



65% of respondents perceive BC's economy to be "excellent" or "good."

↓ from **71%** in 2017

CPA respondents' predictions for BC's economy **over the next two years:**

23% believe it will grow faster than the Canadian average.

CPA respondents' predictions:

- Stay the same: 49%
- Worsen: 30%
- No opinion: 4%
- Improve: 17%

BC's TOP 3 challenges to business success:

- 1 Ability to attract and retain high caliber employees/skilled labour
- 2 Government red tape
- 3 Personal taxation level

BC's TOP 3 economic issues:

- 1 Housing prices
- 2 Barriers to trade
- 3 Current Value of CAD vs. USD

73% of respondents say their business has challenges finding employees with the right skills.

85% of respondents believe housing prices are a challenge in BC.

TOP 3 ways the Employer Health Tax will affect BC businesses:

- 1 Increase costs of doing business
- 2 Reduce other employee benefits
- 3 Shift from full-time employment to contract/temporary hiring

TOP 3 actions to minimize the impact of the Employer Health Tax on BC businesses:

- 1 Postpone implementation until 2020
- 2 Apply a base exemption
- 3 Create a fairer split between businesses and individuals

1/3 of respondents think BC's tax rates and incentives are competitive.

Significantly lower than in 2017 (**47%**)

TOP 4 priorities to improve BC's economy:

- 1 Invest in infrastructure
- 2 Improve regional economic development
- 3 Reduce government red tape
- 4 Increase skills training opportunities

2018 Business Outlook Survey respondents

Who are they?
2,121
CPABC members

Where are they from?

- Mainland/Southwest BC = **68%**
- Vancouver Island/Coast = **18%**
- Thompson-Okanagan = **8%**
- Other BC regions = **6%**

Where do they work?

- Industry = **52%**
- Public practice = **26%**
- Government = **11%**
- Not-for-profit = **4%**
- Other = **7%**