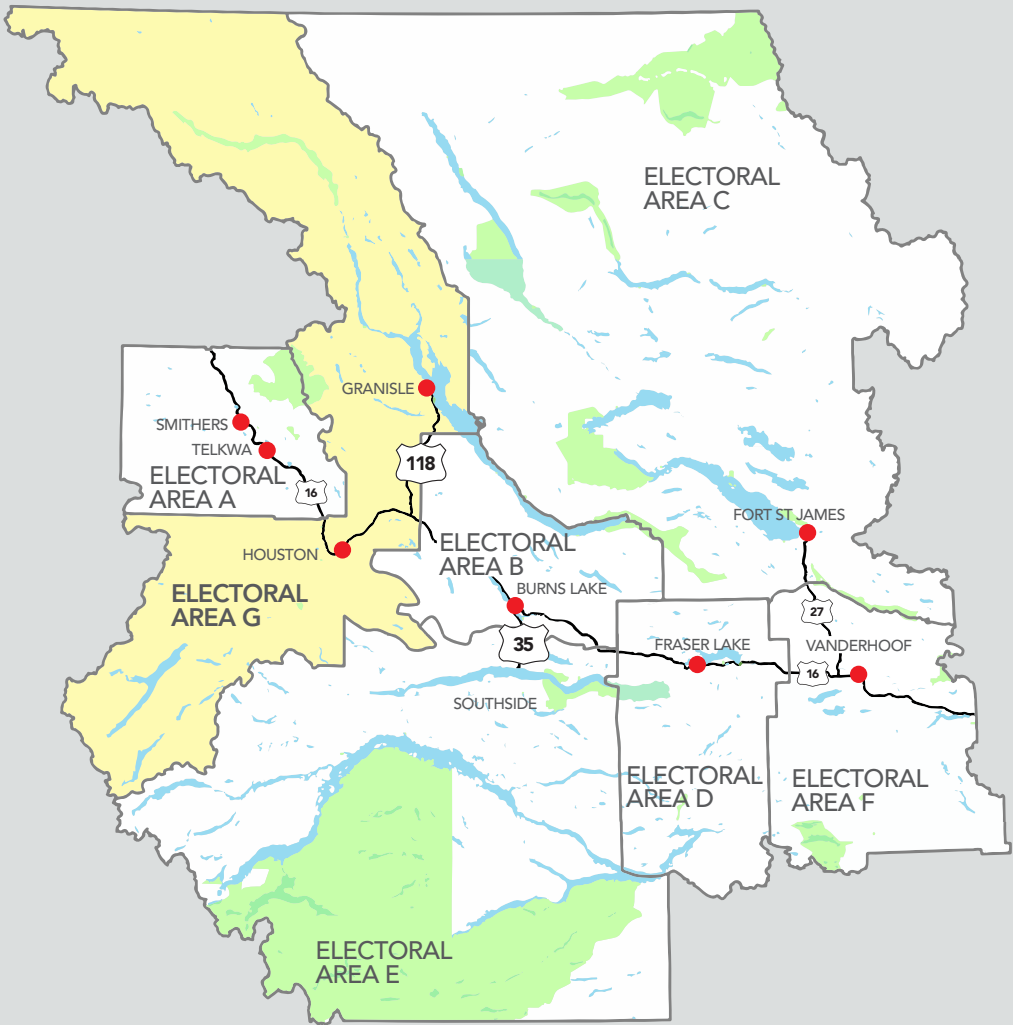
The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) Regional and Community Profiles bring together current and detailed demographic data as well as information about workforce, transportation, energy, utilities, local government and quality of life. The information about the region is intended to inform 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.

More information about the businesses and organizations listed in this document is available on the RDBN website under *Bulkley-Nechako Directory*. Please use the Bulkley-Nechako Directory by inserting the following website in your browser: [directory.rdbn.bc.ca](http://directory.rdbn.bc.ca).



# 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
- N

## 1: HOUSTON AND SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE



# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in Houston and Bulkley-Nechako, 2001-2011

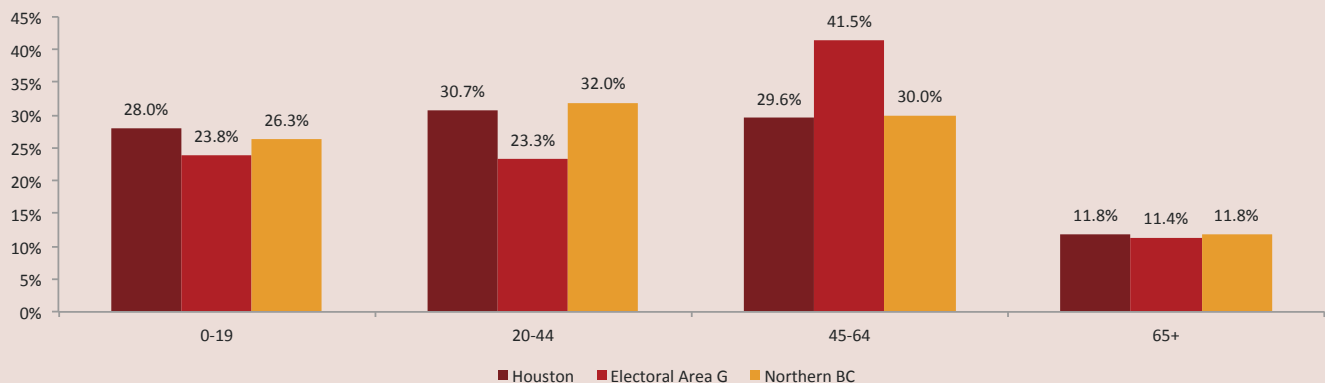
POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Houston	3,577	3,163	3,147
Electoral Area G (Houston Rural)	1,099	1,059	975
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2001-2011

The District of Houston has a population of 3,147 and has had a relatively stable population over the past 5 years, meanwhile the population in the surrounding Electoral Area G decreased by 8%.

## Age Structure

Age structure in Houston and Electoral Area G, 2011



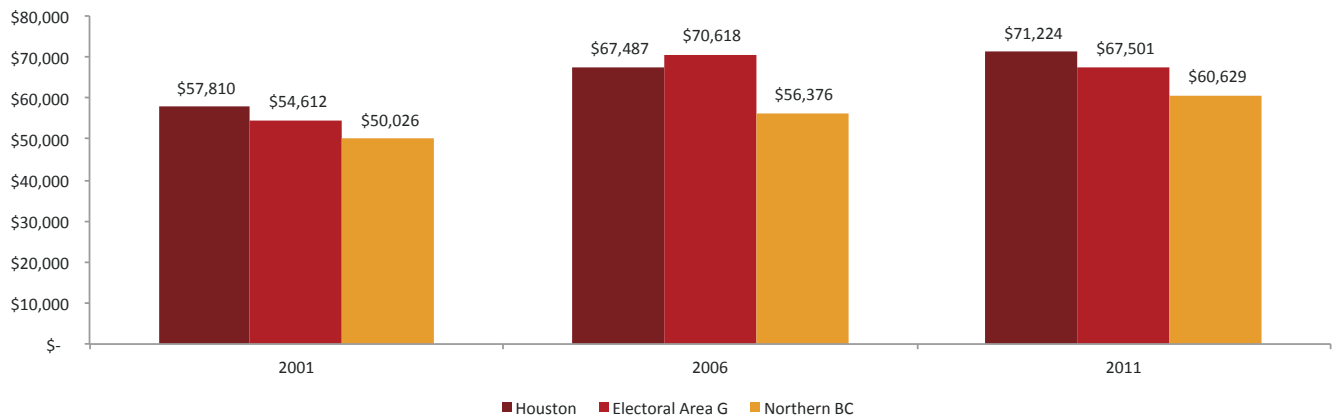
Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

Houston is younger than the surrounding Electoral Area G and Northern BC. The median age in Houston is 38 while in the Electoral Area and Northern BC the median age is 46 and 39 respectively. The age structure reveals that Houston has a higher portion of young workers (ages 20-44) compared to the Electoral Area, but lower than Northern BC. Houston also has a much lower percentage of people between the ages of 45-64 compared to the Electoral Area.



