



IMMIGRANTS & THE FILM & TELEVISION PRODUCTION SECTOR



FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION IN B.C.

The film and television industry supports a dynamic creative economy in Canada, worth about \$10 billion annually. The industry includes businesses engaged in the motion picture, television, video production, and postproduction activity.

According to the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA), film and television production in Canada generated employment for 216,660 Canadians in 2020/21, a slight drop from pre-covid levels.

With an early start as a Hollywood service provider, B.C. has become a leader in film and TV production in Canada. The province features a creative cluster of world-class digital media firms as well as film, television, visual effects, animation, and post-production companies.

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, British Columbia accounted for 36% of Canadian film and television production, followed by Ontario at 35% and Quebec with 23%. Whereas those provinces have significant Canadian and Indigenous productions, B.C.'s is almost entirely devoted to American productions.

The film and TV production industry was among the first major sectors of the provincial economy to fully rebound post pandemic, partially because covid and its impacts were much less severe than in the U.S. The industry hit a record \$4.8 billion in direct spending in the provincial economy in 2021, a 40% increase from \$3.4 billion in 2020, but well above pre-covid levels as well.

EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE SECTOR IN BC

According to a Creative BC report, the province's film and television industry offered an estimated 61,892 jobs in 2021. This includes above-the-line (producers and directors), below-the-line (artists and technicians), animation/VFX and postproduction creators, and freelance/gig workers. The vast majority are located within Metro Vancouver.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE FILM & TELEVISION PRODUCTION IN BC:

B.C. is the largest motion picture hub in Canada and third largest in North America.

- 200+ producers
- 150+ expert industry supply companies
- 130+ animation, VFX and post-production companies—the world's largest cluster
- 61,892 employed
- sufficient crew for 50 simultaneous full-scale productions
- 400 productions each year

FILM AND TV PRODUCTION SECTOR IN BURNABY

Increasingly, [Burnaby is home base for the British Columbia industry](#). Already, 60% of the province's purpose-built studio space is located here, and that proportion will rise with the completion of the giant [Bridge Studios](#) sound stage complex currently under construction in the city's southwest corner. The [City's Burnaby Film Office](#) exists to provide easy access to permits, locations and assistance, and numerous education outlets offer programs devoted to the industry.

MORE SOUND STAGES IN BURNABY THAN MOST IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

When [Bridge Studios completes construction of a massive 19-acre sound stage complex](#) in the city's southwest corner, Burnaby will vault to the top echelons of the world's film and television production centres with almost 100 sound stages. Los Angeles is the global leader with 384 sound stages, and although data is hard to come by, no other western city is believed to have more than 100. Metro Vancouver's production capacity is currently hampered by a lack of studio capacity, so regional employment in the sector is expected to rise dramatically as more stages come on stream. On its own, the new facility is expected to generate more than 1,000 on-site jobs.



NOTABLE FILM AND TV PRODUCTION EMPLOYERS IN BURNABY

Organization	Website
Tilt9 Entertainment Inc.	https://www.tilt9.com/
Bridge Studios	https://bridgestudios.com/
Aspen Films	https://aspenfilms.ca/
Backlot Media	https://www.backlot.ca/
Ballistic Arts	https://www.ballisticarts.com/
Briere Production Group Inc.	https://briereproductiongroup.com/
Cast & Crew Entertainment Services (B.C.)	https://www.castandcrew.com/
Cedar Island Film Inc.	https://www.cedarislandfilms.com/
Eagle Creek Studios	https://eaglecreekstudios.com/
Gloo Studios	https://www.gloostudios.com/
Greenscape Design & Décor	https://www.greenscapedecor.com/
HollyNorth Production Supplies Ltd.	https://hollynorth.com/
Looma Media	https://www.loomamediaco.com/
Mammoth Studios	https://nsstudios.ca/
MJY Fabrication	https://www.mjyfabrication.com/



LABOUR FORCE IN THE FILM AND TV SECTOR



In 2020, 4% of Metro Vancouver's total workforce was employed in the Information and cultural industries (NAICS 51). 6,345 Burnaby residents worked in this industry, representing 12% of the Metro Vancouver labour force in this sector.

