

Ideas make our future.



Economy

BACKGROUNDER



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What is an Official Community Plan?

The Province of B.C. Local Government Act (the Act) states that an OCP is a statement of objectives and policies to guide planning and land use decisions within the area covered by the plan, respecting the purposes of local government. The “purpose of local government” are outlined in Part 1 of the Act, and include:

- ✓ providing good government for its community;
- ✓ providing the services and other things that the local government considers necessary or desirable for all or part of its community;
- ✓ providing stewardship of the public assets of its community; and
- ✓ fostering the current future economic, social, and environmental well-being of its community.

Provincial legislation (Local Government Act) outlines the purpose, required content and discretionary content of an Official Community Plan (OCP). The purpose of an OCP, under this legislation, is described as a "statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management". For more information on the Local Government Act and official community plans, check out this link and look for **Division 4, section 471:**

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/r15001_14

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How does an Official Community Plan (OCP) help us reach our community goals?

An OCP provides a blueprint for decision-making. All municipal policies, plans, and regulations must be in alignment with the OCP. So, it is a valuable guide to support and coordinate all District activities so that the community moves forward in a coordinated fashion. Once adopted by Council, an OCP does not prevent change to the plan based on emergent issues or new information. In this way, an OCP is referred to as a "living document".

Why is our Official Community Plan (OCP) important?

The OCP reflects the community's vision, values and priorities for the long term. By setting out a clear path forward today, we can collectively steer toward a coordinated and planned future that is more sustainable, resilient and provides a high quality of life for everyone.

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What is involved in an Official Community Plan (OCP) review?

An Official Community Plan review is an opportunity for Port Hardy to ensure that the vision and goals for the community are still important to the community. Since an official community plan is a long-term guiding document for the future of a community it is important that everything stated in the plan is still relevant to the community and is based on up to date information. So, we will be hosting a series of events for community members and stakeholders to provide their ideas, hopes and values on a range of topics affecting our community.

About the Official Community Plan review...

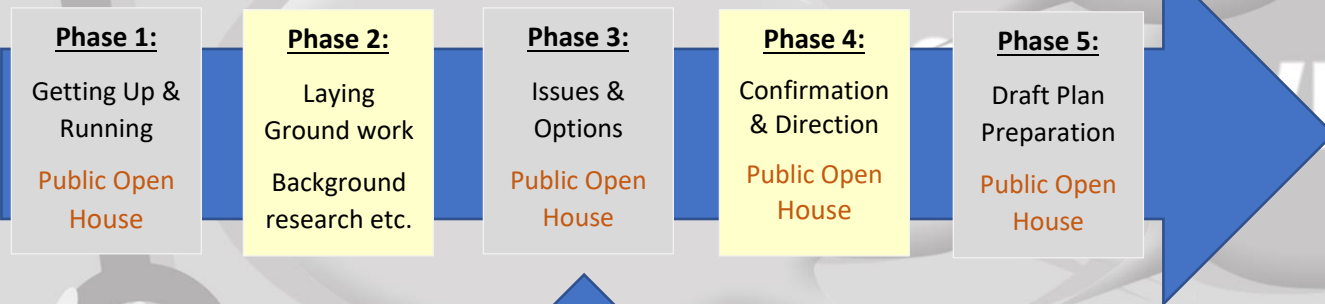
Starting in February this year, the District of Port Hardy began a review of the Official Community Plan (OCP). Port Hardy's current plan was adopted by Council in 2011. It is important that the plan be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure it continues to reflect the values, vision, and aspirations of the community. The review process is anticipated to take just over one year with the adoption of an Official Community Plan in late 2021.

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Project Arc:

Opportunity for public to provide input & help shape the document through email and written format runs for the entire project & is on top of formal open house & other events



We are here

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Key Facts:

OCPs have a structure that applies to each topic or subject area such as the environment for example. Each section includes a list of one or more goals, and one or more objectives related to each goal, followed by one or more policies. It is important to note that OCP policy is different than regulation, like a zoning bylaw for example. OCP policy is meant to inform decision making rather than regulate both for Council and the community in relation to matters contained in the OCP.

One measure of good policy is that it is capable of being actioned by the District and that the outcomes can be measured. Although this is not always achievable, it is a helpful target.

