

COMOX VALLEY BUSINESS TRENDS

Changes in the number and type of businesses in the Comox Valley over the last five years can be analyzed using custom data from Statistics Canada's Business Register, which is based on actual payroll remittances to Canada Revenue Agency.

The Business Register is updated twice a year (for June and December) and data has been purchased for December 2008 and December 2013 to show changes over time. Table 1 shows a detailed breakdown of the number of business establishments by industry sector.

Table 1. Business Establishments by Sector in Comox Valley Regional District

Sector	With Employees			Without Employees*			Total Establishments		
	2008	2013	Change	2008	2013	Change	2008	2013	Change
Construction	409	351	-58	441	498	57	850	849	-1
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	106	118	12	432	477	45	538	595	57
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	223	230	7	323	354	31	546	584	38
Retail Trade	352	341	-11	138	162	24	490	503	13
Health Care and Social Assistance	242	271	29	78	141	63	320	412	92
Other Services (except Public Admin)	221	207	-14	102	145	43	323	352	29
Finance and Insurance	85	92	7	141	175	34	226	267	41
Administrative & Support, Waste Management, Remediation Services	122	109	-13	108	115	7	230	224	-6
Accommodation and Food Services	162	147	-15	80	58	-22	242	205	-37
Transportation and Warehousing	89	77	-12	112	102	-10	201	179	-22
Forestry	81	81	0	107	94	-13	188	175	-13
Manufacturing	88	77	-11	92	84	-8	180	161	-19
Agriculture	47	79	32	46	81	35	93	160	67
Management of Companies & Enterprises	15	14	-1	136	129	-7	151	143	-8
Fishing	23	23	0	115	107	-8	138	130	-8
Wholesale Trade	69	63	-6	82	54	-28	151	117	-34
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	44	41	-3	45	57	12	89	98	9
Education	33	36	3	29	27	-2	62	63	1
Information and Cultural Industries	15	13	-2	22	29	7	37	42	5
Aquaculture	19	15	-4	16	13	-3	35	28	-7
Mining and Oil & Gas	4	6	2	8	18	10	12	24	12
Public Administration	18	14	-4	0	0	0	18	14	-4
Utilities	4	5	1	2	2	0	6	7	1
Comox Valley Total	2,471	2,410	-61	2,655	2,922	267	5,126	5,332	206

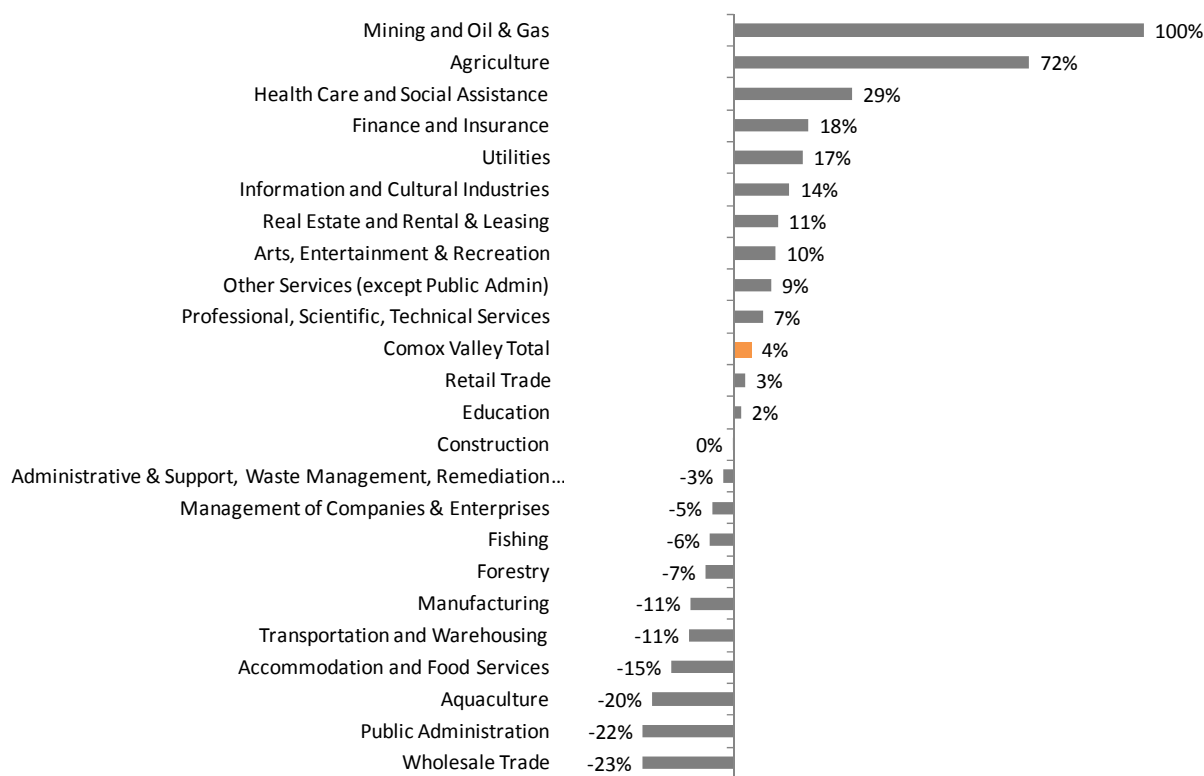
Sources: Statistics Canada, custom data from Canadian Business Patterns for Comox Valley Regional District

*Establishments without employees include the self-employed and companies employing family members or contract workers.