	Total labour force population aged 15 years and over	Information and cultural industries	% municipal share of Metro Vancouver's labour force
Greater Vancouver	1,435,305	55,000	100%
Vancouver	386,760	22,390	41%
Surrey	300,730	5,945	11%
Burnaby	133,720	6,345	12%
Richmond	105,145	2,885	5%
Coquitlam	79,140	3,030	6%

Table: Labour Force and Jobs in Selected Municipality and Industry Sector, 2021 Census Profiles (Five municipalities with the greatest labour force)

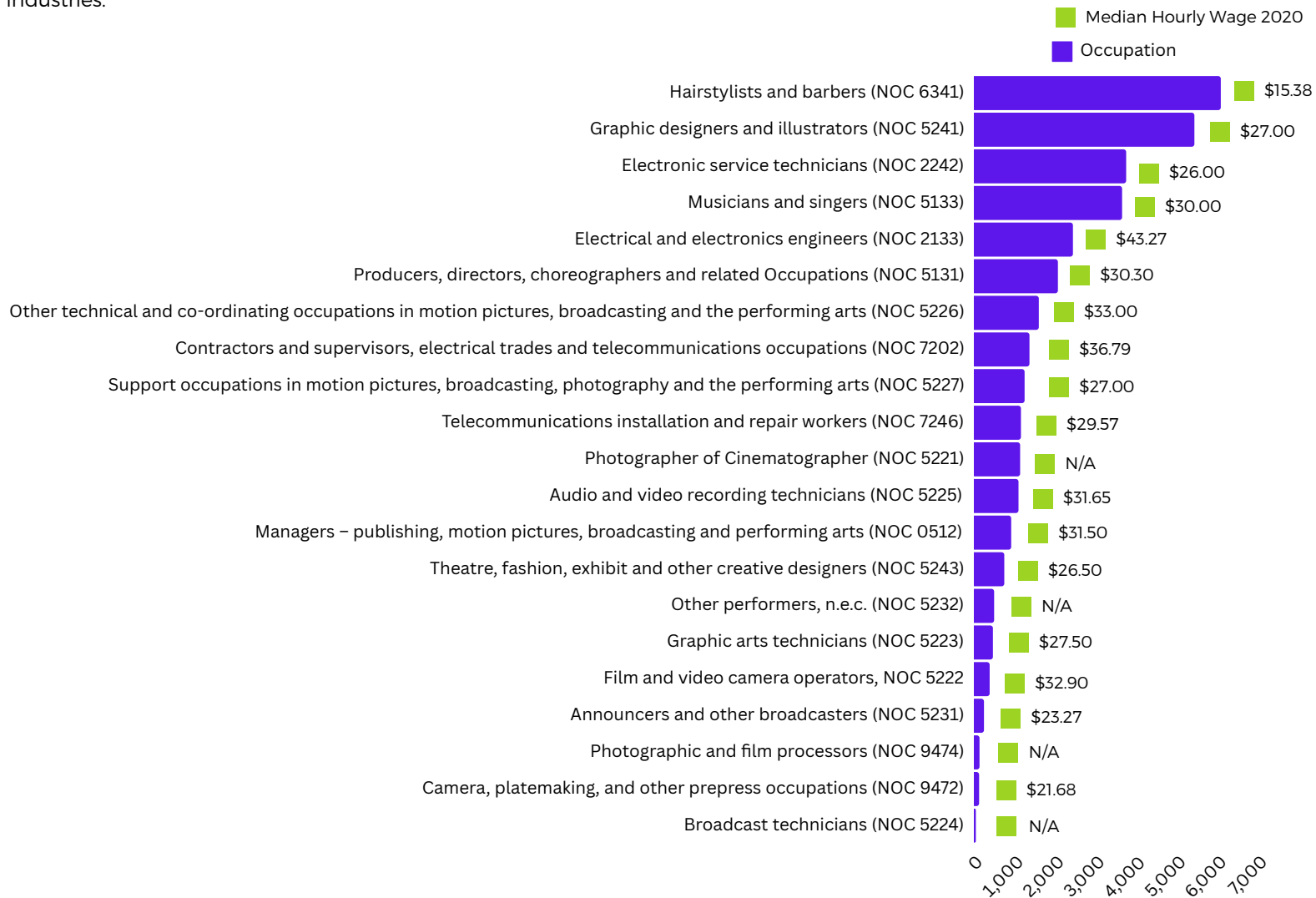
As one of the fastest growing industries in B.C. and Canada, film and TV production will require a growing labour force. According to the 2021 [B.C. Labour Market Outlook](#), between 2021 and 2031, Mainland/Southwest region will see 8,300 job openings in the "Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries", making up 86% of the province's job openings in this industry.



