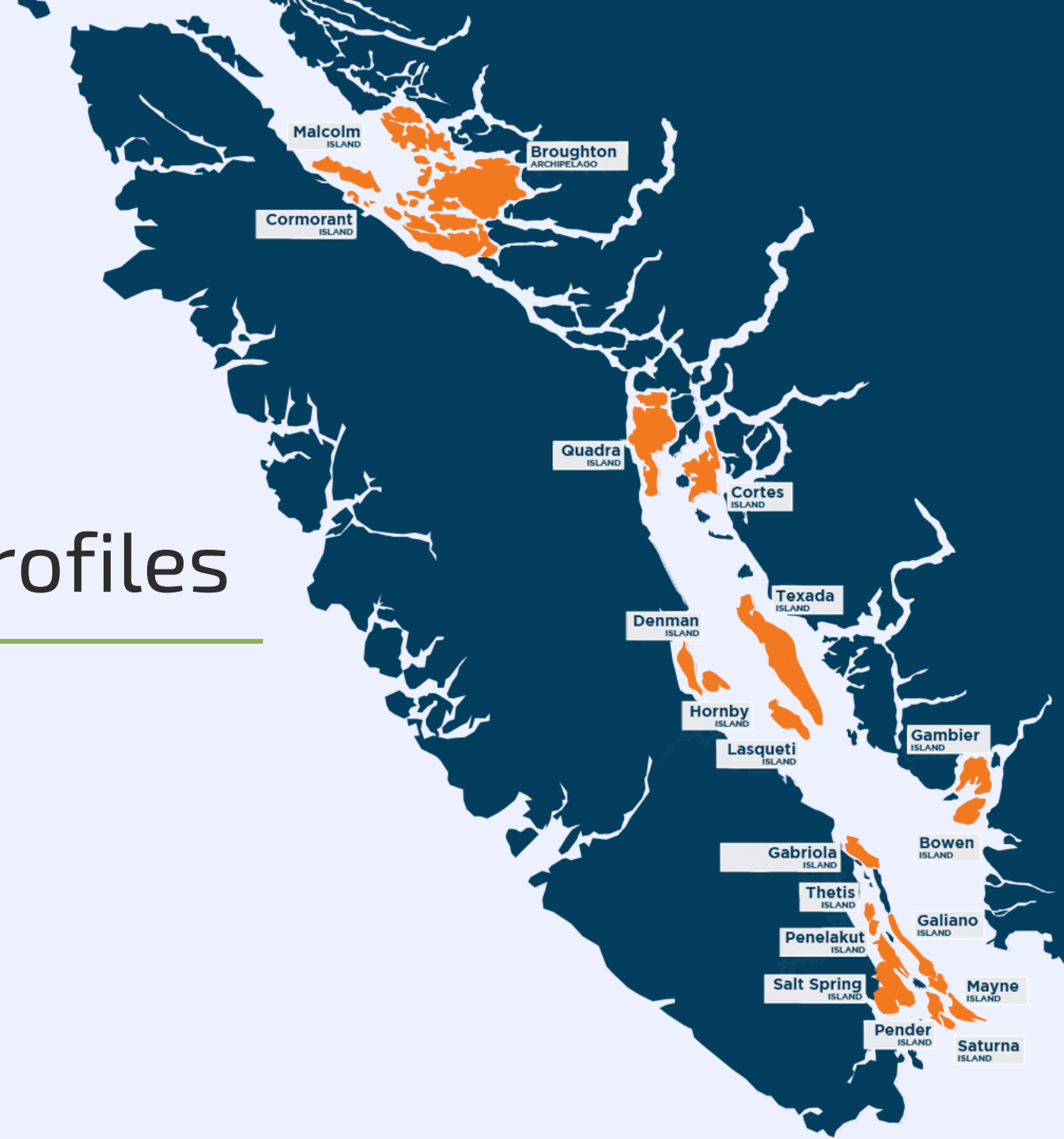
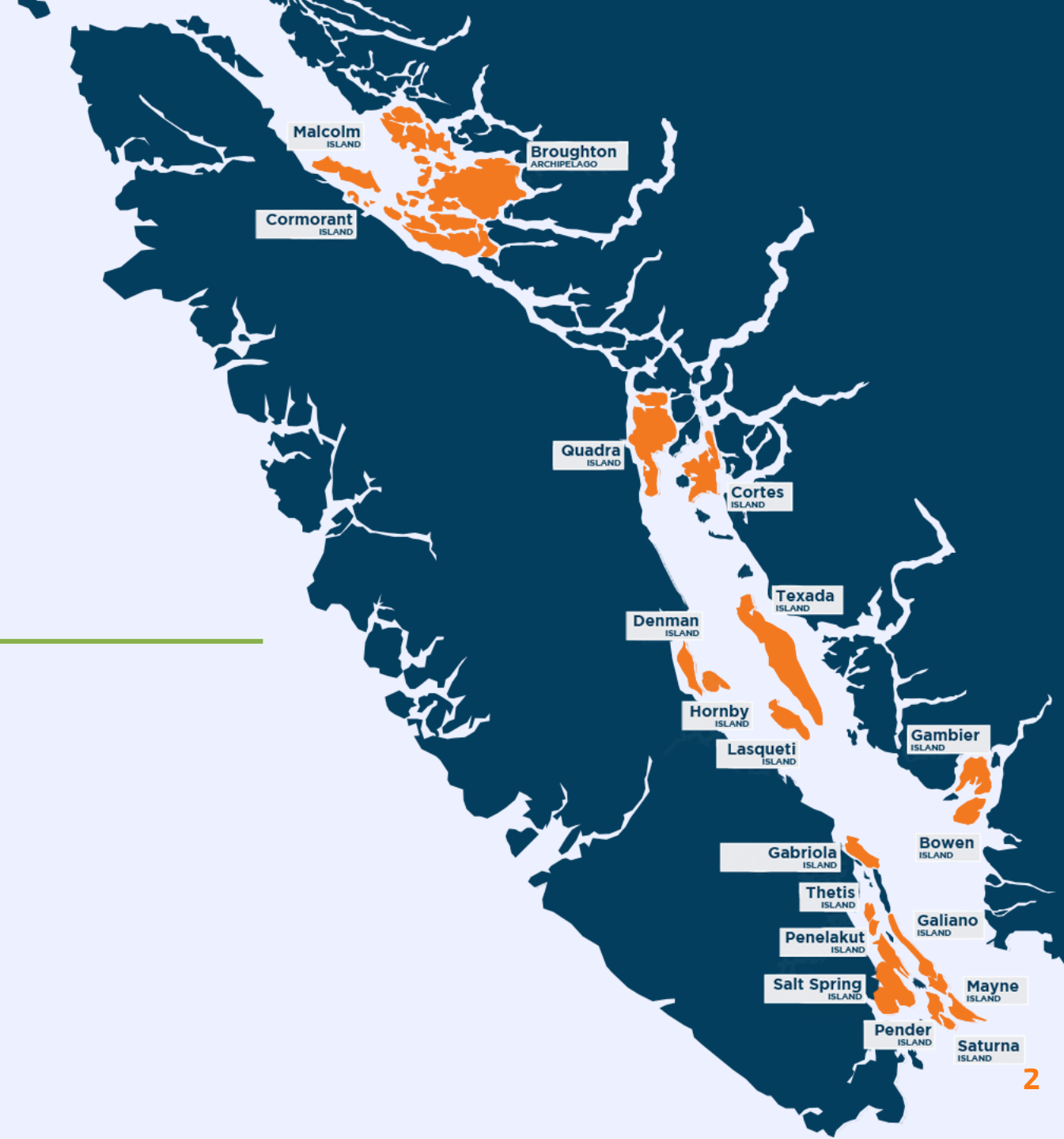