# Household Income

## Median household income in Houston and Electoral Area G, 2001-2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2001-2006

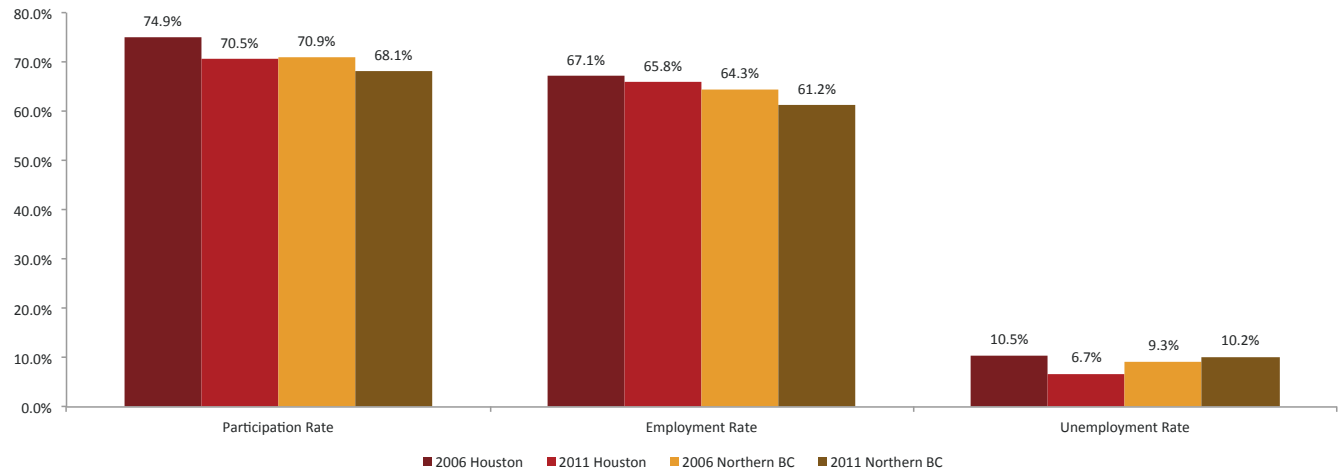
The median household income in the Houston has been higher than Northern BC from 2001-2011. However, compared to the Electoral Area, residents of Houston had a higher median income in 2001 and 2011. In 2011, Houston had the highest median household income amongst the municipalities in the RDBN, at \$71,224. From 2001-2006 the median income in Houston grew by 17%, which was less than the Electoral Area increase of 29% and more than Northern BC's increase of 13%.



# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

Employment data in Houston and Northern BC, 2006-2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006

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

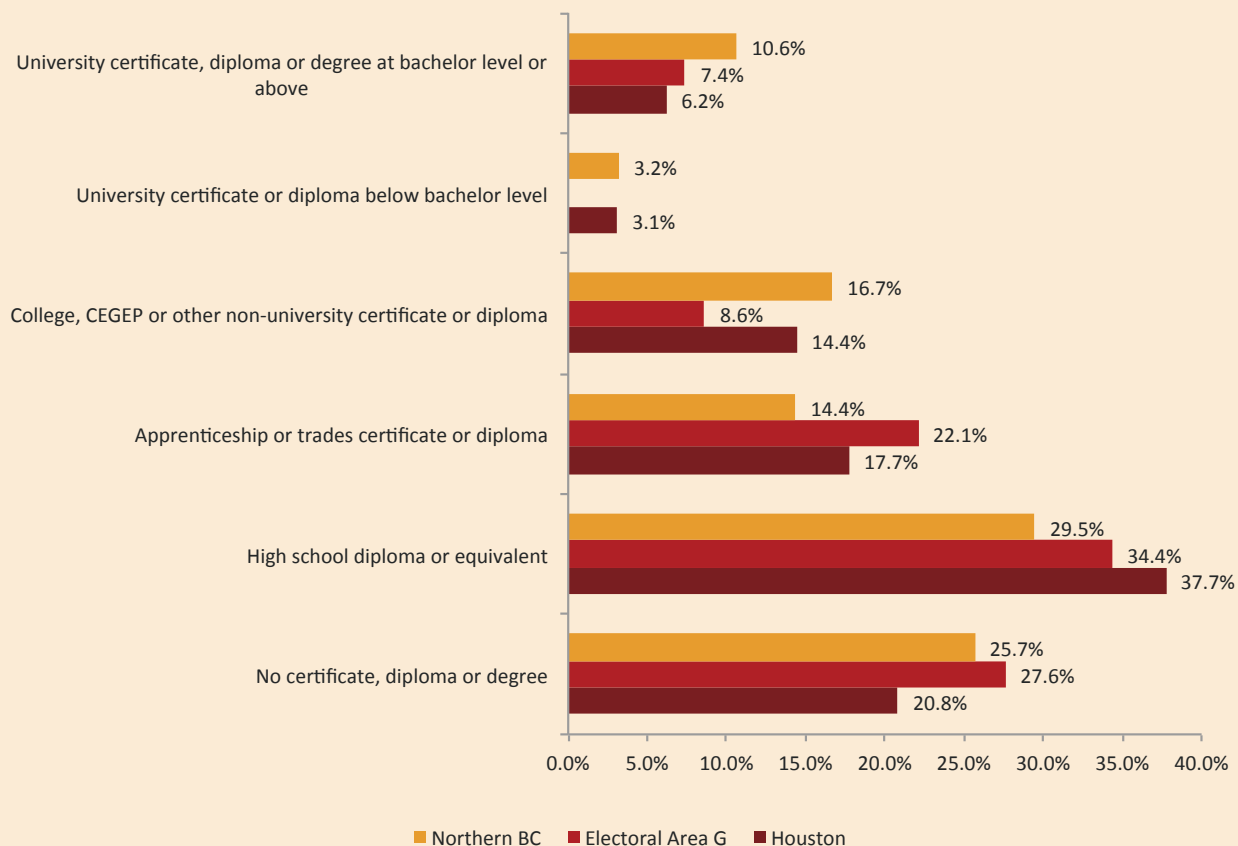






# Education

## Education in Houston and Electoral Area G, 2011

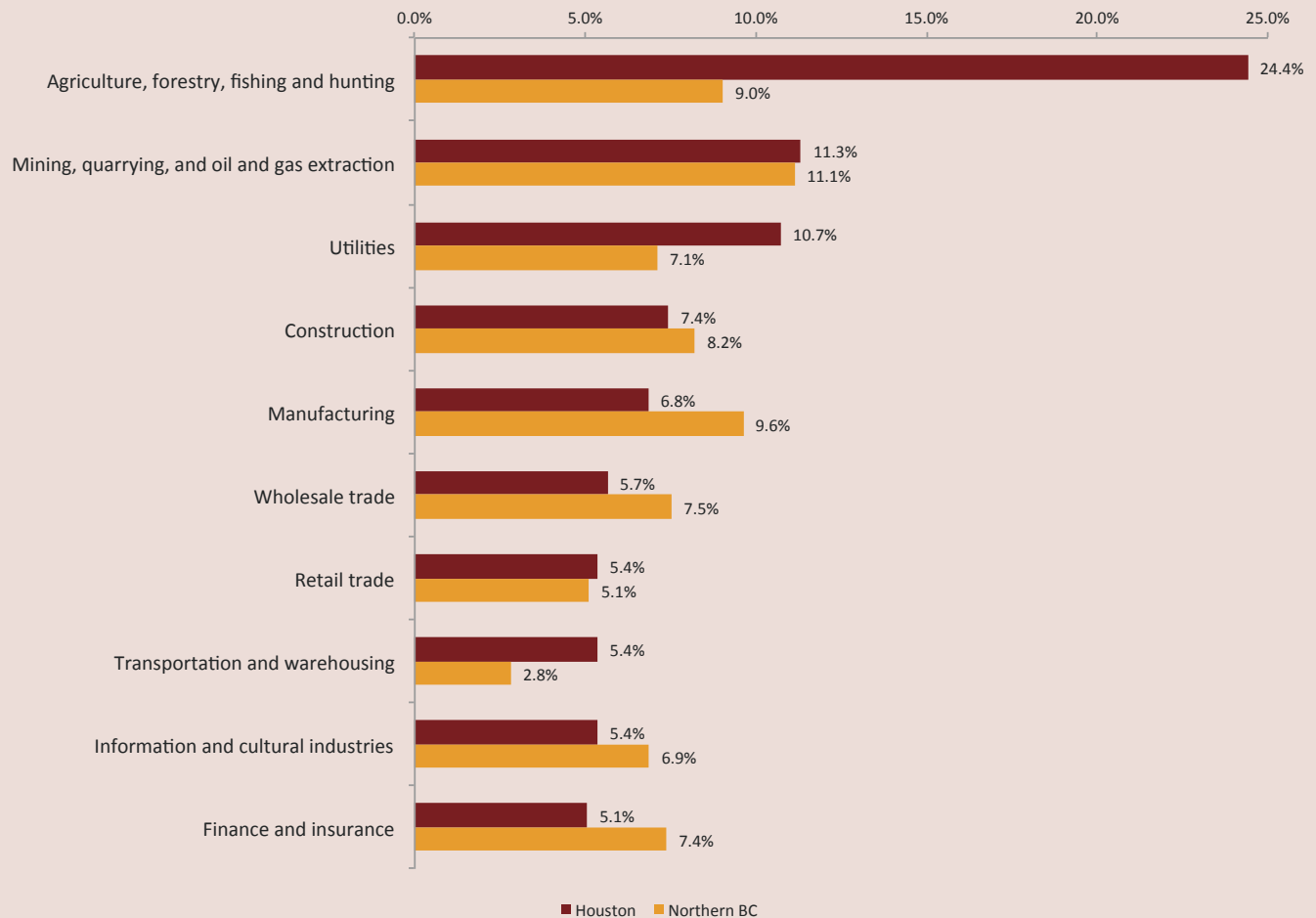


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey

The Town of Houston had a higher percentage of residents with a high school diploma compared to the Electoral Area and Northern BC in 2011. The town also had a higher percentage of residents with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma compared to Northern BC. However, compared to the Electoral Area this percentage is lower. Houston had the second highest percentage of population with an apprenticeship or trades certificates or diploma in the RDBN in 2011.