COMMON OCCUPATIONS IN FILM AND TV PRODUCTION IN B.C.

The film and TV production sector requires a highly diverse labour pool. Many jobs require credentials, but an equally significant number are open to those who are not credentialed, or who, like many immigrants, possess credentials that are not recognized. Examples of jobs are illustrated in the chart below.

Many direct jobs in Film and TV production fall into the “Information and cultural industries (NAICS 51)”. The sub-industry “Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries (NAICS 512)” is best known for film and TV production. This sub-industry also includes the Broadcasting, Telecommunications, and Data processing, hosting, and related services, and publishing industries.





SKILLED IMMIGRANTS ARE A KEY TALENT POOL FOR THE FILM AND TV PRODUCTION SECTOR

B.C. Labour Market Outlook (2021) estimates that the province will welcome 346,000 new immigrant workers to fill 34% of its job openings between 2021 and 2031.

Burnaby is the most diverse city in Canada. Census 2021 reported that immigrants made up 50% of Burnaby's population, compared to 42% for the Greater Vancouver region. 38% of Burnaby's labour force has a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 35% for Greater Vancouver.



Immigrants are a vital part of creative occupations in Canada. As reported by [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada IRCC](#):

- One in four people employed as an artisan or craftsperson in Canada is an immigrant.
- Over a quarter of theater, fashion, exhibit and other creative designers are immigrants (26% of the total).
- 29% of independent artists, writers and performers are immigrants.
- Across the country, there are more than 3,000 businesses (defined as self-employed persons with paid employees) in the arts and culture sector owned by immigrants.

USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

Key Employment Programs and Services

- Burnaby - Edmonds <https://www.workbc.ca/WorkBC-Centres/Mainland-Southwest/Burnaby-7297-Kingsway.aspx>
- Burnaby - Metrotown <https://www.workbc.ca/WorkBC-Centres/Mainland-Southwest/Burnaby-4211-Kingsway.aspx>
- WorkBC Apprentices Service Centre <https://workbcapprenticeservices.ca/>
- Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants (Construction & Engineering) <https://issbc.org/service-types/career-paths-for-skilled-immigrants>
- FAST (Facilitating Access to Skilled Talent) <https://fastbc.org/the-fast-program/>
- Burnaby has numerous employment programs and services for immigrants and refugees. A complete listing of currently available and free programs and services can be found on this site's Immigrant Programs and Services (<https://newtobc.ca/settlement-information-for-newcomers/immigrant-and-refugee-programs-and-services/>). Select Burnaby under communities and Employment under categories and browse through the various programs to find one that meets your needs.



The following websites provide a searchable selection of occupational guides.

- WelcomeBC – Work in BC
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-in-B-C>
- WorkBC Explore Careers
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
- Skilled Immigrants InfoCentre – Vancouver Public Library <http://pwp.vpl.ca/siic/>
- National Occupational Classification 2021 - <https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/>

Regulatory Bodies and Professional Associations

- Animation & Visual Effects Alliance of BC – Powered by DigiBC <http://animvfxbc.ca/>
- BC Tech Association
<http://www.wearebctech.com/>
- Creative BC <https://www.creativebc.com/>
- Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/cavco-tax-credits.html>
- Canadian Media Production Association
<https://cmpa.ca/>
- The Canada Media Fund (CMF): <https://cmf-fmc.ca/>
- Telefilm Canada: <https://telefilm.ca/en/>
- Vancouver Economic Commission's (VEC)
<https://vancouvereconomic.com/>