Rural Islands Regional Summary & Profiles

Green Business Accelerator (GBA) project



Rural Islands Regional Summary



Population Change

There has been a net positive increase in population across the Rural Islands. This growth is slightly higher than BC and the rest of Canada. The table below (Source: Statistics Canada) shows the change in population across all three regions.

Population	2011	2016	2021	CAGR
All Rural Islands	32,720	33,568	37,987	1.50%
BC	4,400,057	4,648,055	5,000,879	1.29%
Canada	33,476,688	35,151,728	36,991,981	1.00%

Amongst Rural Islands, the largest growth between 2011 and 2021 was seen on:

- Saturna (3.33% CAGR)
- Denman (3.13% CAGR)
- Hornby (2.49% CAGR)
- Thetis & Penelakut (2.32% CAGR)
- Bowen (2.26% CAGR)

Malcolm and Cormorant Islands saw a net decline in population during this period (-1.15% CAGR and -1.66% CAGR respectively).

Workforce

There has been a net positive increase in the working population across the Rural Islands. This growth is higher than BC and the rest of Canada. The table below (Source: Statistics Canada) shows the change in the working population across all three regions.

	2016	2021	CAGR
All Rural Islands	16,195	17,135	1.13%
BC	2,580,140	2,636,595	0.43%
Canada	19,361,010	19,195,145	-0.17%

Amongst Rural Islands, the largest growth between 2016 and 2021 was seen on:

- Mayne (20.85% CAGR)
- Saturna (6.58% CAGR)
- Galiano (3.31% CAGR)
- Denman (2.93% CAGR)
- Bowen (2.58% CAGR)

The following islands saw marked declines in working population during the study period:

- Cormorant Island (-9.18% CAGR)
- Broughton Archipelago (-6.29% CAGR)
- Gambier Island (-5.59% CAGR)

Note: The census did not collect this data before 2016.

Commuting for Work

	2021 population	%age of Workforce the Commutes
All Rural Islands	17,135	11.06%
BC	2,636,595	27.52%
Canada	19,195,145	23.18%

The Statistics Canada definition of a “commute” is whenever someone has to travel outside of their census area (eg. the island they live on) for work. Rural Island workers are far less likely to commute for work than BC and Canadian workers on average. This is likely because of the expense and difficulty of travel off island for work in most cases.

Recognizing that reducing the commute rates for Rural Island residents is a net positive in that it reduces emissions from travel, keeps more money on the islands and creates more opportunities for local businesses to flourish, some of the initiatives proposed from this research will increase local job creation and likely bring this number of rural island commuters down.

Employer Industries

There are a number of industries that are over-represented (when compared to BC and national averages) on BC's Rural Islands including:

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting
- Construction
- Arts, entertainment and recreation
- Information and cultural industries
- Professional services
- Office administration

The latter three industries are likely overrepresented because they are knowledge-based industries where remote work is more easily enabled than other industries.

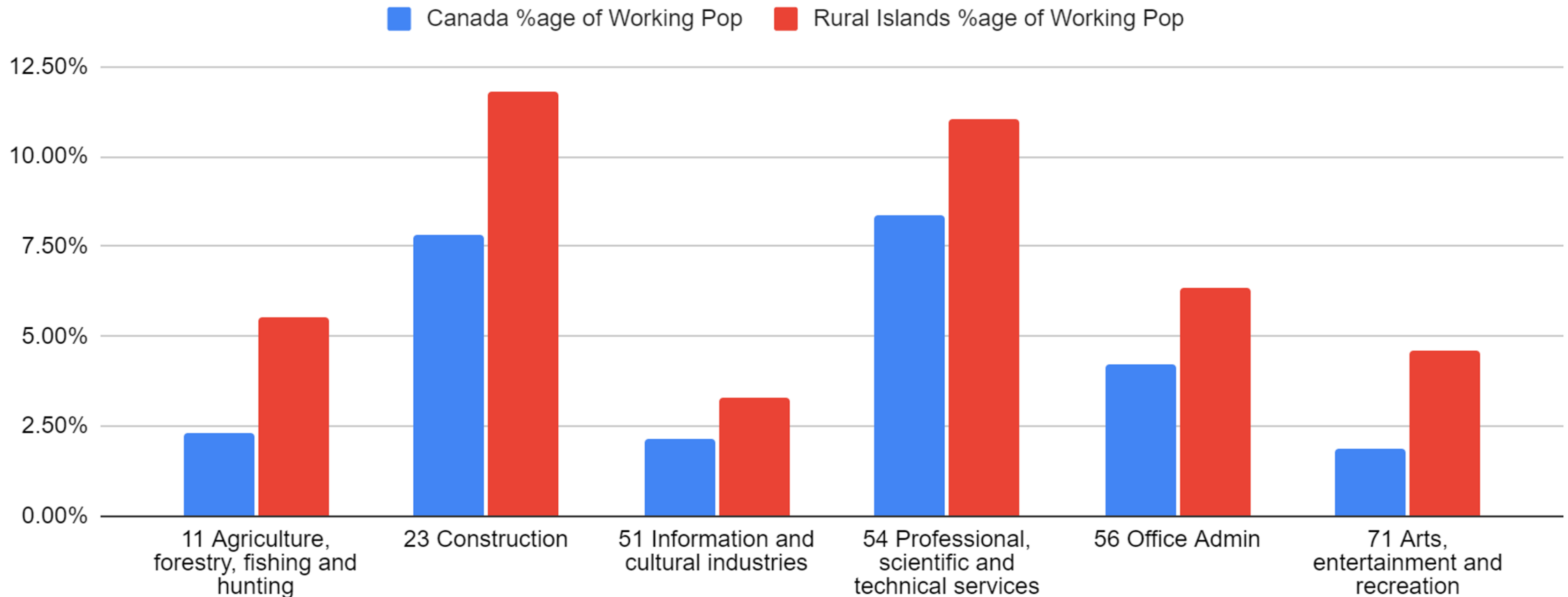
Management of companies and enterprises is not represented on the rural islands because it refers to managing subsidiaries of very large companies or running holding companies. These kinds of businesses tend to be concentrated in major urban areas.