# Labour Force by Industry

## Labour force by industry in Houston and Northern BC, 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey

In 2011 the District of Houston had a total labour force of 1,680 people. Around a quarter of the local labour force worked in manufacturing while in the Northern BC this sector only accounts for 9% of workers. The other major sources of employment in Houston were the agriculture and retail trade sectors. 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
<a href="#">Canadian Forest Products</a>	343
<a href="#">Huckleberry Mines</a>	280
<a href="#">DH Manufacturing</a>	100
<a href="#">Wilson Bros Enterprises</a>	70
<a href="#">School District #54</a>	65
<a href="#">Tom Neufeld Trucking</a>	55

# Local Post-Secondary Education Facilities and Employment Service Providers

NAME	FACILITY OR SERVICE
<a href="#">Northwest Community College</a>	Post-Secondary Institution
<a href="#">WorkBC</a>	Employment Programs

## TRANSPORTATION

NAME	CATEGORY
<a href="#">VIA Rail Canada Inc</a>	Rail
<a href="#">Greyhound</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
- Shaw Communications Inc.
- Bell
- Cybertnet



# 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	5.8m3
Average Daily Demand	1,700m3
Peak Demand	4,560m3

### Residential, Commercial and Industrial Water Rates

Residential Cost	\$194.00
Industrial Cost	\$0.48-0.55/m3

## 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 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	7.1350	39.0000	58.6600	58.6600	20.7500	0.0000	6.6000	6.6000
Regional District	0.8518	2.9813	2.8961	2.8961	2.0867	0.0000	0.8518	0.8518
Hospital District	0.5629	1.9700	1.9137	1.9137	1.3789	0.0000	0.5629	0.5629
School	3.0113	13.6000	2.4000	6.0000	6.0000	2.4000	3.4000	3.4500
Other	0.4819	1.9815	1.9395	1.6035	1.2045	1.2594	0.4819	1.4819
Total	12.0429	59.5328	67.8093	71.0733	31.4201	3.6594	11.8966	11.9466

## Development Processes and Fees

TYPE OF FEE	COST
Building Permit	\$8 per \$1,000 of construction cost
Business License	\$10 - \$650 depending on type
Development Permit	\$100 - \$750 depending on project value
Re-Zoning Application	\$250
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@houstonchamber.ca](mailto:manager@houstonchamber.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  
PO Box 370  
Houston, BC V0J 1Z0  
Email: [mayor@houston.ca](mailto:mayor@houston.ca)

# QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

## Housing

The housing stock in Houston consists of the following dwellings:

DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL HOUSING STOCK	# OF UNITS
Total Private Dwellings (2011 census)	1,402
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents (2011 census)	1,264
Single detached houses (2006 census)	834
Semi-detached houses (2006 census)	10
Apartments, duplex (2006 census)	14
Other dwellings (2006 census)	376
# of owned dwellings (2006 census)	960
# of rented dwellings (2006 census)	260
RECENT AND FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS	# OF UNITS
# of dwellings constructed before 1986 (2006 census)	915
# of dwellings constructed between 1986-2006 (2006 census)	305

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

TYPE OF HOUSING	COST
Single Family Homes (BC Stats – Community)	\$147,875

## Accommodations

- [Houston Motor Inn](#)
- [Pleasant Valley Motel](#)
- [Sunshine Inn Houston](#)
- [Idylwild Motor Inn](#)
- [Bears Paw Inn](#)

## Restaurants

- A&W Restaurant
- Brewstir's
- Happy Jack Pub
- Houston Food Market
- Houston Pizza Factory
- Houston Subway
- Idylwild Motor Inn
- Lee's Garden
- Mr. Sub
- Pleasant Valley Restaurant
- Tea Gallery with a Twist
- 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](#)

## Banks

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



# Legal Firms

- Gidding & Company

# Media

- Houston Today
- Pleasant Valley Express
- CBC FM
- CJFW Radio
- The Peak
- CJFW TV
- CityWest Cable TV

# 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 Society
- Houston Retirement Housing Society
- Houston Ringette Association
- Houston Search and Rescue
- Houston Senior Citizen Association
- Houston Snowmobile Club
- Houston Vipers Ladies Hockey
- Houston Youth Empowerment Program
- Mixed Dart Club
- 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 Exercise Club
- Steelhead Multicultural Society

# 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.

*"Houston is where I was born and raised. I have been blessed to not only start my business here, but also to grow it to become an integrated part of the community I love".*

**Kyle Thomson**, Monster Industries

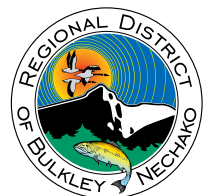
*"Houston: Where the welcome is warm and the wilderness beckons. A great town to start a business and raise a family."*

**Tom Euverman**, Country Wide Printing & Stationery

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



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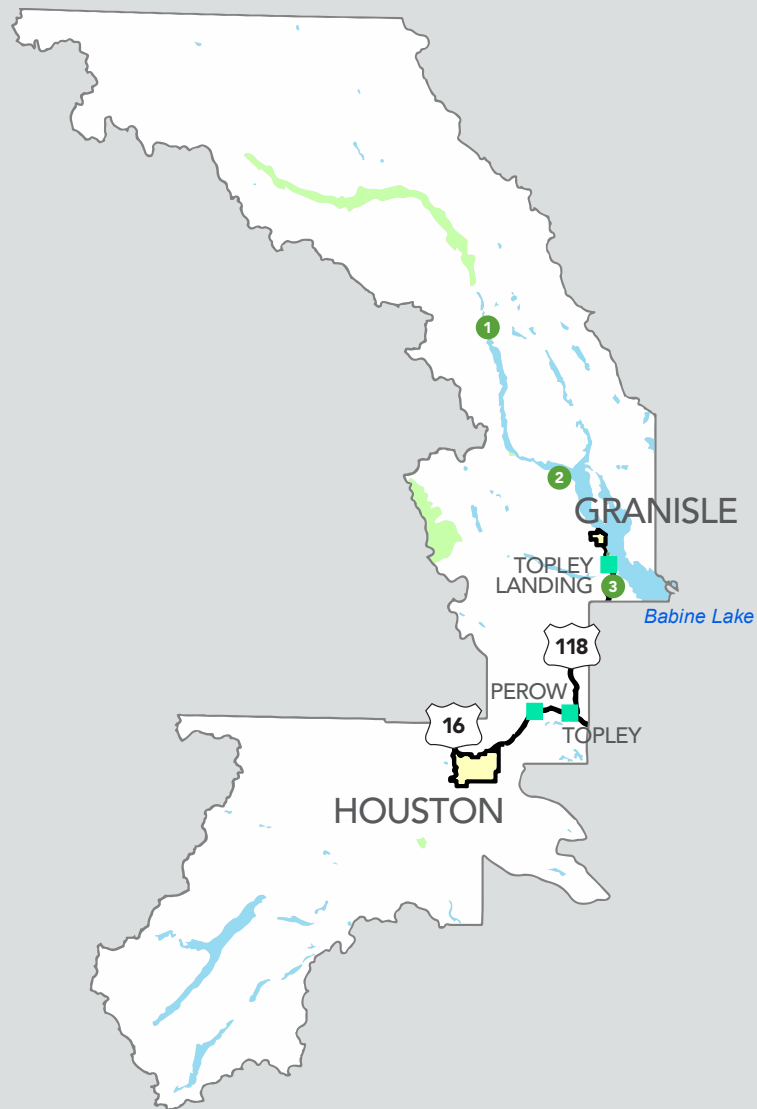








## 2: ELECTORAL AREA G (HOUSTON RURAL)

# ELECTORAL AREA 'G'




(Houston Rural)



## Legend

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





# 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), 2001-2011

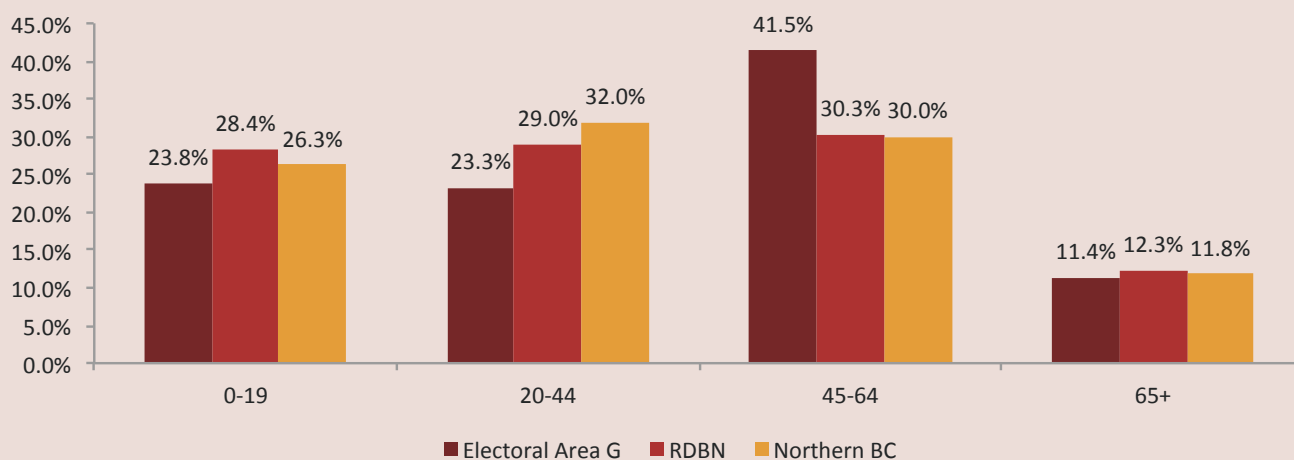
POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Electoral Area G	1,099	1,059	975
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	40,856	38,243	39,208
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile 2001-2011.