Table 1 above shows that as of December 2013, there were more construction establishments (895) than any other sector, followed by real estate and rental/leasing (595) and then professional, scientific and technical services (584). Among establishments with employee payrolls, retail trade and health care/social assistance rank just behind construction.

The percentage change in the number of establishments in each sector from 2008 to 2013 is shown in the chart below. Overall, the Comox Valley had a 4% increase in the number of business establishments, including a 10% increase in the number of establishments without employees and a 2% decline in the number of establishments with employees.

Percent Change in Number of Business Establishments in the Comox Valley, Dec 2008 to Dec 2013



Note that these changes are only useful for drawing broad conclusions about the regional economy as employment changes within companies are not captured. Similarly a scenario where two self-employed individuals go into business together and add employees will show up as a decrease in the number of separate business establishments, even though total employment and economic activity has increased.

Table 2 shows the detailed industries with the largest increase in number of establishments. By far the biggest increase is "lessors of real estate", which increased by 100 establishments (from 250 to 350).

Several health-related industries have also increased significantly, together with several construction and development-related industries, several agricultural industries, and support services for various resource sectors. The increase in restaurants and some types of retail is likely a response to continued population growth in the region.

Table 2. Industries with Largest Increase in Business Establishments in Comox Valley Regional District, December 2008 to December 2013

Industry	With Employees			Without Employees			Total Establishments		
	2008	2013	Change	2008	2013	Change	2008	2013	Change
Lessors of real estate	35	62	27	215	288	73	250	350	100
Offices of other health practitioners	38	47	9	14	57	43	52	104	52
Other specialty trade contractors	49	52	3	38	74	36	87	126	39
Offices of physicians	87	106	19	31	43	12	118	149	31
Business, professional, labour and other membership organizations	22	27	5	17	41	24	39	68	29
Other financial investment activities	29	35	6	125	142	17	154	177	23
Support activities for forestry	19	31	12	17	27	10	36	58	22
Architectural, engineering and related services	49	50	1	55	74	19	104	124	20
Other crop farming	3	11	8	4	12	8	7	23	16
Other professional, scientific and technical services	20	24	4	33	45	12	53	69	16
Full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places	97	98	1	17	29	12	114	127	13
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	5	13	8	5	9	4	10	22	12
Residential building construction	118	99	-19	116	147	31	234	246	12
Support activities for animal production	3	8	5	3	9	6	6	17	11
Support activities for mining, and oil and gas extraction	2	5	3	3	11	8	5	16	11
Sporting goods, hobby and musical instrument stores	24	24	0	11	22	11	35	46	11

Sources: Statistics Canada, custom data from Canadian Business Patterns for Comox Valley Regional District

Table 3 shows the specific industries with the largest decrease in business establishments from 2008 to 2013. Traveller accommodation has seen the largest change, with a decrease of 46 establishments, including the loss of about three-quarters of establishments without employees. Several other tourism-related industries, including sightseeing transportation and travel arrangement services, also declined (although the latter is likely part of a general trend toward individuals booking their own travel online).

Whereas the previous table showed growth in several resource sector support services, there were declines in the core resource industries of logging and fishing, as well as sawmills. It may be that businesses formerly directly involved in logging, for example, have transitioned into forestry support services.

Table 2 on the previous page also showed growth in several construction and development-related sectors, but there are other several related industries listed below that had a decline in establishments.

