

Invest Innovate Grow



Manufacturing Sector

Manufacturing is predicted to continue to grow through 2017, when the sector will account for over 10% of British Columbia's total GDP.



Coquitlam was one of seven communities from across BC honoured with the BC Small Business Roundtable's "2013 Open for Business Award," which recognizes local policies, projects and programs that support small business.

British Columbia

BC's manufacturing sector, which is the third largest employment generator, originally stemmed from the processing of the province's abundant natural resources such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and mining. Today the sector is diverse and has grown to include industries such as equipment and parts (shipbuilding / aerospace), plastics, health care products, computers and electronics, manufacturing and food-processing.

In BC, the 12,000 manufacturing firms generate \$3.01 in economic activity for every dollar invested in the sector. The BC manufacturing sector accounts for 400,000 direct and indirect jobs, \$8.6B in wages, over \$40B in shipments and 7.2% of the Province's GDP. Manufacturing is predicted to continue to grow through 2017, when the sector will account for over 10% of the Province's total GDP.

Coquitlam

Coquitlam is home to several manufacturing and food processing companies as well as a cluster of concrete and asphalt manufacturers / sand and gravel operators. A large portion of our labour force is employed in manufacturing firms that are engaged in a variety of industries: food and beverage processing, machinery, production, parts, wood, furniture, paper, plastics, electronics, and a host of other products. These companies export products to worldwide destinations such as Europe, Asia, the United States and Mexico. The City of Coquitlam's strategic location in the geographic centre of the lower mainland makes it ideal for manufacturers due to its proximity on the TransCanada Highway to the US border, Vancouver and Abbotsford International airports and the Port of Metro Vancouver.

The majority of Coquitlam's manufacturing jobs are located in the Southwest Coquitlam and Cape Horn industrial areas and the Barnet Highway corridor. →

"When going through the process of establishing our business we considered a number of factors and communities. For us, Coquitlam offered many advantages such as access to a highly skilled labour force, lower land prices when compared to Vancouver and Burnaby and easy access to our markets and clients."

Ian Hall, Principal, IMEC Mechanical Ltd.

Major Employers

Company	# of Employees *
Natural Factors Group of Companies	850
Superior Poultry	240
Jack Cewe	200
Associated Labels	145
Rhema Health Products	100
Allard Contracting	100

(* approximate numbers)

Developing the Manufacturing Sector

The City of Coquitlam is committed to creating a business environment that supports the growth and prosperity of our manufacturing sector as these jobs provide a source of well-paying employment opportunities for local residents. The City has streamlined processes and is committed to the continuous improvement of the business environment. The City of Coquitlam has implemented a number of other policy changes that are designed to assist businesses:

Creation of a fast track tenant improvement process

- ❖ Minor tenant improvements that meet specific criteria can be approved in 10 business days.

Concurrent approvals

- ❖ Improved coordination between Building Permit and Business Licence processes.

Business Licence Bylaw Update

- ❖ In 2014, the City of Coquitlam updated its Business Licence Bylaw to become more user friendly for businesses by reducing the number of business licence categories, establishing more equitable fees based on the size of a business, applying consistent fees to similar businesses and improving the application process.

Efforts to make municipal fees/taxes more competitive

- ❖ In order to address an inequity in tax distribution between residential and business classes, Coquitlam Council implemented a tax shift policy to create a better balance between the two classes.
- ❖ In the 20 years this policy has been in place, a cumulative impact of a 19% shift in tax burden from business properties to residential properties has occurred. The current tax shift is 1% each year.

Industrial zone consolidation project

- ❖ This two phase project, which was completed and approved by Council in April 2015, reduces the industrial zones from nine to three in order to assist local businesses by improving flexibility, while streamlining the community's industrial zones.



In December 2014, Coquitlam was ranked third out of 36 cities in BC Business' inaugural list of the "Best Cities for Work in BC", a study derived from economic indicators reflecting the quality of a city's job market.

"Over the past couple of years we've had the opportunity to work with staff from the City of Coquitlam. They have been very proactive in working with our business, not only sharing knowledge and advice, but also providing opportunities for growth."

*Carlynn Fernandes,
Vice President,
Mahler Industries*

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