The population of Electoral Area G, or Houston Rural, has decreased by just over 100 people from 2001 to 2011. From 2001 to 2006, the population in the Northern BC decreased by 3.5% while the decrease in Electoral Area G was 3.6%. From 2006 to 2011, Houston Rural experienced a 7.9% decrease in population while the population increased in Northern BC, by 0.1%.

## Age Structure

Age structure in Electoral Area G ( Houston Rural), and the RDBN, 2011



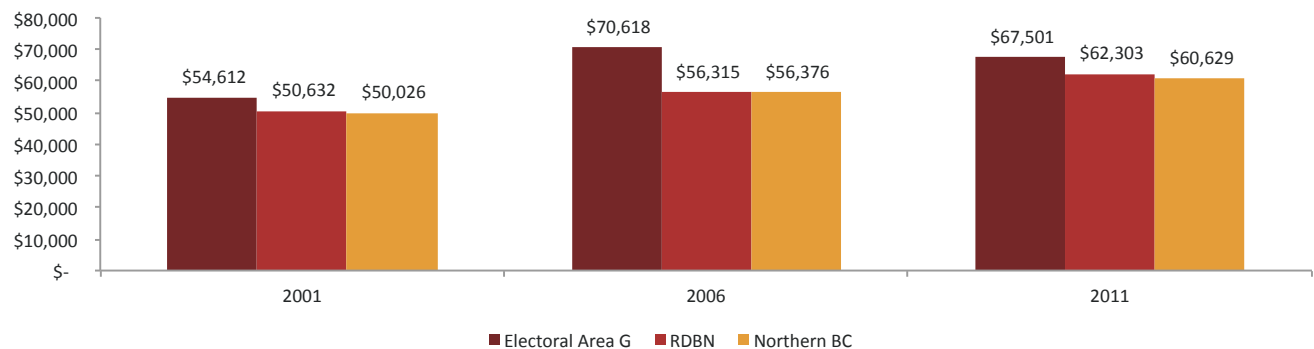
Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011.

The population of Electoral Area G tended to be older than the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011. The median age of Houston Rural is 46 while in the RDBN and Northern BC the median age is 39. Its age structure reveals that the Electoral Area has a lower youth population (ages 0-19) 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, 2001-2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2001-2006.

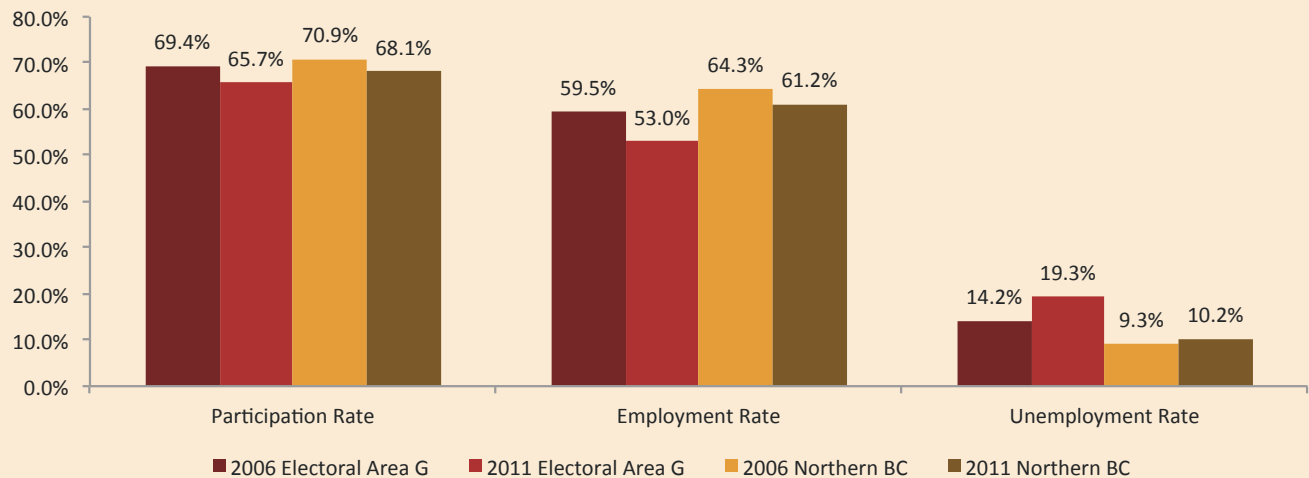
The median household income in Electoral Area G has been higher than in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2001 to 2011. Houston Rural experienced a 29% increase in household income from 2001 to 2006; a greater increase than the RDBN and Northern BC growth rates of 11% and 13%. From 2006 to 2011 Electoral 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, 2006-2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006.

Electoral Area G had a higher unemployment rate than Northern BC in 2006 and 2011. The unemployment rate in the rural area increased by 5% from 2006 to 2011 while in the Northern BC the rate increased by only 1%.

