



Good Employment News for 2019?

Employment statistics resonate deeply with many people, and it's no wonder—on average, Canadian employees spend about 20% of their time working, and almost three quarters of Canadians' total income is earned through employment. Income is a substantial determinant of personal well-being and a skilled and engaged workforce is key to regional economic success.

According to recently-released [data](#), unemployment rates for the Kootenay region are now the lowest since at least 2001. This is welcome news for our region as we look to the year ahead. The unemployment rate in the Kootenay economic region decreased from 7.3% in 2017 to 5.3% in 2018. Notable improvements were also seen in the Thompson-Okanagan region (from 7.1% in 2017 to 6.1% in 2018), the Cariboo region (from 7.4% in 2017 to 5.6% in 2018) and most other parts of BC. For an analysis of unemployment in past years, check out the [2017 State of the Basin](#) report.

Although unemployment numbers are currently promising, it is important to note that employment is multifaceted and often complex. For example, from 2017 to 2018, employment rates and labour force participation rates in all three Basin-Boundary economic regions declined alongside the unemployment rate, indicating that relatively fewer people are employed or looking for work. The overall number of employed people also declined slightly.

The trade and health care/social assistance industries continue to lead employment in our region, with combined employment in these industries accounting for 27-33% of positions, depending on the economic region. For comparison, the same industries account for 28% of employment at the provincial scale. Compared to the provincial average, our region tends to

have fewer people employed in the services sector and more people employed in goods-producing industries.

We sincerely hope the favourable unemployment rate in our region will be a positive indicator for social and personal well-being in 2019. Happy New Year from all of us at the RDI!

Community-Based Research Internship Opportunity!

Students and community-based organizations are invited to apply to the Teck Serv internship program. This annual fund supports a Selkirk College student to undertake a community-based research project for a non-profit organization in the West Kootenay Boundary region. Applications are due February 15, 2019. Visit <http://selkirk.ca/about-us/research/teck-serv-applied-research-internship> for details.



Selkirk College RDI Focus is a monthly e-blast highlighting stories of well-being in our region. You are receiving this email because you have attended an RDI event or have subscribed to receive updates on RDI.

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