Note: This data (Source: Statistics Canada) is based on employee reporting the industry they work in. There is no way to determine if they are commuting to work or not based on industry.

	BC	%age	Canada	%age	All Rural Islands	%age
All industries	2,603,110		18,823,480		17,675	
11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	60,320	2.32%	434,800	2.31%	975	5.52%
21 Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	24,955	0.96%	239,030	1.27%	150	0.85%
22 Utilities	14,820	0.57%	147,750	0.78%	45	0.25%
23 Construction	234,345	9.00%	1,469,085	7.80%	2085	11.80%
31-33 Manufacturing	152,790	5.87%	1,540,490	8.18%	510	2.89%
41 Wholesale trade	80,165	3.08%	610,295	3.24%	220	1.24%
44-45 Retail trade	301,060	11.57%	2,149,640	11.42%	1705	9.65%
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	142,230	5.46%	981,030	5.21%	855	4.84%
51 Information and cultural industries	71,295	2.74%	400,460	2.13%	585	3.31%
52 Finance and insurance	95,560	3.67%	815,225	4.33%	320	1.81%
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	59,155	2.27%	343,940	1.83%	290	1.64%
54 Professional, scientific and technical services	238,650	9.17%	1,571,160	8.35%	1950	11.03%
55 Management of companies and enterprises	5,785	0.22%	45,455	0.24%	0	0.00%
56 Office Admin	110,215	4.23%	792,600	4.21%	1125	6.36%
61 Educational services	192,855	7.41%	1,413,320	7.51%	1365	7.72%
62 Health care and social assistance	319,525	12.27%	2,446,370	13.00%	1915	10.83%
71 Arts, entertainment and recreation	60,775	2.33%	350,710	1.86%	815	4.61%
72 Accommodation and food services	182,105	7.00%	1,085,270	5.77%	1220	6.90%
81 Other services (except public administration)	113,780	4.37%	797,935	4.24%	735	4.16%
91 Public administration	142,730	5.48%	1,188,915	6.32%	645	3.65%

Employer Industries

Working Population as POP: Canada vs Rural Islands



Local Business

Unfortunately, there is no definitive source of data on Rural Island businesses. We found the following information on the number of businesses on each island from a variety of sources which included:

- Statistics Canada's Canadian Business Counts (2022)
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Google Business Listings

A definitive breakdown of what industries these businesses represent is only available for a subset of the rural islands and therefore not available for analysis as a region.

Island	Number of Businesses
Bowen	679
Broughton Archipelago	26
Cormorant	30
Cortes	39
Denman	68
Gabriola	300
Galiano	115
Gambier	3
Hornby	213
Lasqueti	69
Malcolm	42
Mayne	49
Pender	114
Quadra	102
Saltspring	554
Saturna	33
Texada	27
Thetis & Penelakut	22

Indigenous Population

This project was to determine the scope and scale of Indigenous participation in the Rural Islands Economy. The desk research phase of the work found very little statistical information on the Indigenous peoples of these islands. The table below shows that just over six percent of rural islands residents self-identified as Indigenous in the 2021 Census (Source: Statistics Canada). This is higher than the BC and Canadian averages.

The BC Government shows that there are four significant communities (reserves) in the rural islands which include:

- Penelakut Tribe, part of Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group on Penelakut Island (510 individuals)
- The 'Namgis First Nation in Alert Bay on Cormorant Island (485 individuals)
- Wei Wai Kum Kwiakah Peoples on Quadra Island (125 individuals)
- The Klahoose First Nation on Cortes Island (40 individuals)