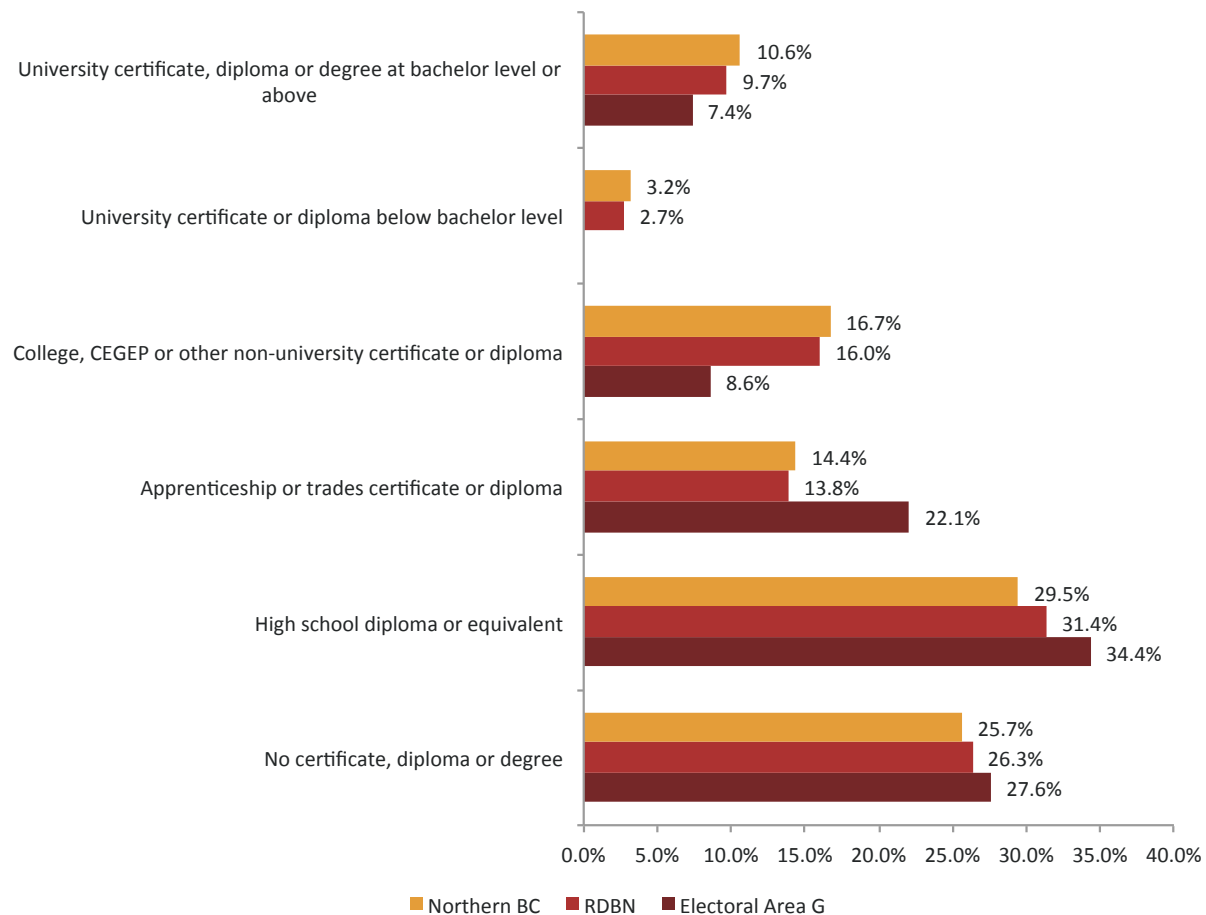






# Education

## Education in Electoral Area G (Houston Rural), and the RDBN, 2011

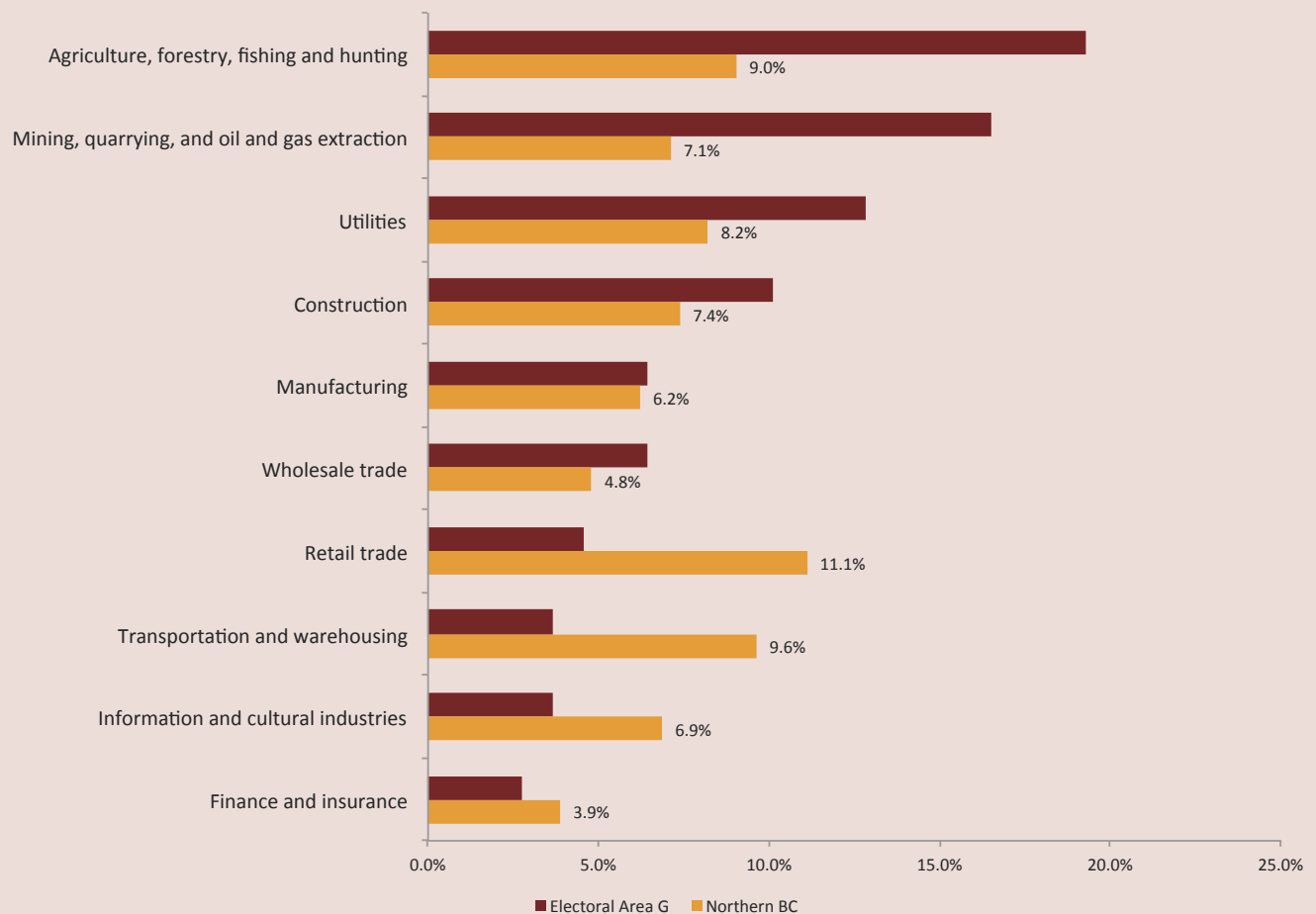


Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

Electoral Area G had the highest percentage of population with an apprenticeship or, trades certificates, or diploma among the RDBN electoral areas in 2011. 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, 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

In 2011 Electoral Area G had a total labour force of 545 people. The agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and educational service sectors were major sources of employment. Among these major employers, all four sectors employ a greater portion of the labour force compared to Northern BC. The manufacturing sector employed around 19% of the labour force in Houston Rural while in Northern BC this sector accounts for only 9% of the work force. Construction is another sector where there was a large difference between the Electoral Area and Northern BC. In Electoral Area G construction made up 13% of the labour force while in Northern BC this figure was only 8%. The portion of the labour force that works in construction 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/planning-department](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/planning-department)
- [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.

Corrine Swenson

Manager of Regional Economic Development

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Email: [corrine.swenson@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:corrine.swenson@rdbn.bc.ca)

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

## Electoral Area Director Contact

Director Rob Newell

16204 Baggerman Road

Houston, BC V0J 1Z1

Email: [robnewelleag@gmail.com](mailto:robnewelleag@gmail.com)



# 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

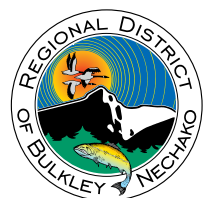
Lake Babine Nation has three communities in Electoral Area G. The communities are Fort Babine, Old Fort, and Tachet. The community of Tachet operates a general store and gas station 10 km from Granisle.



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



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### 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 13 First Nations, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) boasts extraordinary natural beauty, vibrant small town culture and exciting business opportunities.

Residents of RDBN enjoy the natural splendor of snow-capped mountains in winter, refreshing lakes and rivers in the summer, 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 a strong agricultural heritage and natural resource economy are the foundations of its welcoming, family friendly communities. Cultural experiences enjoyed by residents include charming local museums, inspiring First Nations events and artwork, historic sites, galleries, theatres, and unique small 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.

More information about the businesses and organizations listed in this document is available on the RDBN website under *Bulkley-Nechako Directory*. Please use the Bulkley-Nechako Directory by inserting the following website in your browser: [directory.rdbn.bc.ca](http://directory.rdbn.bc.ca).

# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

## Population Growth

Population growth in the RDBN and Northern BC, 2001-2011

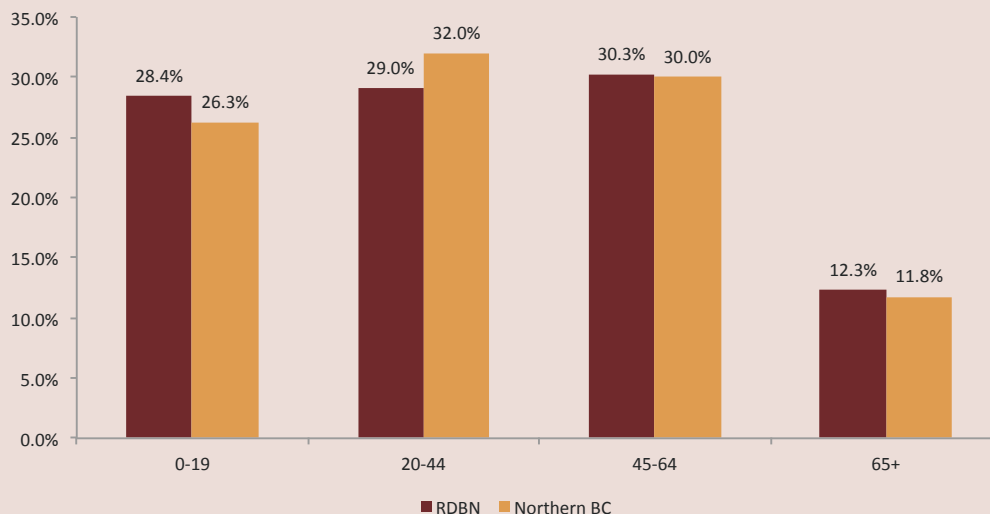
POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	40,856	38,243	39,208
Northern BC	315,217	304,173	304,620

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile from 2001-2011

The population of the RDBN was 39,208 in 2011. From 2001 to 2006 the population of Northern BC decreased by 3.5%, while the RDBN's population decreased by 6.4%. However, the RDBN's population increased by 2.5% from 2006 to 2011, which outpaced the growth rate of 0.1% in Northern BC.