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A Sustainability Lens

Sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. A cornerstone of sustainability is the recognition that all aspects of society and the natural environment are interconnected. So, there are four primary realms of sustainability: economic, social, cultural, and environmental. Sustainability planning helps communities realize their visions for a sustainability and provides the framework to integrate sustainability thinking into every day decision-making.

The District of Port Hardy has considered its future through a “sustainability” lens in its current Official Community Plan. Sustainability seeks to identify and speak to economic, cultural, environmental and social components.

economy

A resilient economy that is inclusive, and attracts investment, business and workers

environment

A resilient community that grows without negatively impacting a healthy ecosystem & biological diversity

SUSTAIN - ability

social

impacts of processes, organizations, and activities on people to maximize quality of life and equity

cultural

understanding and appreciation of culture & identity while celebrating community heritage

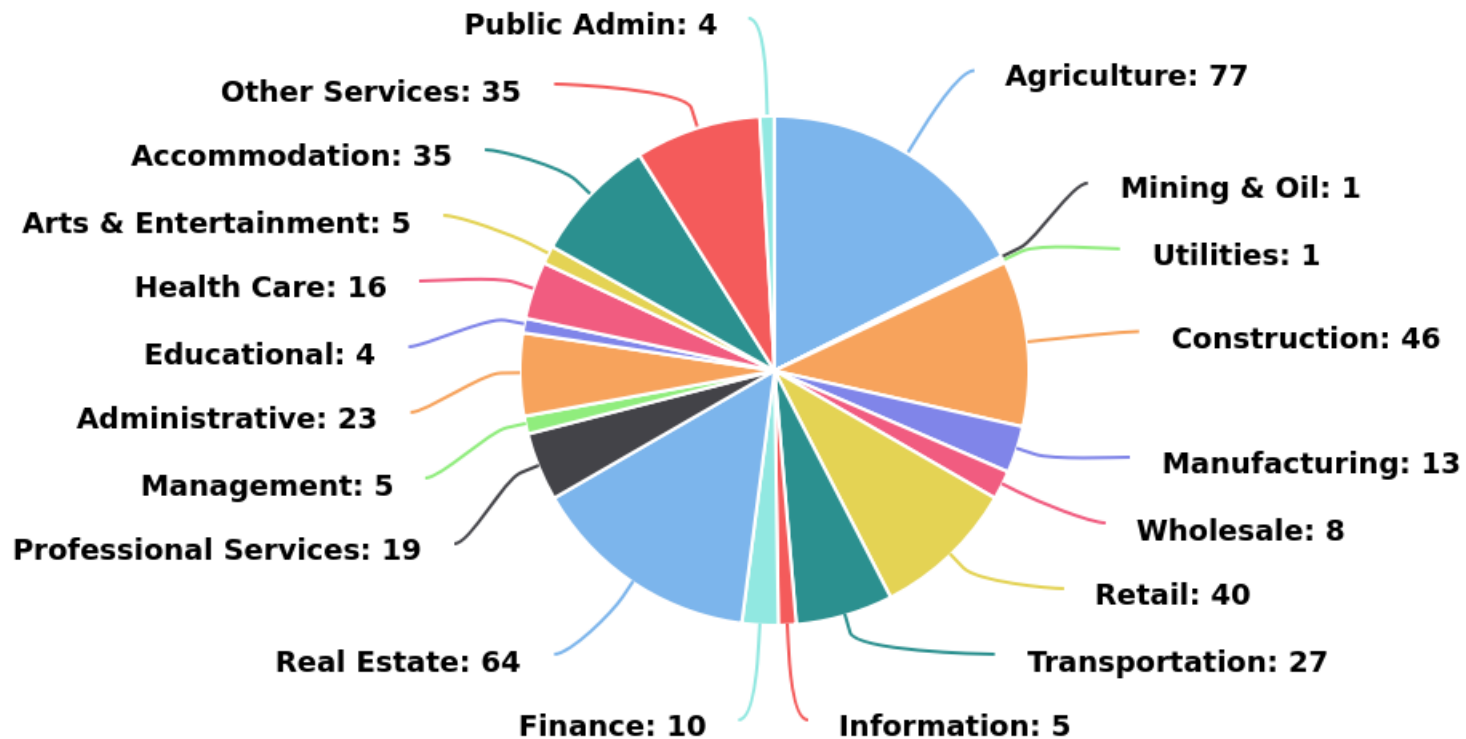
Economic Sustainability:

A healthy local economy is essential for a sustainable and liveable community. It provides the resources to allow residents and the community to prosper. It brings employment and a solid tax base to support services leading to healthier lifestyles and greater opportunities for personal and professional fulfilment. With a strong economy the community can achieve the higher standard of development, provide more services and enjoy an overall higher quality of life. The OCP recognizes the interrelated spheres of the local economy (including the business market, private and public companies, investments and trading), and the social economy (social enterprises, community-based entrepreneurship, social capital and investment).

