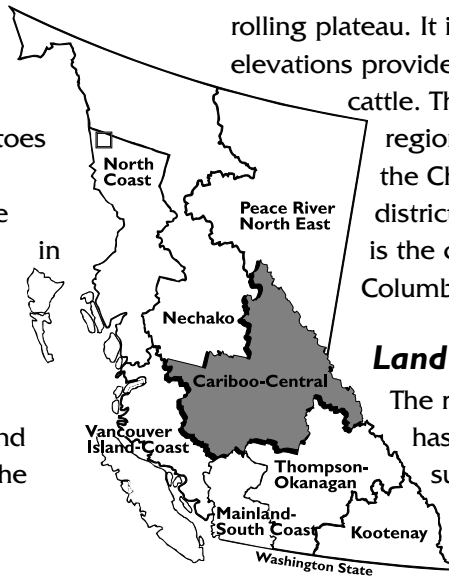


Cariboo-Central Region Agriculture Profile

Key Features

- Relatively short growing season with moderate rainfall.
- Alfalfa, root vegetables and potatoes do well in river bench soils.
- Frost-free days: 85-120. There are significant differences in climate this region. For example, there are different micro-climates in Prince George, where the river valley's frost-free period is significantly longer than the upland benches adjacent to it. As well, the Williams Lake area further south experiences longer and earlier growing seasons.
- Annual precipitation (mm) 250-630
- Produces high quality fodder crops to support the livestock industry.
- Terrain is characterized by rolling plains ideal for cattle and other livestock production.



rolling plateau. It is heavily forested, but lower elevations provide excellent areas for raising beef cattle. The Fraser River loops through the region, forming the boundary between the Chilcotin and Cariboo-Central districts. The region's southern portion is the center of cattle ranching in British Columbia.

Land

The region around Prince George has high, rolling plateaus. They are suited to cattle ranching, which takes place in the forested range and improved pasture uplands. Forage crops are produced in the valleys of the Fraser River and its tributaries. The Fraser River is the major waterway joined by the Nechako River at Prince George. The river bench soils are sandy or silty loams. They are excellent for producing alfalfa, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, cauliflower and carrots. The ancient glacial lake bottoms have a high clay content but with good soil management are very good for the production of crops such as timothy, brome grass, alsike and red clover, and oat-barley cereal silage or grain.

Agriculture

The Prince George area is in a period of farm turnover with many operators entering the farming sector. The area offers low-priced land next to a growing population center.

Production of milk, eggs and poultry is governed by provincial quotas. Vegetable and small fruit production is not governed by a marketing board, and sales are off-farm, direct to stores or at the Saturday Farmer's Market. The recent development

Population	154,271
Number of Farms	1,681
Land in ALR	1.327 million ha
Area of Farms	493,612 ha
Total Farm Capital	\$1.85 billion
Jobs	25,206 weeks paid labour annually
Gross Farm Receipts	\$94.32 million
Annual Farm Wages	\$19.24 million

The Cariboo-Central Region

The Cariboo-Central region includes 13.5% of the province's land area, and 3.5% of the population. Bounded by high mountains on the east and southwest, the region is primarily a high,



of a provincially-inspected slaughter facility will increase local meat and value-added sales of beef, bison, fallow deer, hogs, lamb and ostrich.

The main livestock and game farming operations are cow-calf, cow-yearling and purebred beef, with smaller numbers of dairy, bison, finished beef, ostrich, sheep and horses.

The Robson Valley (Fraser-Fort George) is located southeast of Prince George in the Rocky Mountain Trench. It is primarily a narrow valley along the Fraser River from Dome Creek to Valemont. The area is very productive for canola, wheat, barley, oats, specialized forage seed and forage crops. Livestock operations are primarily cow-calf, cow-yearling, dairy, horses and increasing numbers of bison. Problems in the area include rancher/elk conflicts

and the high price of land near the mountains. Advantages include low transportation costs to Alberta and a favourable climate for high-value field crops like wheat and canola.

The economy of the Cariboo-Central Region is resource-based, with strong agriculture, forestry, mining and tourism sectors. Agriculture provides a stable and long-term financial base for the regional economy. The beef industry forms the backbone of the agriculture industry. Beef production is based on the region's extensive rangelands, which provide a seasonal supply of forage. In addition to cattle ranching, the agriculture industry includes dairy, sheep, game farming, horses, poultry, horticultural crops and forage production. Opportunities exist in all sectors. All sectors of the livestock industry can increase production of good quality forage for winter feeding.

Selected Crop and Livestock Inventories (2006 Census)

Grains	3,800 ha
Corn for silage	119 ha
Hay and Pasture	366,000 ha
Alfalfa	27,768 ha
Hay	68,895 ha
Potatoes	26 ha
Fruits, Berries and Nuts	32 ha
Field Grown Vegetables	90 ha
Nursery Products	394 ha
Greenhouses	230,263 m ²
Christmas Trees	101 ha
Hens and Chickens	22,648
Cattle and Calves	113,223
Pigs	895
Sheep	7,045
Horses and Ponies	6,770
Rabbits	496
Goats	1,340

Estimated Gross Farm Receipts (2011 Census)

Community	Number of Farms	Gross Farm Receipts
Cariboo Regional District	1,123	\$55,306,909
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George	558	\$39,014,029