Region	POP Indigenous
Rural Islands	6.37%
BC	5.90%
Canada	4.97%

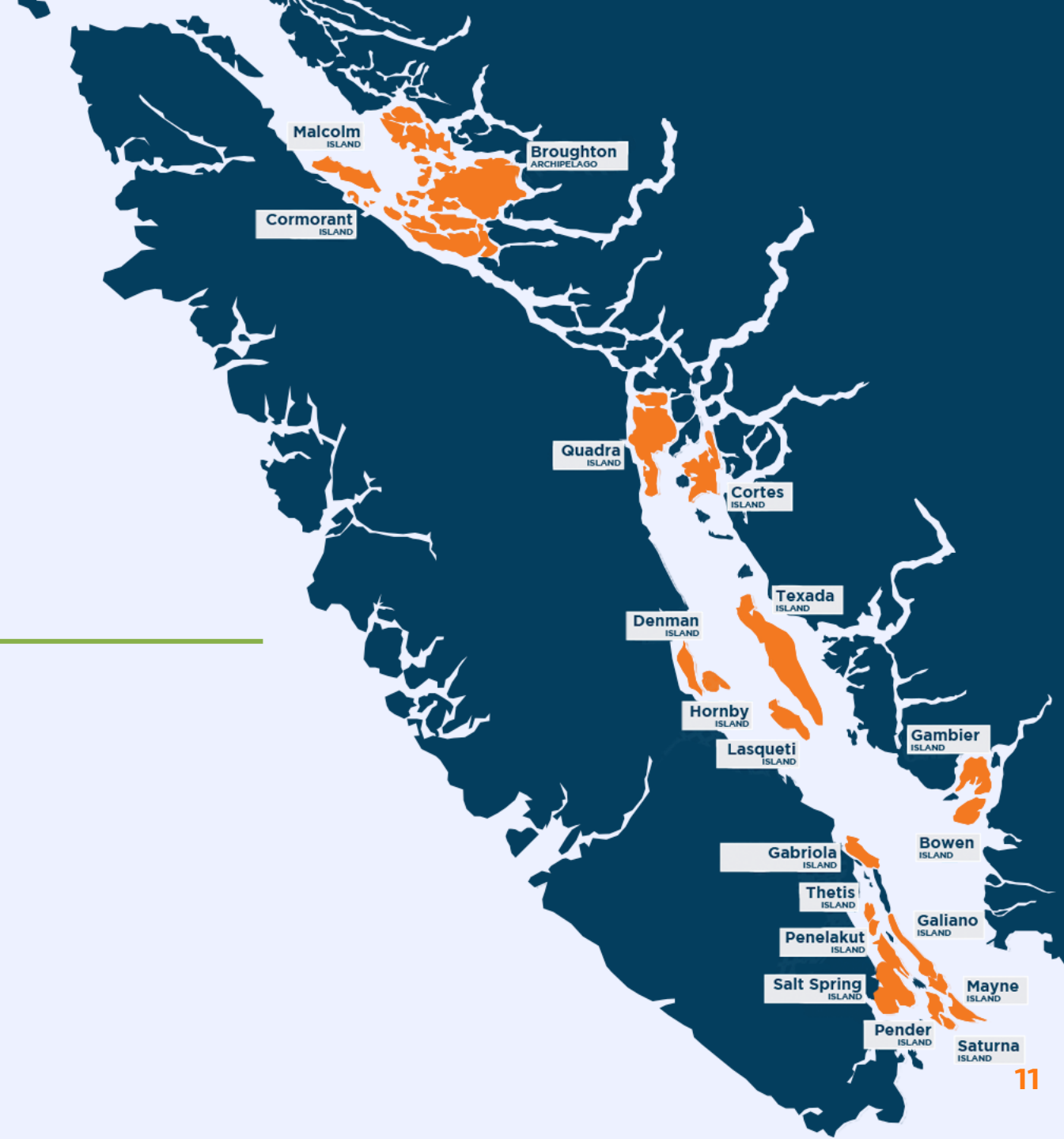
Beyond these basic stats, there is no more publicly available information on Indigenous population on the Rural Islands. Business ownership by Indigenous individuals, for example, is not tracked by the census. The survey sample (n=206) shows that only 1.9% of the respondents are Indigenous. This sample size is far too small to draw any meaningful conclusions about this population.

Age of Residents

Anecdotally, most people in the Rural Islands believe that the population trends older than the rest of BC. For this report, we ran a weighted average and median (by population) from Statistics Canada data to show the Average and Median age of the Rural Islands population. The table below shows that the anecdotes are true. The average and median age of Rural Island residents is higher than the BC population and the rest of Canada.

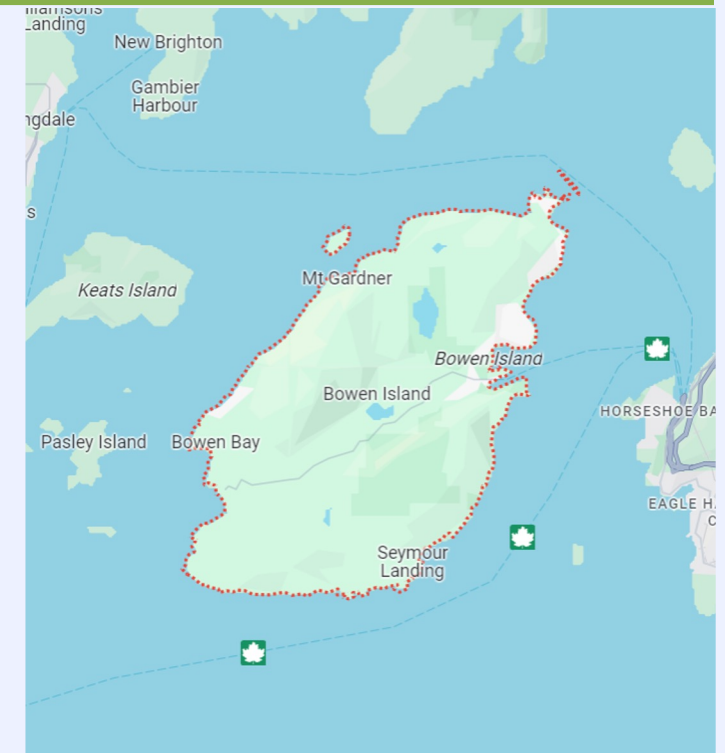
	Average Age	Median Age
Rural Islands	52.2	57.6
BC	43.1	42.8
Canada	41.9	41.6

Rural Islands Profiles



Bowen Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
3402	3680	4256	2.26%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	2100	2385	2.58%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		680	28.51% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	679	



Largest employers of Bowen Island residents:

- Professional Services (n=360)
- Education Services (n=260)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=240)
- Construction (n=230)
- Information and Cultural Industries (n=190)
- Retail (n=185)
- Accommodations and Food Services (n=150)
- Arts, entertainment and recreation (n=140)

Broughton Archipelago

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
573	885	695	1.95%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	505	365	-6.29%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		70	19.18% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	26	



Largest employers of Broughton Archipelago residents:

