

Labour Force

LABOUR FORCE INDICATORS

Fernie had a labour force of 2,665 people, with 260 people unemployed, as of the 2001 Census (which is the only source of detailed labour force data at the community level). Fernie's labour force participation rate is higher than the surrounding region and the province, suggesting an active and involved community.

LABOUR FORCE INDICATORS, 2001			
	FERNIE	EKRD	BC
Labour Force	2,665	30,170	2,059,950
Employed	2,405	27,280	1,883,975
Unemployed	260	2,890	175,975
Participation rate	70.5%	66.4%	65.2%
Unemployment rate	9.7%	9.6%	8.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census



LABOUR FORCE BY INDUSTRY

Fernie's thriving tourism industry is reflected in the industries that generate the most jobs within the city. Accommodation and food services account for more than one-quarter of Fernie jobs, compared to less than 10% of jobs in British Columbia. Fernie also has a higher-than-average concentration of jobs in health care and social services, reflecting the community's evolution as a service centre for the Elk Valley.

JOBS IN FERNIE, 2001				
	FERNIE		EKRD	BC
	#	%	%	%
Accommodation and food services	690	26%	14%	9%
Retail trade	380	14%	13%	13%
Health care and social assistance	355	13%	9%	11%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	190	7%	4%	2%
Educational services	185	7%	6%	7%
Construction	110	4%	4%	3%
Finance and insurance	105	4%	3%	4%
Public administration	95	4%	5%	6%
TOTAL	2,110	100%	100%	100%

The two previous tables show different sides of the labour force. The first table shows a labour force of 2,665 Fernie residents, while the second table shows 2,110 jobs that are physically located in Fernie. This indicates a close balance between the number of jobs available in Fernie and the number of residents in the labour force, which is unlike some communities that either export or import large numbers of workers each day.



LABOUR FORCE BY OCCUPATION

The occupational profile of Fernie residents is similar to the rest of the East Kootenay region and the province. Of note, Fernie has more residents working in management and health occupations.

LABOUR FORCE BY OCCUPATION, 2001				
	FERNIE		EKRD	BC
	#	%	%	%
Sales and service occupations	725	27%	25%	25%
Trades, transport equipment operators and related occupations	540	20%	22%	14%
Management occupations	345	13%	10%	11%
Business, finance and administration occupations	280	10%	13%	17%
Health occupations	185	7%	4%	5%
Social science, education, government service and religion	185	7%	6%	8%
Occupations unique to primary industry	135	5%	8%	4%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	85	3%	2%	3%
TOTAL RESIDENT LABOUR FORCE	2,480	100%	100%	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

WORKING AT HOME

More than 200 Fernie residents worked at home in 2001, representing 8.5% of total working residents. This is similar to the BC rate, suggesting that there are no technological or other business support limitations in Fernie relative to any other BC community. More than twice as many Fernie residents work at home as residents of the neighbouring communities of Kimberley and Elkford.

Just over two-thirds of working Fernie residents worked in Fernie, which is substantially higher than most other communities where residents commute to other municipalities to work.

WORKING AT HOME, 2001				
	FERNIE		EKRD	BC
	#	%	%	%
At home	205	8.5%	8.1%	9.1%
Total in Home Community	1,650	68.5%	57.7%	47.5%
TOTAL EMPLOYED RESIDENTS	2,410	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Fernie labour force has slightly more university education than the rest of the East Kootenay region. There is a nearly identical rate of post secondary certificates and diplomas, which includes most trades training.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, LABOUR FORCE AGED 25-64, 2001				
	FERNIE		EKRD	BC
	#	%	%	%
Less than High School Diploma	375	17.4%	20.1%	16.3%
High School Diploma Only	300	13.9%	12.6%	12.0%
Some Post Secondary	215	10.0%	10.8%	11.8%
Post Secondary Certificate/Diploma	955	44.2%	44.3%	37.8%
University Bachelor Degree	255	11.8%	9.2%	14.9%
University Graduate Degree/Certificate	60	2.8%	3.0%	7.1%
TOTAL	2,160	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

POST-SECONDARY SPECIALIZATION

More than one-quarter of Fernie residents with post-secondary training received specific training in applied science technologies and trades. Significantly more Fernie residents have training in health and education than in the rest of the province or East Kootenay region.

POST-SECONDARY SPECIALIZATION, 2001				
	FERNIE		EKRD	BC
	#	%	%	%
Applied science technologies and trades	430	26%	32%	21%
Commerce, management and business administration	290	18%	19%	21%
Health professions and related technologies	290	18%	12%	12%
Educational, recreational and counselling services	265	16%	13%	11%
Social sciences and related fields	110	7%	6%	9%
Fine and applied arts	95	6%	5%	6%
Engineering and applied sciences	65	4%	3%	5%
Agricultural, biological, nutritional, and food sciences	55	3%	5%	5%
Humanities and related fields	40	2%	3%	6%
Mathematics, computer and physical sciences	25	2%	2%	4%
TOTAL	1,655	100%	100%	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census