Location and climate

Vancouver is located in the southwest corner of Canada in the province of British Columbia, at about 49° Latitude and 123° Longitude, next to the Pacific Ocean. Vancouver is surrounded by water on three sides and overlooked by the Coast Range mountains that rise abruptly to more than 1,500m. Its climate is one of the mildest in Canada. Temperatures average 3°C in January and 18°C in July. Vancouver's average annual precipitation is 1,219 mm. Most rainfall occurs in winter.

Population

With a population of about 545,675, Vancouver lies in a region of more than 2 million people. Vancouver is the largest city in the province of British Columbia and the third largest in Canada. It covers an area of 114 sq km.

Economy

As the main western terminus of Canada's transcontinental highway and rail network, Vancouver is the primary city of western Canada, as well as one of the nation's largest industrial centres. The Port of Vancouver is Canada's largest and most diversified port, trading more than $43 billion in goods with more than 90 trading partners annually. Port activities generate 69,200 jobs in total with $4 billion in gross domestic product and $8.9 billion in economic output. Vancouver's central area has 60% of the region's office space and is home to headquarters of forest products and mining companies as well as branches of national and international banks, accounting and law firms. In recent years, Vancouver has expanded as a centre for software development, biotechnology and the film industry. Two of the Port of Vancouver's container docks are located in the city. The Fraser River has barge and log traffic serving forestry and other water related industries. Around 1,800 acres of industrial land provide an important range of support services, manufacturing and wholesale premises for businesses throughout the city and region.

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