## Age Structure

Age structure in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



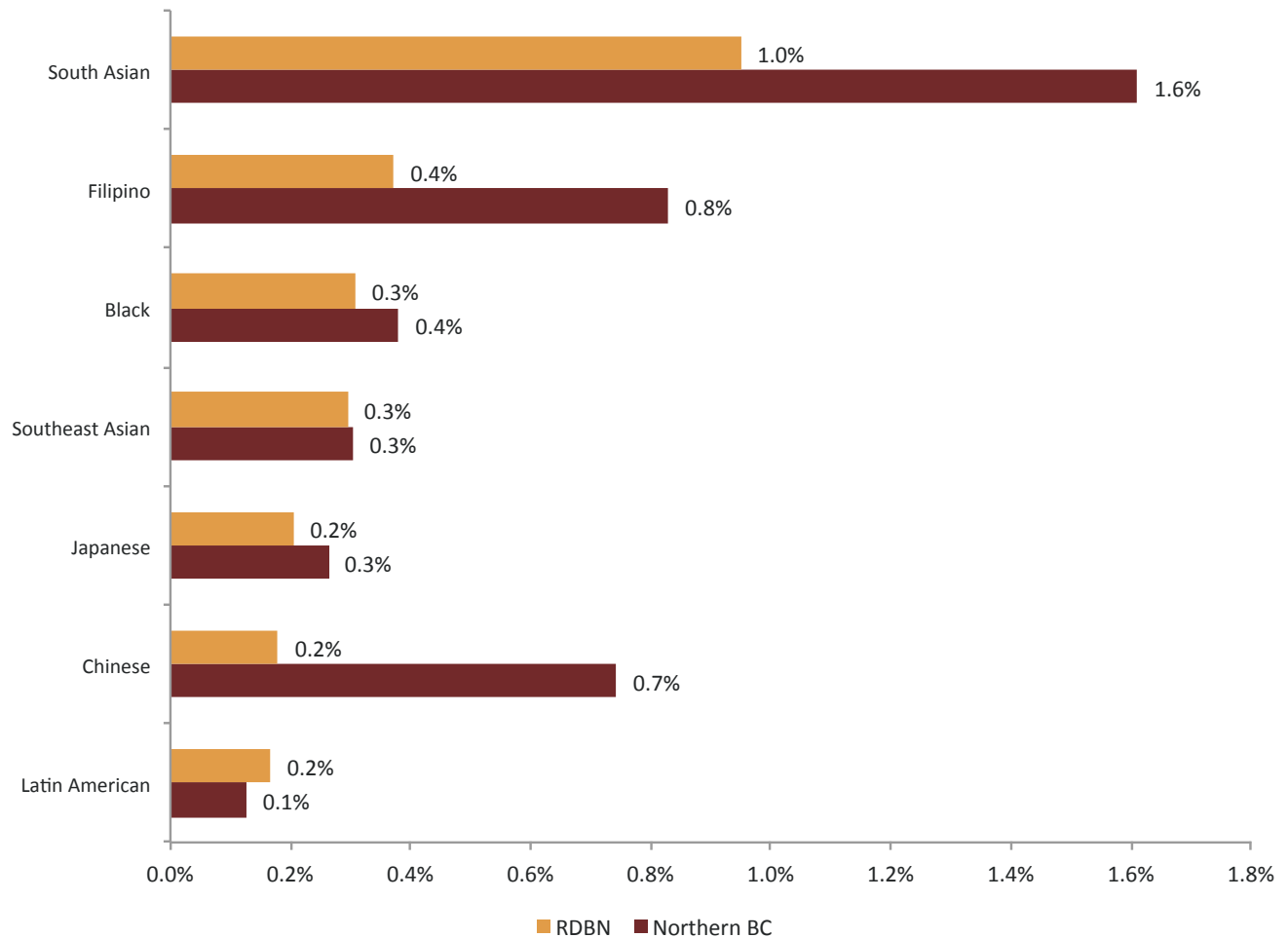
Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

Residents of the RDBN and Northern BC had a median age of 39 in 2011. The age structure of the region reveals that the RDBN had a higher youth population (ages 0-19) when compared to Northern BC. A lower portion of the RDBN's population was between the ages of 20-44 as compared to Northern BC.



# Ethnic diversity

## Visible minority population in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey 2011

The total visible minority population of the RDBN was 2.5% of its total population, while Northern BC's proportion of visible minorities was higher, at 4.5%. The RDBN and Northern BC had a similar distribution of population amongst visible minority groups in 2011.

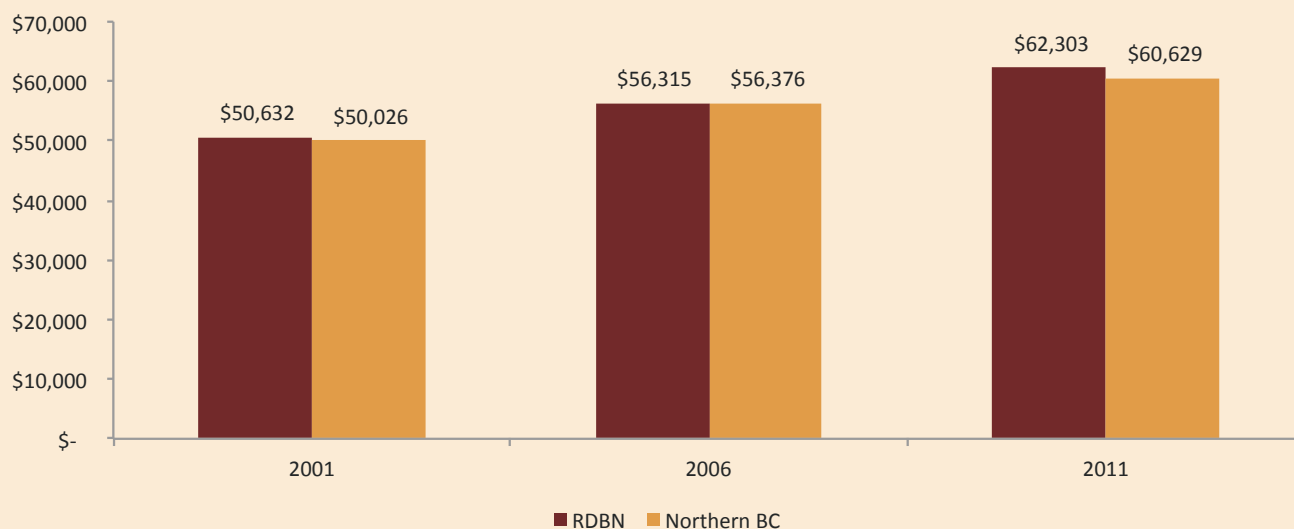






## Household Income

Median household income in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2001-2011



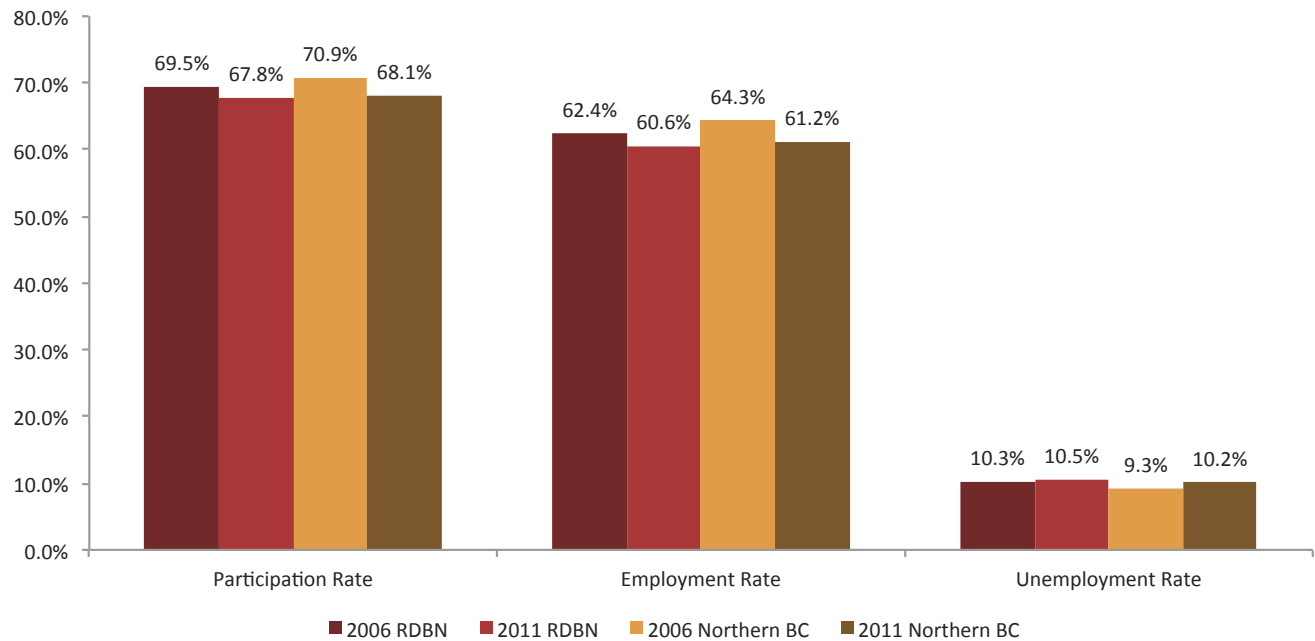
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2001-2006

The median household income in the RDBN has generally been similar to Northern BC with the exception of 2011 where it was slightly higher. The RDBN experienced an 11% increase in household income from 2001-2006, while in Northern BC incomes grew by 13%. From 2006 to 2011, the median household income in the RDBN grew by 11% while in Northern BC it grew by 8%.