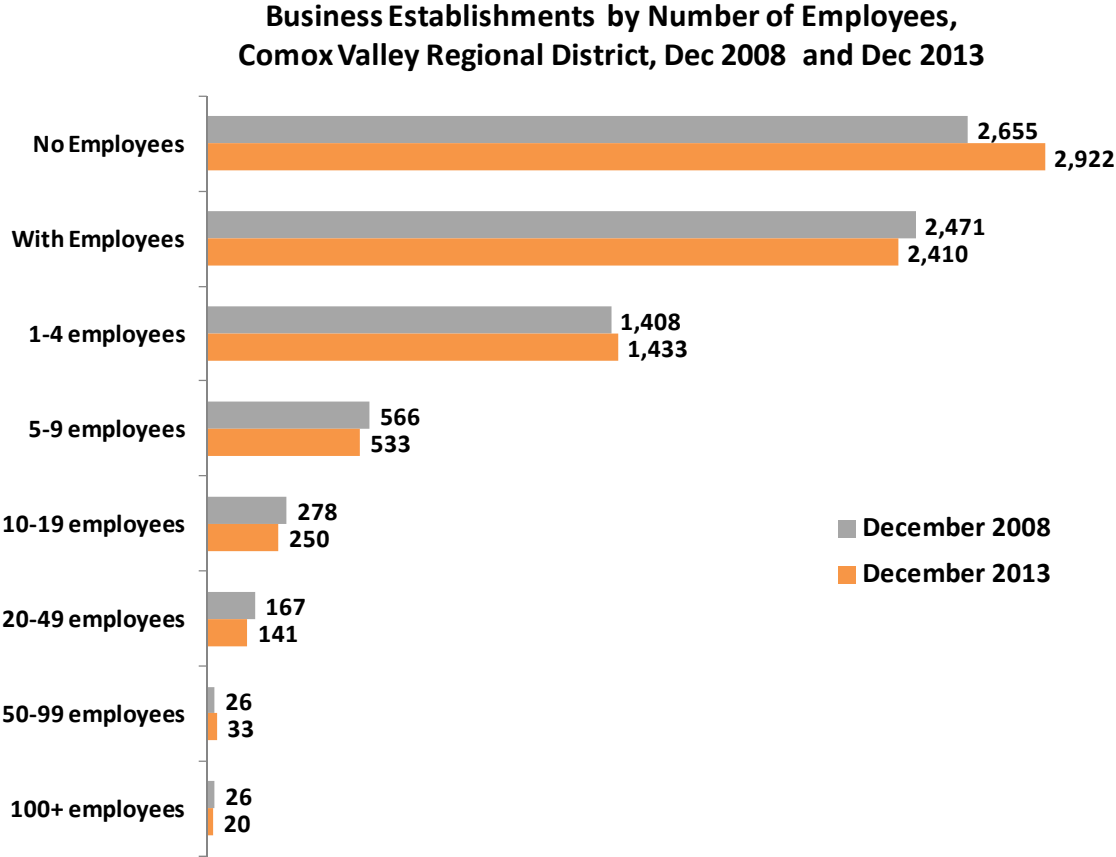
Table 3. Industries with Largest Decrease in Business Establishments in Comox Valley Regional District, December 2008 to December 2013

Industry	With Employees			Without Employees			Total Establishments		
	2008	2013	Change	2008	2013	Change	2008	2013	Change
Traveller accommodation	34	20	-14	43	11	-32	77	31	-46
Offices of real estate agents and brokers	26	20	-6	145	111	-34	171	131	-40
Logging	61	48	-13	89	65	-24	150	113	-37
Private households	28	7	-21	3	2	-1	31	9	-22
Foundation, structure, and building exterior contractors	62	43	-19	39	39	0	101	82	-19
Land subdivision	11	8	-3	79	65	-14	90	73	-17
Building equipment contractors	67	59	-8	41	35	-6	108	94	-14
Consumer goods rental	11	7	-4	11	3	-8	22	10	-12
Sawmills and wood preservation	10	6	-4	13	7	-6	23	13	-10
Scenic and sightseeing transportation, water	8	2	-6	13	10	-3	21	12	-9
Travel arrangement and reservation services	11	6	-5	13	10	-3	24	16	-8
Services to buildings and dwellings	64	62	-2	48	42	-6	112	104	-8
Management of companies and enterprises	15	14	-1	136	129	-7	151	143	-8
Fishing	23	23	0	115	107	-8	138	130	-8
Computer systems design and related services	26	26	0	40	32	-8	66	58	-8

Sources: Statistics Canada, custom data from Canadian Business Patterns for Comox Valley Regional District

It was shown earlier in Table 1 that the Comox Valley had an increase in the number of business establishments with no employees and a slight drop in the number of establishments with employees between 2008 and 2013.

The chart below shows a further breakdown of the changes according to the number of employees in each establishment.



There was a small increase in the smallest businesses (with 1 to 4 employees) and a healthy increase (from 26 to 33) in the number of establishments with 50 to 99 employees. All other employee size ranges were lower in 2013 compared to five years earlier.

Finally, Table 4 shows the most common industry type for each employee range in the Comox Valley. The employee ranges include both full-time and part-time workers.

Table 4. Most Common Industries in each Employment Range, Comox Valley Regional District, December 2013

Employee Range	Industry	Number of Establishments
No Employees	Lessors of real estate	288
	Residential building construction	147
	Other financial investment activities	142
1-4 Employees	Offices of physicians	87
	Residential building construction	69
	Lessors of real estate	54
5-9 Employees	Full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places	27
	Residential building construction	21
	Automotive repair and maintenance	20
10-19 Employees	Full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places	23
	Offices of physicians	9
	Grocery stores	7
	Gasoline stations	7
20-49 Employees	Full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places	17
	Health and personal care stores	8
	Depository credit intermediation	7
50-99 Employees	Grocery stores	4
	Full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places	3
	Support activities for forestry	2
	Lumber, millwork, hardware & other building supplies merchant wholesalers	2
100+ Employees	Grocery stores	2
	Other local, municipal and regional public administration	2
	Building material and supplies dealers	2
	Other amusement and recreation industries	2
	Department stores	2

Sources: Statistics Canada, custom data from Canadian Business Patterns for Comox Valley Regional District