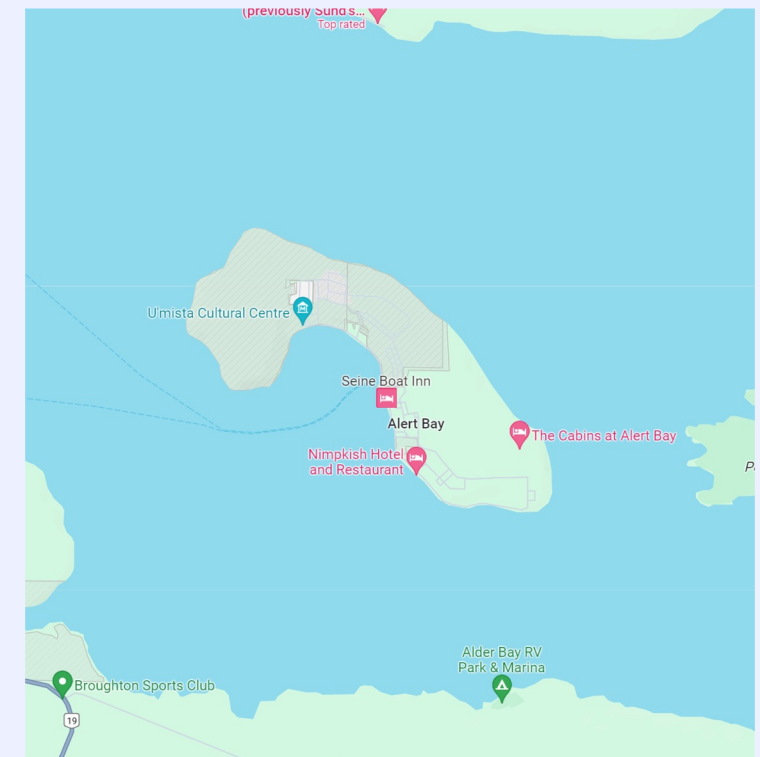
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=55)
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (n=50)
- Construction (n=40)
- Transportation and Warehousing (n=35)
- Retail (n=25)
- Office Admin (n=20)
- Public Administration (n=20)
- Other (n=20)

Cormorant Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
982	954	831	-1.66%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	445	275	-9.18%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		55	20% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	30	

Largest employers of Cormorant Island residents:

- Public Administration (n=55)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=50)
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (n=30)
- Accommodations and Food Services (n=20)
- Office Admin (n=20)
- Retail (n=15)
- Education Services (n=15)



Cortes Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
1007	1035	1059	0.50%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	605	535	-2.43%
Commutes Off Island for Work			
		25	4.67% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	39	

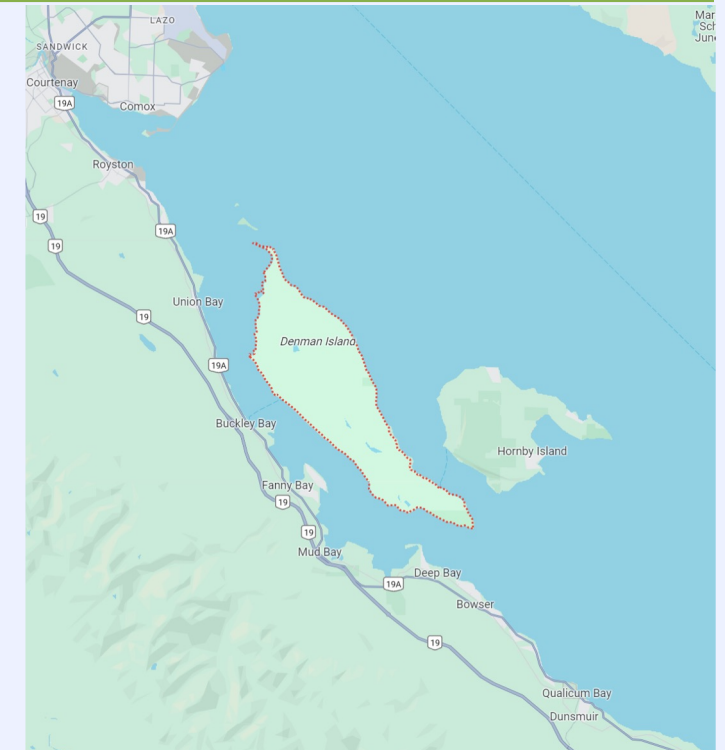
Largest employers of Cortes Island residents:

- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=70)
- Construction (n=65)
- Retail (n=65)
- Education Services (n=50)
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (n=45)
- Arts, entertainment and recreation (n=30)
- Office Admin (n=30)
- Professional Services (n=30)



Denman Island

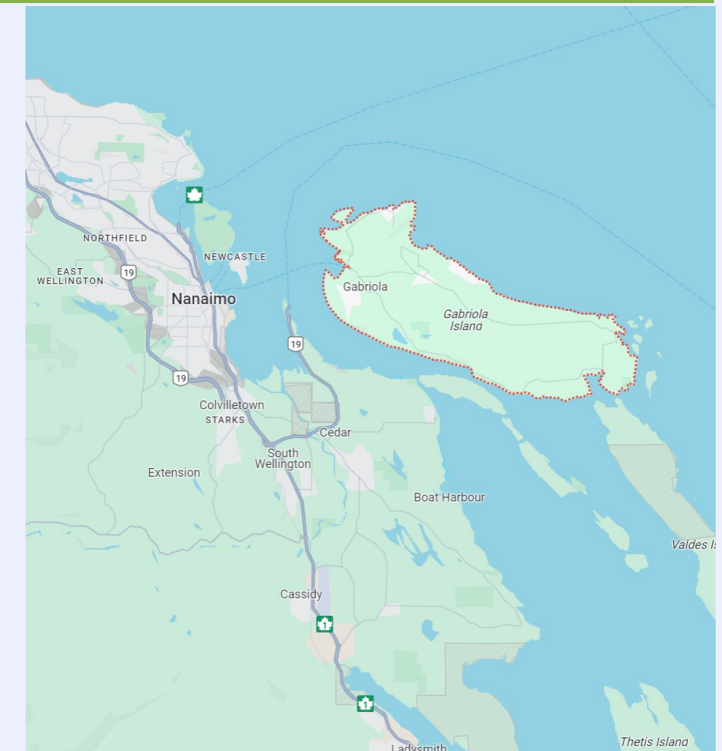
Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
1022	1165	1391	3.13%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	515	595	2.93%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		60	10.08% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	68	



- Largest employers of Denman Island residents:
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=90)
 - Agriculture, forestry and fishing (n=75)
 - Professional Services (n=55)
 - Construction (n=50)
 - Education Services (n=45)
 - Arts, entertainment and recreation (n=40)
 - Transportation and Warehousing (n=40)
 - Retail (n=35)

Gabriola Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
4045	4033	4500	1.07%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	1710	1770	0.69%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		160	9.04% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	~300	