# WORKFORCE PROFILE

## Employment

Employment data in the RDBN and Northern BC from 2006-2011



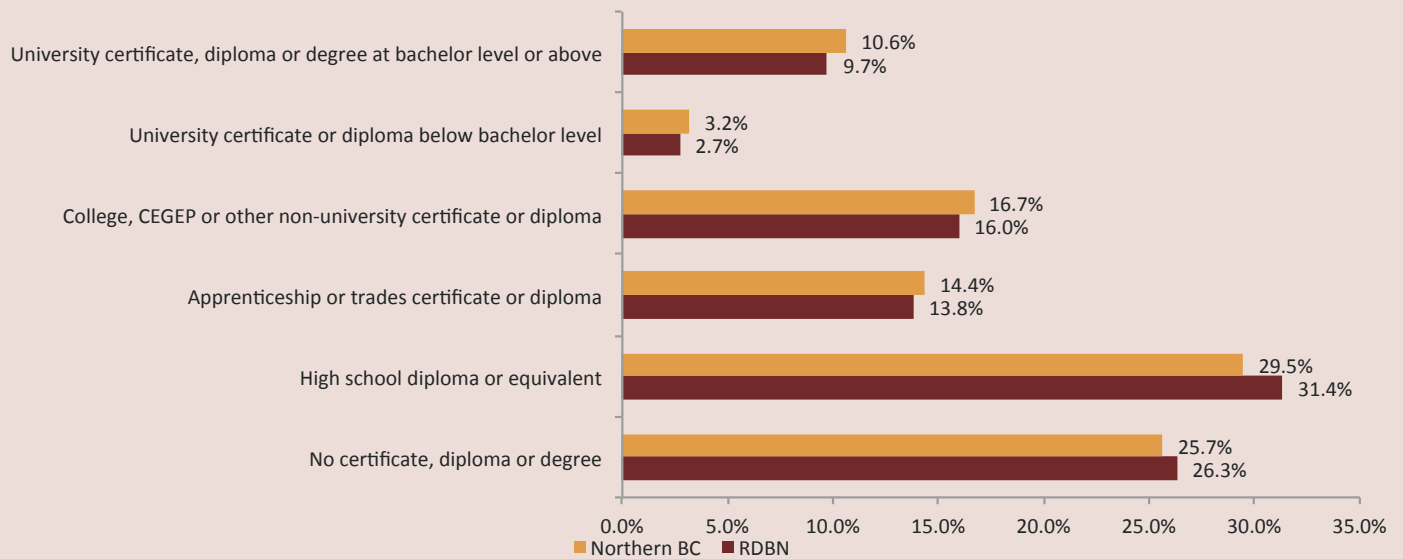
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Census Profile 2006

The RDBN had a higher unemployment rate than Northern BC from 2006 to 2011. The unemployment rate in the RDBN remained relatively stable from 2006 to 2011 while in Northern BC the rate increased by 1%.



# Education

## Educational attainment in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011



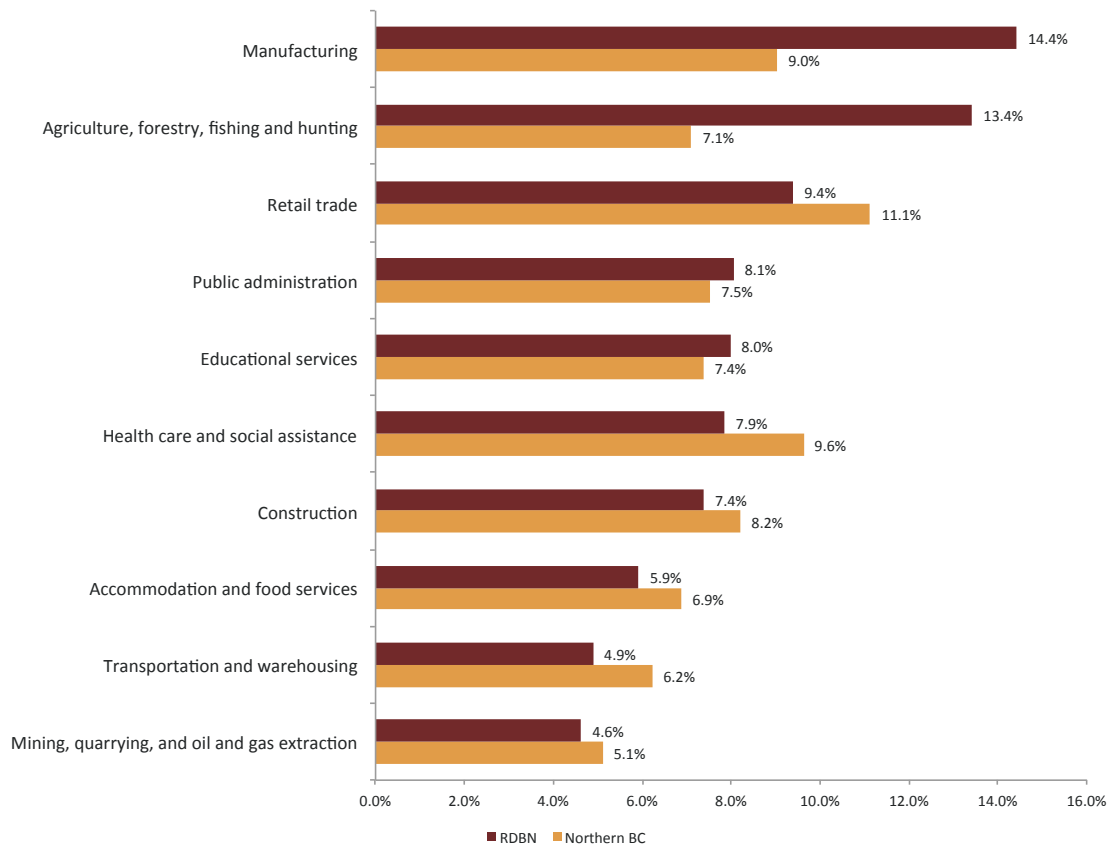
Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

The population of Northern BC had a similar level of education as the RDBN in 2011. Although a higher proportion of Northern BC's population held a college or university diploma or degree, or an apprenticeship or trades certification compared to the RDBN, the differences are not substantial.



# Labour Force By Industry

Labour force by industry in the RDBN and Northern BC in 2011v



Sources: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey.

In 2011, the RDBN labour force numbered 20,430 people and the agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and manufacturing sectors were the leading sources of employment. These two major sectors both employed a greater portion of the labour force than is the case across Northern BC.



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

NAME	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	LOCATION
School District No. 91	725	Regional
Thompson Creek Mining – Endako Mines	379	Fraser Lake
Canadian Forest Products - Houston Sawmill	343	Houston
Canadian Forest Products – Plateau Mills	317	Vanderhoof
West Fraser – Fraser Lake Sawmills	300	Fraser Lake
Huckleberry Mine	280	Houston
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	100	Houston
Conifex	91	Fort St. James

## Post-Secondary Education Facilities

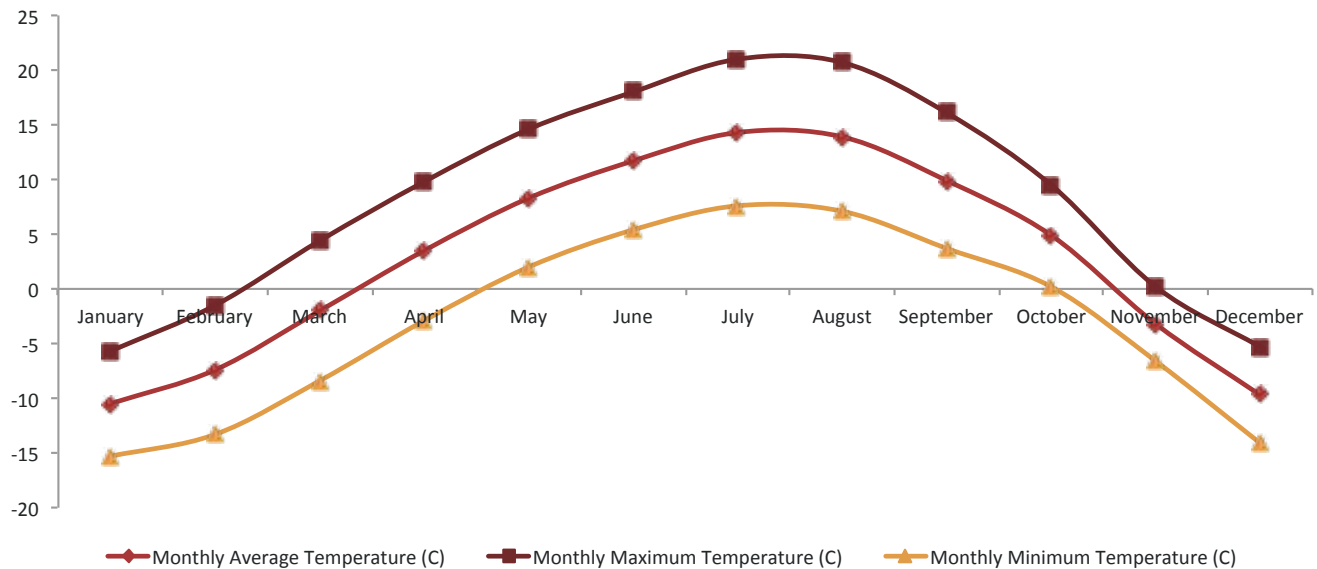
In the RDBN, post-secondary educational facilities are conveniently available in many communities.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION	CAMPUS
Northwest Community 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.