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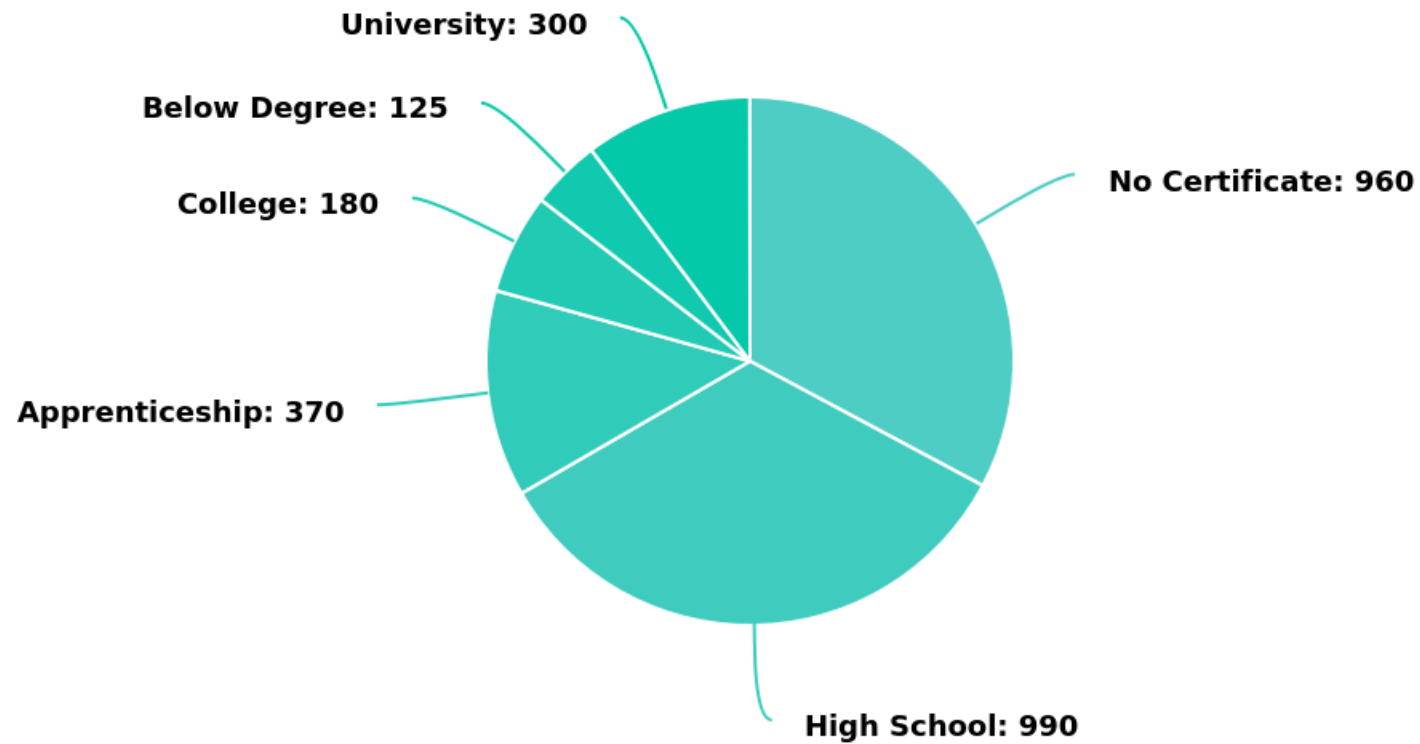
Business Industries



