

Executive Summary

Abbotsford has grown from a small town in the early 1900's to the fifth largest community in the Province of British Columbia. Agriculture has been driving that growth and continues to provide stable, expanding support for the local economy. In 2008, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce endeavored to discover the significance of its Agriculture sector by answering these questions: What does Agriculture contribute to the Abbotsford economy? How many jobs does Agriculture support?

The resulting report titled, "The Economic Impact of Agriculture in Abbotsford (market-based goods and services)," based on the 2006 Census of Agriculture results, found that agriculture drove \$1.8 Billion in economic activity and supported 11,000 full time equivalent jobs in Abbotsford. These jobs represented 1/5 of all jobs in Abbotsford and 1/4 of all private sector jobs in Abbotsford at that time.

The study is based on 2019 Statistics Canada data, 2020 surveying of local farms and agriculture businesses, and using the results of the 2020 Agriculture Land Use Inventory to determine the economic impact of Agriculture to the local economy.

The high-level results indicate that:

Agriculture is responsible for \$3.83 billion in economic activity and over 16,000 full time equivalent jobs.

Today, **Agriculture in Abbotsford** supports **\$3.83 billion** in economic activity vs **\$1.8 Billion in 2008** and **Over 16,000 Full Time Equivalent Jobs** vs **11,000 in 2008**

In Abbotsford, according to the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 16,000 full time jobs represents 23% of all jobs in Abbotsford and 29% of all private sector jobs in Abbotsford.

Today, **Agriculture** supports **23% of all jobs in Abbotsford**

compared to **20% in 2008**, and

29% of private sector jobs in Abbotsford compared to **25% in 2008**



The pace of growth in agriculture is driving these results. This report shows that, from 2005 to 2019, the compounded annual growth rate of agriculture (inflation removed) was 3.49%.

In comparison, the compounded annual growth rate of the population was 1.26%. This indicates that the Agriculture sector grew twice as fast as the population of Abbotsford over the last 15 years.

The Agriculture sector has grown **twice** as fast as the population of Abbotsford over **the last 15 years**

The 'hub' effect of Abbotsford has increased with **45%** of its agribusiness activity driven by farms outside of the City vs **40% in 2008**

Abbotsford continues to be the hub for agri-businesses and value-added activities in the Fraser Valley. Forty-five percent of the agri-business and value-added activity in Abbotsford is supported by farms outside of Abbotsford.

Consequently,

Abbotsford relies more on Agriculture today to drive the economy and employ their citizens than it did 15 years ago.