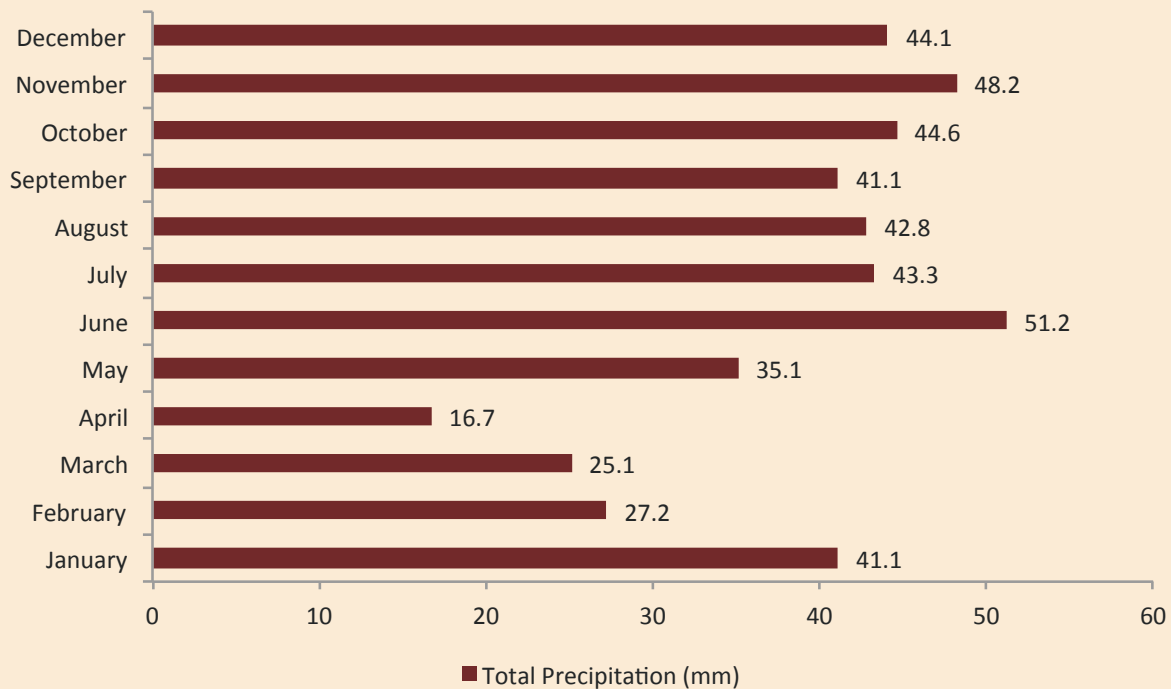
# Wind Speed

LOCATION	PERIOD	MEAN WIND SPEED	MEAN WIND ENERGY	WEIBULL SHAPE PARAMETER (K)	WEIBULL SCALE PARAMETER (A)
Burns Lake Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.216, longitude = -125.751	Annual	2.54 m/s	20.50 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.59	2.83 m/s
Houston Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.395, longitude = -126.653	Annual	1.71 m/s	8.75 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.29	1.85 m/s
Smithers Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.785, longitude = -127.163	Annual	2.20 m/s	12.88 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.64	2.46 m/s
Telkwa Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.668, longitude = -127.060	Annual	2.66 m/s	22.13 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.67	2.98 m/s
Fraser lake Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.062, longitude = -124.558	Annual	2.60 m/s	23.38 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.53	2.89 m/s
Vanderhoof Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 53.727, longitude = -123.656	Annual	3.09 m/s	26.75 W/m <sup>2</sup>	2.12	3.49 m/s
Fort St James Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.467, longitude = -124.298	Annual	3.37 m/s	42.50 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.74	3.78 m/s
Granisle Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 54.903, longitude = -126.245	Annual	2.67 m/s	24.25 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.57	2.97 m/s
Electoral Area E Numerical Values at 30m Latitude = 53.939, longitude = -125.361	Annual	4.47 m/s	99.63 W/m <sup>2</sup>	1.74	5.02 m/s

Data Source: <http://www.windatlas.ca/en/nav.php?no=52&field=EU&height=30&season=ANU>

# 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. Currently, CN Rail is upgrading the rail line to accommodate an increase in traffic due to goods being shipped to Asia. 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
<a href="#">Smithers Regional Airport</a>	Smithers	Town of Smithers
<a href="#">Vanderhoof Airport</a>	Vanderhoof	District of Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Baker Airport</a>	Burns Lake	Lakes District Airport Society
<a href="#">Fort St James Perison Airport</a>	Fort St. James	District of Fort St. James
<a href="#">Fraser Lake Airport</a>	Fraser Lake	Village of Fraser Lake
<a href="#">Houston Airport</a>	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.
- Hawkair—Service to and from Terrace and Vancouver.

# 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	\$0.1953 per day	\$0.0928 per kWh	\$0.1953 per day (equal to the Basic Charge)
Medium General Service Rate	\$0.1953 per day	\$0.00 per kW for first 35 kW \$4.76 per kW for next 115 kW \$9.13 per kW for remaining kW	Part 1 \$0.0885 per kWh for last 14,800 kWh \$0.0549 per kWh for remaining kWh up to baseline  Part 2 \$0.0956 per kWh for usage up to 20% above baseline \$0.0956 per kWh for savings down to 20% below baseline (credit) Usage or savings beyond 20% of baseline are based on Part 1 prices
Large General Service Rate	\$0.1953 per day	\$0.00 per kW for first 35 kW \$4.76 per kW for next 115 kW \$9.13 per kW for remaining kW	Part 1 \$0.0961 per kWh for last 14,800 kWh \$0.0462 per kWh for remaining kWh up to baseline  Part 2 \$0.0956 per kWh for usage up to 20% above baseline \$0.0956 per kWh for savings down to 20% below baseline (credit) Usage or savings beyond 20% of baseline are based on Part 1 prices

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.

## BC 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	11.732	-0.017	-0.633	-0.188	10.894	3.5	0.07	3.57	14.464
Small Commercial	25	9.925	-0.017	-0.633	-0.132	9.143	3.481	0.07	3.551	12.694
Large Commercial	150	8.001	-0.017	N/A	-0.139	7.845	3.481	0.07	3.551	11.396



# 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
<a href="#">Community Futures Nadina</a>	Assistance with Building a Business Plan, Startup steps, or planning for existing businesses
<a href="#">Community Futures Stuart Nechako</a>	Business Start-up Assistance
<a href="#">Burns Lake Native Development Corporation</a>	Technical Services Including Business Plan Assistance, Training and Project Development Assistance
<a href="#">Small Business BC</a>	Business Start-Up / Growth Assistance
<a href="#">Doing Business in BC</a>	BC One-Stop -Business Start-Up and Registration Site.
<a href="#">Business &amp; Investing Services</a>	Resource for Business Owners

## Business Funding and Tax Credit Programs

ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
<a href="#">Community Futures Nadina</a>	Small Business Loans
<a href="#">Community Futures Stuart Nechako</a>	Business Loans Program
<a href="#">Burns Lake Native Development Corporation</a>	Small Business Loans Program
<a href="#">Northern Development Initiative Trust</a>	Capital Investment and Training Rebate Program
<a href="#">Northern Development Initiative Trust</a>	Competitiveness Consulting Rebate
<a href="#">BC Hydro</a>	PowerSmart Programs for Business
<a href="#">Investment Agriculture Foundation</a>	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
<a href="#">Community Living BC</a>	Smithers
<a href="#">Smithers Community Services Association</a>	Smithers
<a href="#">Fort Outreach Employment Services</a>	Fort St. James
<a href="#">Progressive Employment Services Ltd</a>	Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Targeted Skills Shortage Program</a>	Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Northern Skills Training</a>	Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Transitions Career Consultants</a>	Vanderhoof
<a href="#">Community Futures Nadina</a>	Smithers, Burns Lake, Telkwa, Granisle, Houston
<a href="#">WorkBC Employment Services Centre</a>	Smithers, Burns Lake, Houston

## Local Economic Development Services

The RDBN is engaged in the following economic development projects:

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

RDBN supports the following initiatives:

- [Beyond the Market](#)
- [Invest Northwest](#) and [Invest North Central](#) Web Portals
- [Geoscience BC's Quest-West projects](#)

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

Corrine Swenson  
Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Email: [corrine.swenson@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:corrine.swenson@rdbn.bc.ca)  
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FRASER LAKE | FORT ST. JAMES | VANDERHOOF