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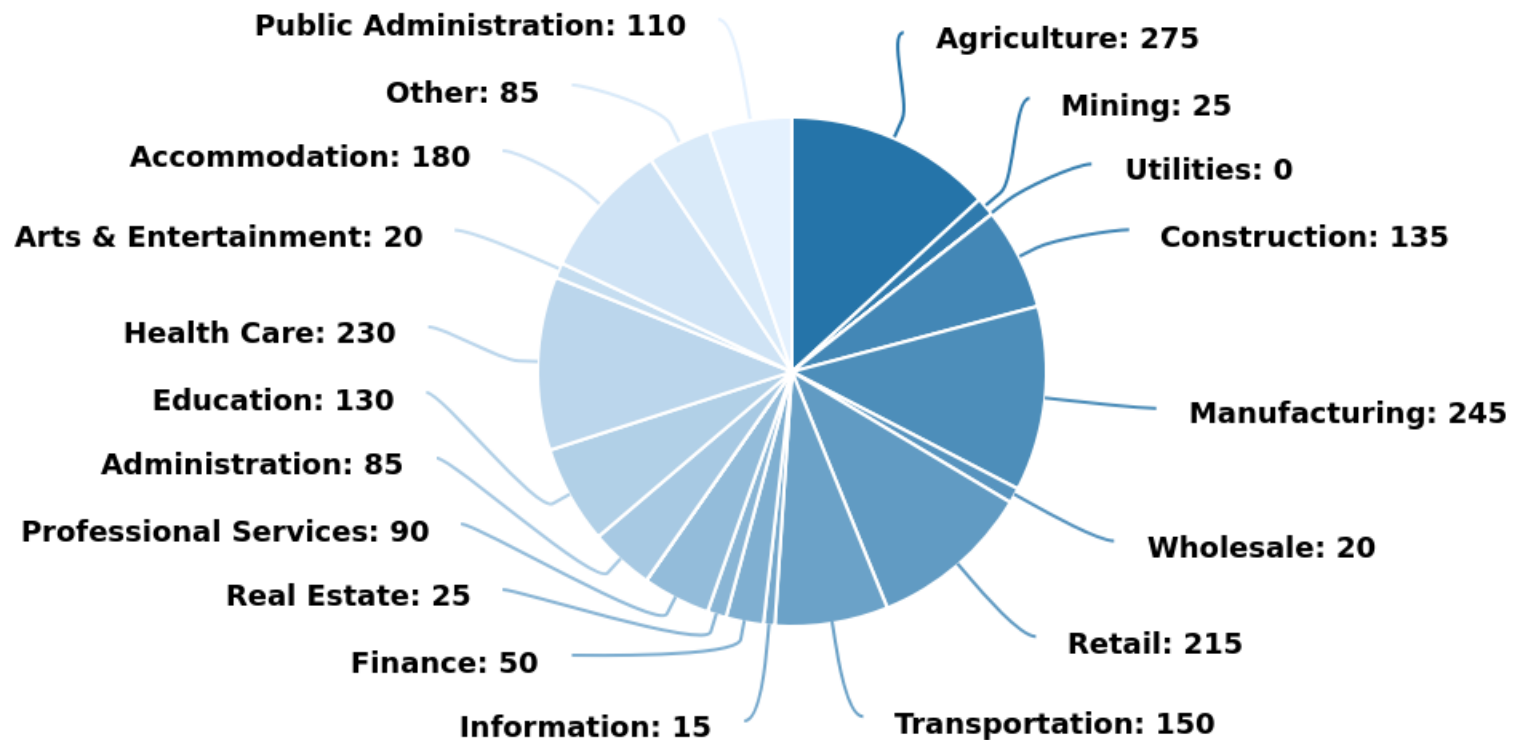
Education



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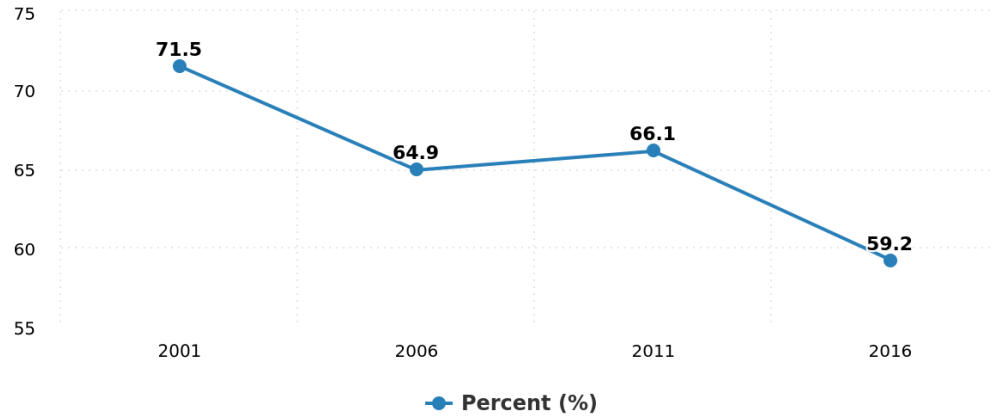
Labour Force by Industry