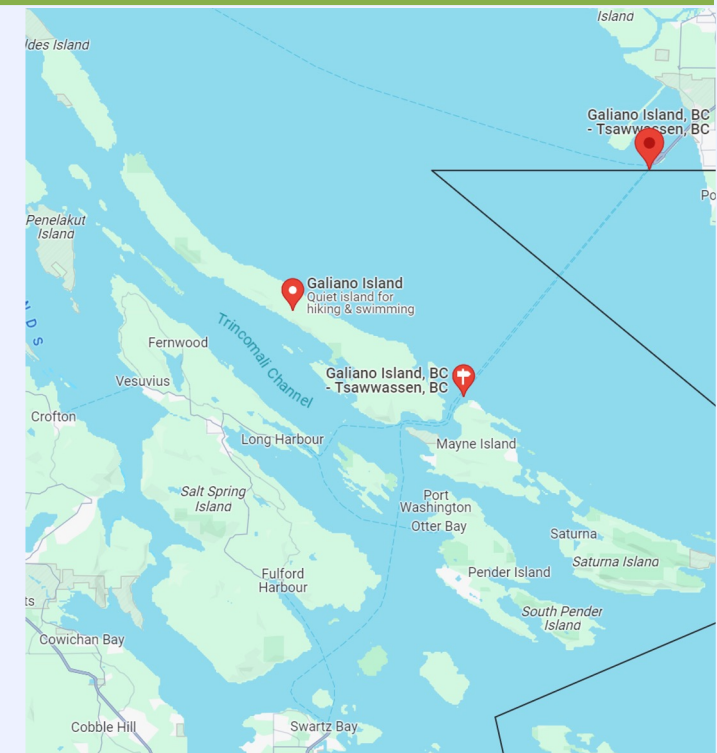


Largest employers of Gabriola Island residents:

- Retail (n=210)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=185)
- Professional Services (n=180)
- Construction (n=155)
- Education Services (n=125)
- Accommodations and Food Services (n=120)
- Office Admin (n=120)
- Arts, entertainment and recreation (n=105)
- Public Administration (n=85)

Galiano Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
1138	1044	1396	2.06%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	565	665	3.31%
Commutes Off Island for Work			
		60	9.02% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	~115	



Largest employers of Galiano Island residents:

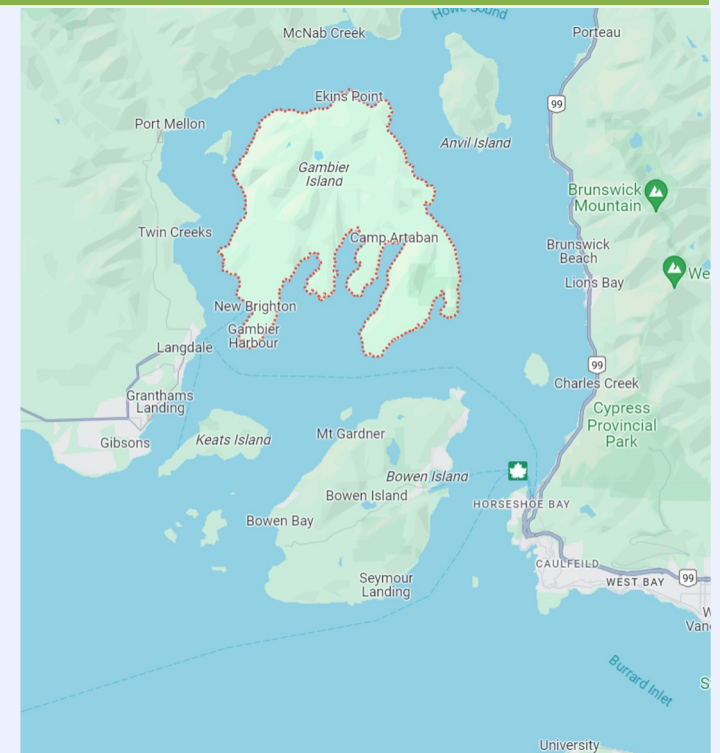
- Professional Services (n=75)
- Accommodations and Food Services (n=70)
- Construction (n=70)
- Education Services (n=55)
- Office Admin (n=55)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=50)
- Retail (n=45)
- Arts, entertainment and recreation (n=40)
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing (n=30)

Gambier Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
275	247	431	4.60%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	140	105	-5.59%
Commutes Off Island for Work			
		40	38.10% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	3	

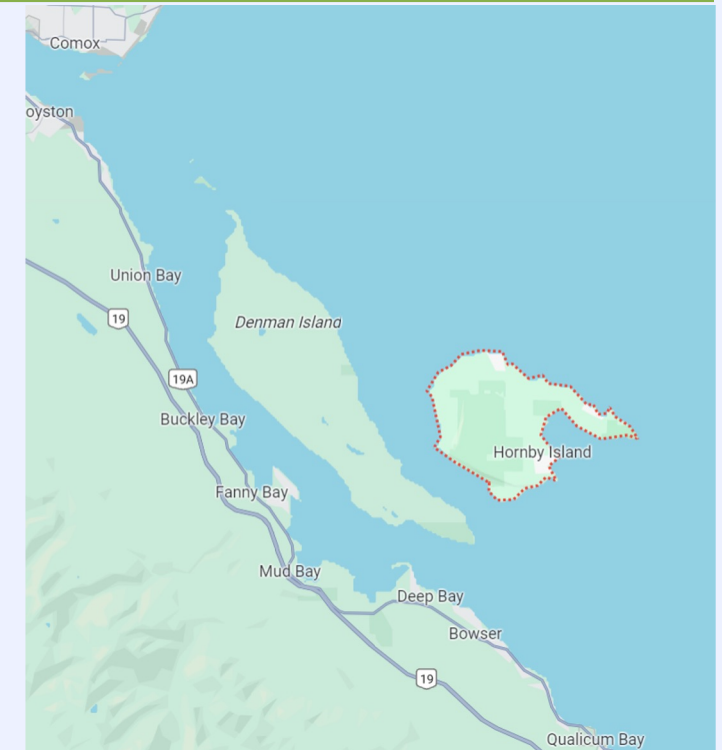
Largest employers of Gambier Island residents:

- Construction (n=35)
- Accommodations and Food Services (n=15)
- Professional Services (n=10)
- Transportation and Warehousing (n=10)



Hornby Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
958	1016	1225	2.49%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	545	485	-2.31%
Commutes Off Island for Work			
		30	6.19% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	213	



Largest employers of Hornby Island residents:

- Construction (n=70)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=55)
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing (n=45)
- Office Admin (n=45)
- Other (n=45)
- Retail (n=35)

