

**M4 Lesson 2: What Occupations are in Demand in B.C.?**

Core Competencies:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * Communication | * Thinking | * Personal & Social |

Big Ideas:

* Adapting to economic and labour market changes requires flexibility.

Curricular Competencies:

* Apply a variety of research skills to expand their knowledge of diverse career possibilities and understand career clusters
* Question self and others about the role of family expectations and traditions, and of community needs in career choices
* Question self and others about how individual purposes and passions can support the needs of the local and global community when considering career choices

In this assignment, students will start to research different career clusters and how the demand for each career is based on different drivers, such as how much the economy will grow, how productivity and skill requirements will change, and how many people will retire and when. Using data from [www.workbc.ca](http://www.workbc.ca), students will then compare careers in demand to those in demand in their particular region.

For students:

**Did you know? (source: www.workbc.ca)**

* In all, B.C. is forecast to have 903,000 job openings between 2018 and 2028.
* 77% of future jobs will require some form of post-secondary education or training.
* 166,000 job openings over the next 10 years will be in occupations that have a high chance of being affected by automation.
* Active listening is identified as a “very important” skill for 73 percent of total projected job openings.

The workplace is always evolving, and it will continue to change even more as you finish high school and prepare to enter the workforce. As we continue to learn about the local and regional needs in your community and in British Columbia, it's important to see what types of careers are forecasted to be in demand, as it could certainly change the direction we may be headed!

[WorkBC](http://www.workbc.ca) has determined the occupations that are expected to have above-average opportunities over the coming decade, but how is it decided which positions will experience growth?

Put simply, high demand occupations rank

* high on job openings and employment, and
* low on unemployment rate and excess supply

WorkBC lists three major factors that influence demand for workers:

1. **How much the economy will grow**
   * Trends in consumer spending, investment, international trade and government spending
   * Growth in sectors that are labour intensive
2. **How productivity and skill requirements will change**
   * Rising productivity that in some cases means fewer job openings
   * Increased productivity that in other cases makes us more competitive, leading to increased trade and increased job opportunities
   * Technological change
3. **How many people will retire and when**
   * Number of job openings resulting from replacement demand due to retirements and deaths
   * Later retirements coming from trends such as longer lifespans, better health, a preference to continue working longer, and financial need
   * Highly productive and experienced older workers leaving the workforce and needing replacement by more than one worker

That's a lot to think about, but should be considered when you reach the point of choosing a career path. Read the following article from CBC "'The millennial side hustle,' not steady job, is the new reality for university grads." Do you think that the graduates in the article may have made different decisions based on the demand for workers in their region?

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/millennial-jobs-education-1.4009295>

Discuss the article as a class prior to starting the assignment.

Assignment:

Using the resources on [www.workbc.ca](http://www.workbc.ca), in this assignment you will research various careers and career clusters to decide what careers will be demanded both in British Columbia and your region.

Part 1:

Download the assignment [Linking Career Possibilities and Demand](https://comoxvalleyschools.instructure.com/courses/197/files/393314/download?verifier=FR4kfWYGBMjIPiH5V2nWETY2m2SfqDIyq9XqS5on&wrap=1)

Start filling out your table following the instructions on the assignment sheet. You will start by using the following website:

<https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Industry/High-Demand-Occupations.aspx.>

Part 2:

After you have completed the table for careers in demand for both British Columbia and your region, describe the commonalities and differences between the provincial careers in demand, and the regional careers in demand. Use these guiding questions in your response:

* What surprised you about the jobs most demanded both in British Columbia and in your region?
* Were there any careers that were in demand both provincially and in your region?
* What (if any) careers are demanded in your region, but not provincially?
* How important (or not important) do you feel consideration about demand for certain careers is when career planning?
* How might consideration of careers in demand change or alter someone's career path?

Part 2 can be done through a reflection piece, or as a group.

Assessment:

(see next page)