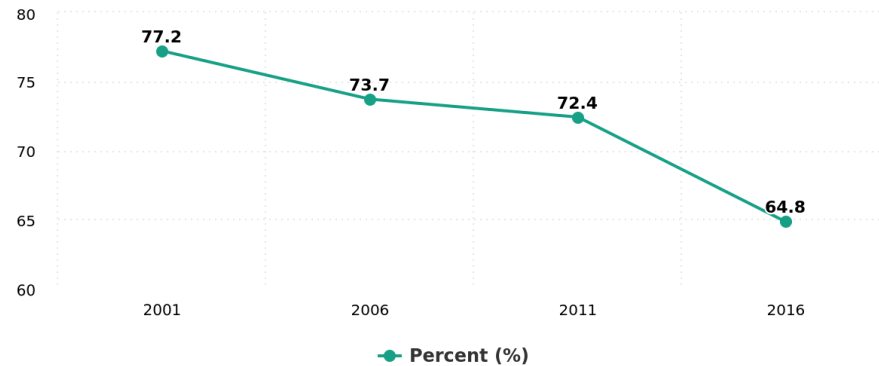
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Employment Rates



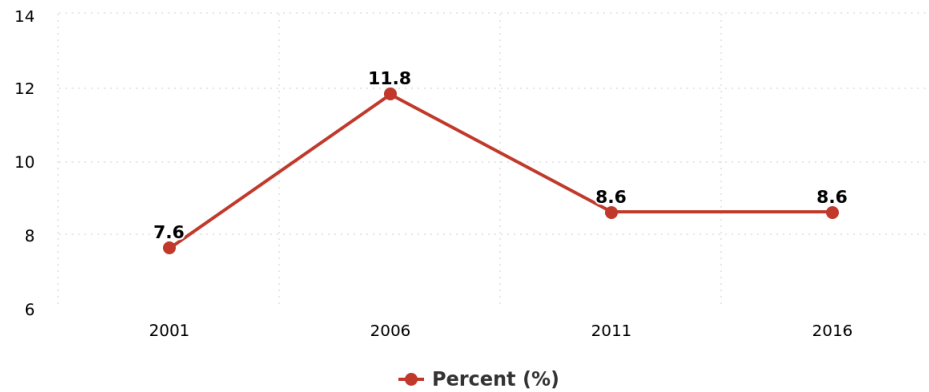
Participation Rates



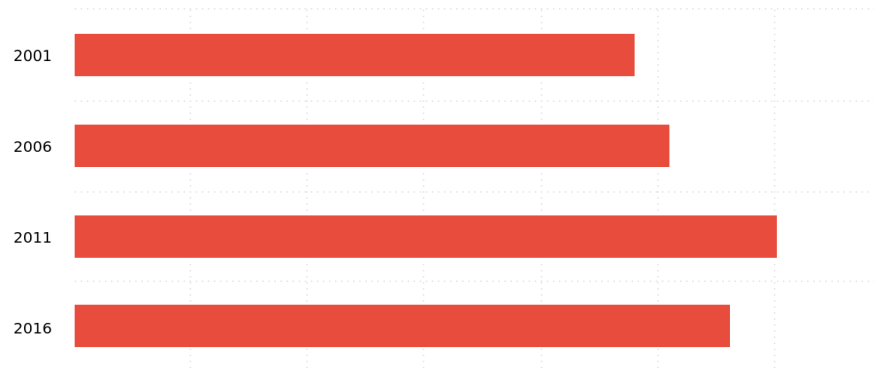
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Unemployment Rates