Lasqueti Island

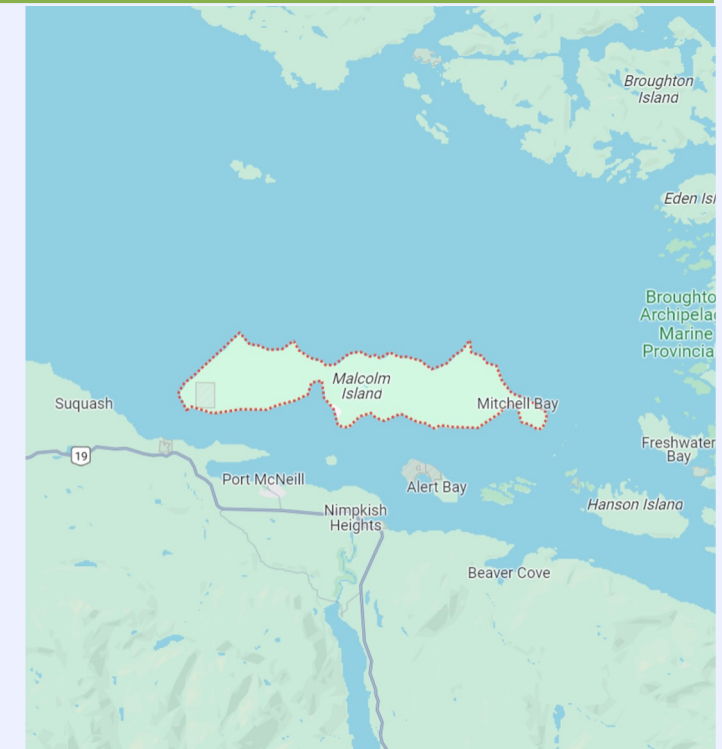
Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
426	399	498	1.57%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
Labour stats “too unreliable to be published”			
Commuters Off Island for Work			
Labour stats “too unreliable to be published”			
	Number of Businesses:	69	



Malcolm Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
576	517	513	-1.15%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	250	265	1.17%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		60	22.64% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	42	

- Largest employers of Malcolm Island residents:
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=45)
 - Construction (n=35)
 - Agriculture, forestry and fishing (n=30)
 - Transportation and Warehousing (n=25)



Mayne Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
1071	949	1304	1.99%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	355	915	20.85%
Commutes Off Island for Work			
		60	6.56% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	49	

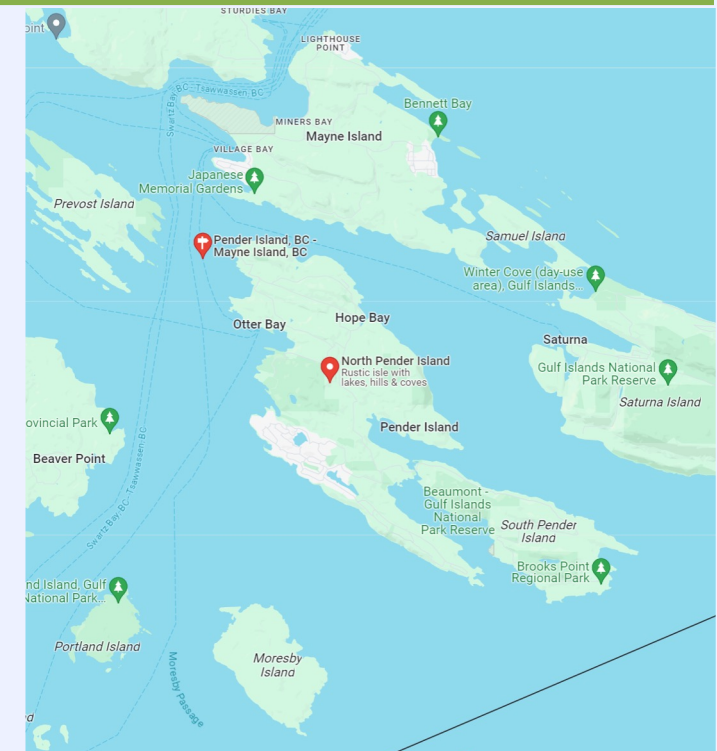


Largest employers of Mayne Island residents:

- Construction (n=115)
- Retail (n=100)
- Professional Services (n=85)
- Accommodations and Food Services (n=60)
- Education (n=45)
- Office Admin (n=45)
- Information and Cultural Industries (n=40)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=35)
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing (n=30)

Pender Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
2236	2302	2773	2.18%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	985	1165	3.41%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		85	7.30% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	114	



Largest employers of Pender Island residents:

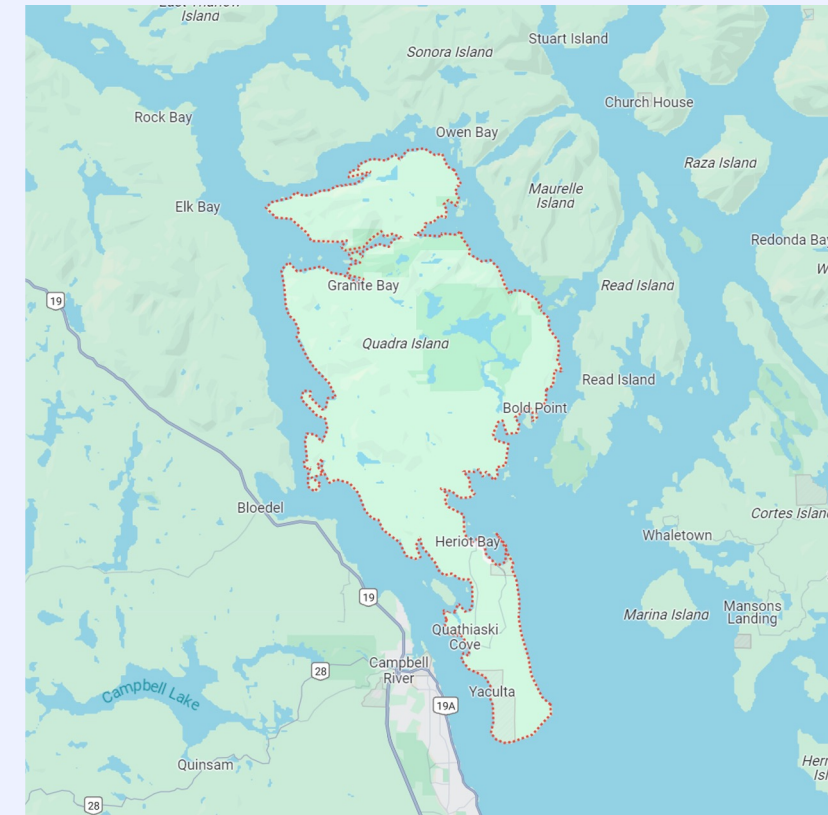
- Construction (n=160)
- Professional Services (n=140)
- Retail (n=115)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=105)
- Office Admin (n=85)
- Arts, entertainment and recreation (n=70)
- Accommodations and Food Services (n=65)
- Education (n=60)
- Public Administration (n=55)