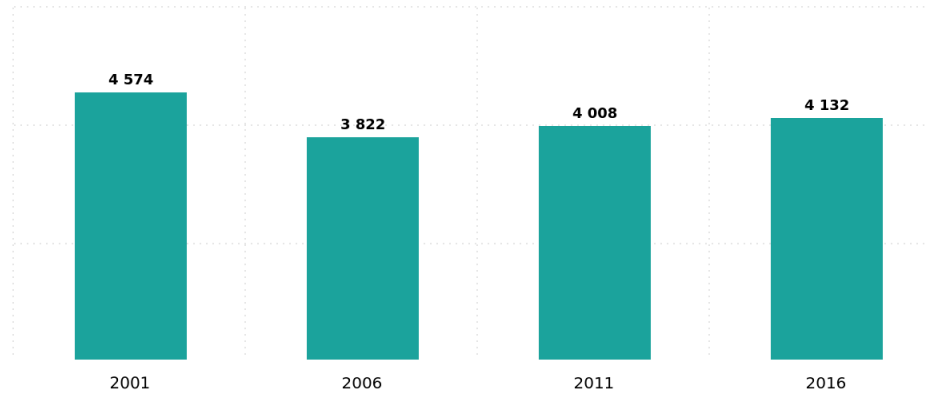
Median Household Income



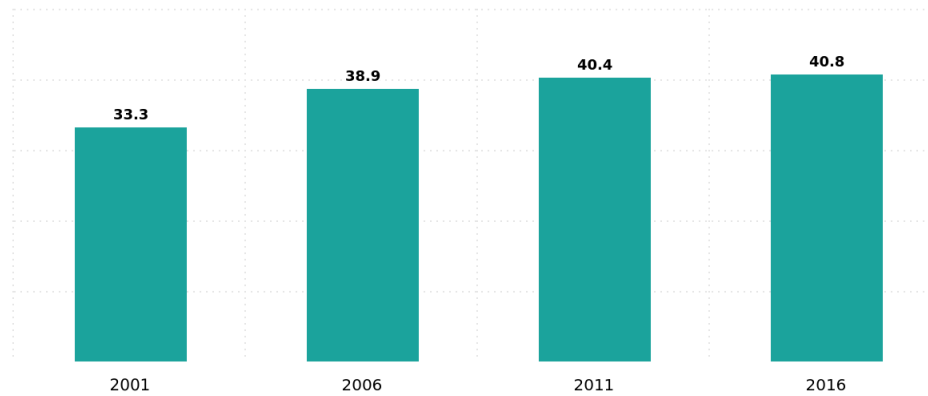
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Population



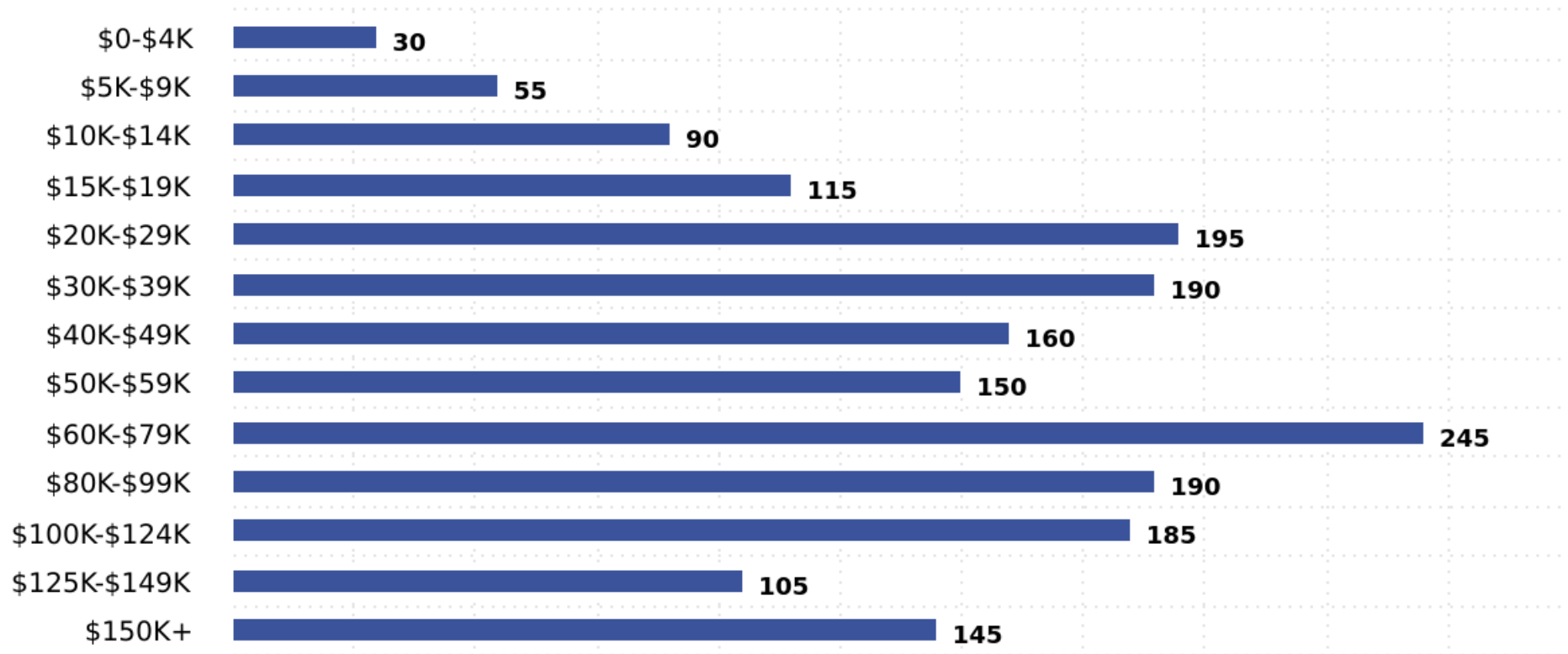
Median Age



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Household Income



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Current Economic OCP Goals:

- ✓ Strengthen partnerships with organizations to promote Port Hardy as a North Island regional hub;
- ✓ Ensure Port Hardy's economy is healthy, vibrant and continues to diversify and grow to provide the community with a solid tax base that allows residents to enjoy an overall higher quality of life;
- ✓ Encourage the expansion of value added local industry;
- ✓ Create a vibrant and well linked downtown core;
- ✓ Encourage the creation of additional tourism based ventures;
- ✓ Encourage the creation of a vibrant and diverse local economy that provides meaningful and year round employment and services;
- ✓ Promote a wide variety of different sizes, scales and types of businesses, which offer greater opportunities for personal and professional fulfilment that in turn contributes to the overall health of the community;
- ✓ Encourage the production of goods and services in the region that are green (e.g. green building, green infrastructure, wood first initiatives, etc.);
- ✓ Promote a strong local food system - organic and holistic to foster health and wellbeing; and
- ✓ Harness the full value of timber resources from the area by encouraging wood related value added manufacturing and small business.

Current Economic OCP Objectives:

- 3.1.1 To broaden the economic base through diversification and expansion of existing and emerging sectors.
- 3.1.2 To encourage enterprise development that results in the creation of a variety of income levels.
- 3.1.3 To encourage year round employment opportunities.
- 3.2.1 To develop strong networks, alliances and partnerships across disciplines and sectors in order to achieve integrated results.
- 3.3.1 To identify strategies and actions that will assist in developing a vibrant downtown area.
- 3.4.1 To identify strategies and actions that will assist in developing year round tourism opportunities.
- 3.4.2 To develop a full-service marine-based tourism industry.

Current Economic OCP Objectives:

- 3.5.1 To conserve and protect Port Hardy resources, amenities and attributes for the benefit of existing and future generations.
- 3.5.3 Employ a cradle-to-cradle approach to resource management and municipal operations.
- 3.6.1 To reduce GHG emissions related to transport of goods and services and personal transportation.
- 3.6.2 To achieve an increase in non-vehicular modes of transportation (walking, cycling and skateboarding, etc.) within a multi-modal system.
- 3.6.3 To investigate sources of funding for transportation infrastructure projects.
- 3.6.4 To recognize the economic viability of an integrated transportation system for the District of Port Hardy.

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Questions for consideration:

OCP Goals:

1. Which GOALS need to be kept and why?
2. Which GOALS need to be deleted and why?
3. Which GOALS need to be modify and why?

OCP Objectives:

1. Which OBJECTIVES need to be kept and why?
2. Which OBJECTIVES need to be deleted and why?
3. Which OBJECTIVES need to be modify and why?

Questions for consideration:

1. What are the most significant issues or trends that impact positively or negatively to achieving a healthy and resilient local economy and how can they be overcome?
2. How active of a role should the District take with respect to the pursuit of economic sustainability and why?
3. How can the existing OCP policies be more effective in addressing economic issues within the District?
4. What resources, collaborations and partnerships are important and achievable with regard to economic sustainability in the District.
5. What are the key economic issues and outcomes must the OCP address?