Quadra Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
2601	2431	2737	0.51%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	1310	1190	-1.90%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		220	18.49% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	102	

Largest employers of Quadra Island residents:

- Construction (n=150)
- Accommodations and Food Services (n=125)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=95)
- Professional Services (n=95)
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (n=90)
- Retail (n=85)
- Education Services (n=65)
- Manufacturing (n=60)



Salt Spring Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
10234	10640	11798	1.43%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	5290	5565	1.02%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		225	4.04% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	554	

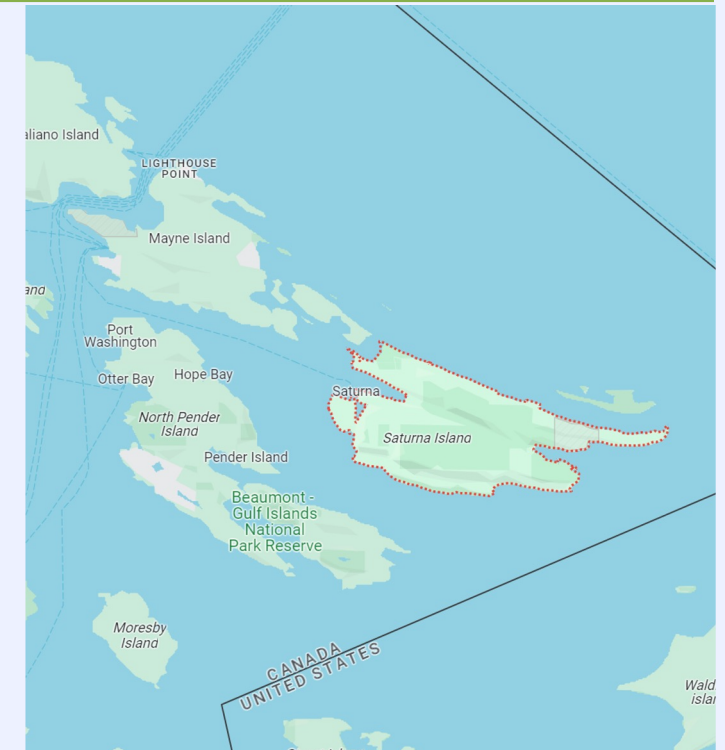


Largest employers of Salt Spring Island residents:

- Professional Services (n=680)
- Construction (n=655)
- Retail (n=605)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=595)
- Education (n=445)
- Office Admin (n=390)
- Accommodations and Food Services (n=355)
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing (n=320)
- Transportation and Warehousing (n=270)

Saturna Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
335	354	465	3.33%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	120	165	6.58%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		0	0% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	33	

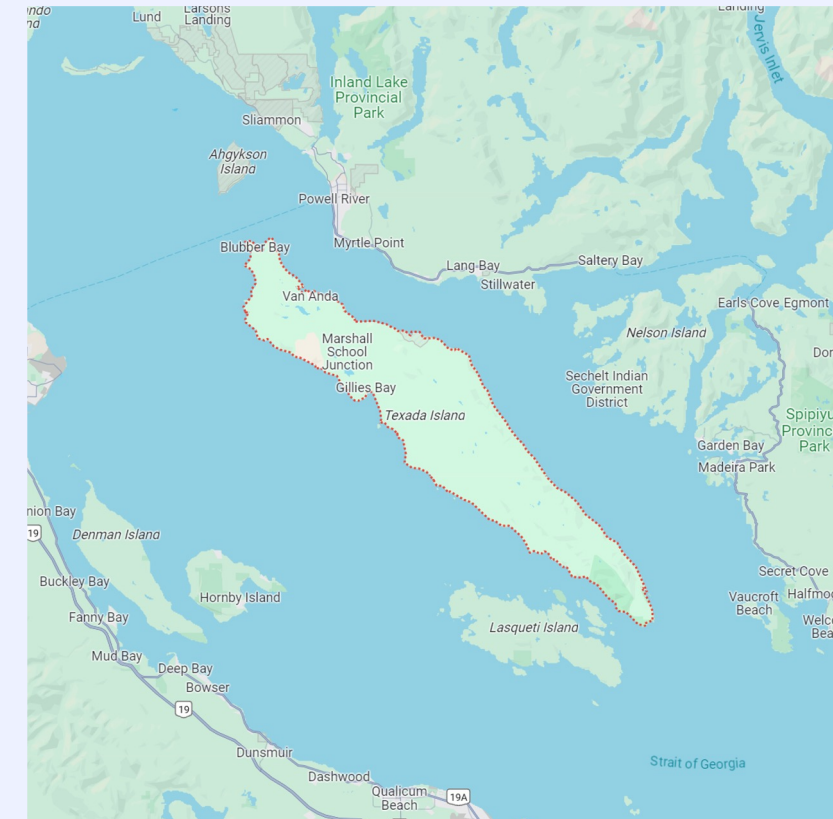


Largest employers of Saturna Island residents:

- Professional Services (n=25)
- Construction (n=15)
- Education (n=15)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (n=15)

Texeda Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
1053	1076	1126	0.67%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	470	390	-3.66%
Commutes Off Island for Work			
		35	8.97% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	27	



- Largest employers of Texeda Island residents:
- Mining + Oil & Gas (n=55)
 - Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (n=45)
 - Health Care and Social Assistance (n=45)
 - Accommodations and Food Services (n=40)
 - Manufacturing (n=30)
 - Transportation and Warehousing (n=30)
 - Office Admin (n=20)
 - Retail (n=20)

Thetis & Penelakut Island

Year-round population change			
2011	2016	2021	CAGR
786	841	989	2.32%
Islands Based Workforce Change			
	285	300	1.03%
Commuters Off Island for Work			
		30	10% of workforce
	Number of Businesses:	22	

