

The Oil & Gas Industry

Record Industry Activity Versus a Labour Squeeze!

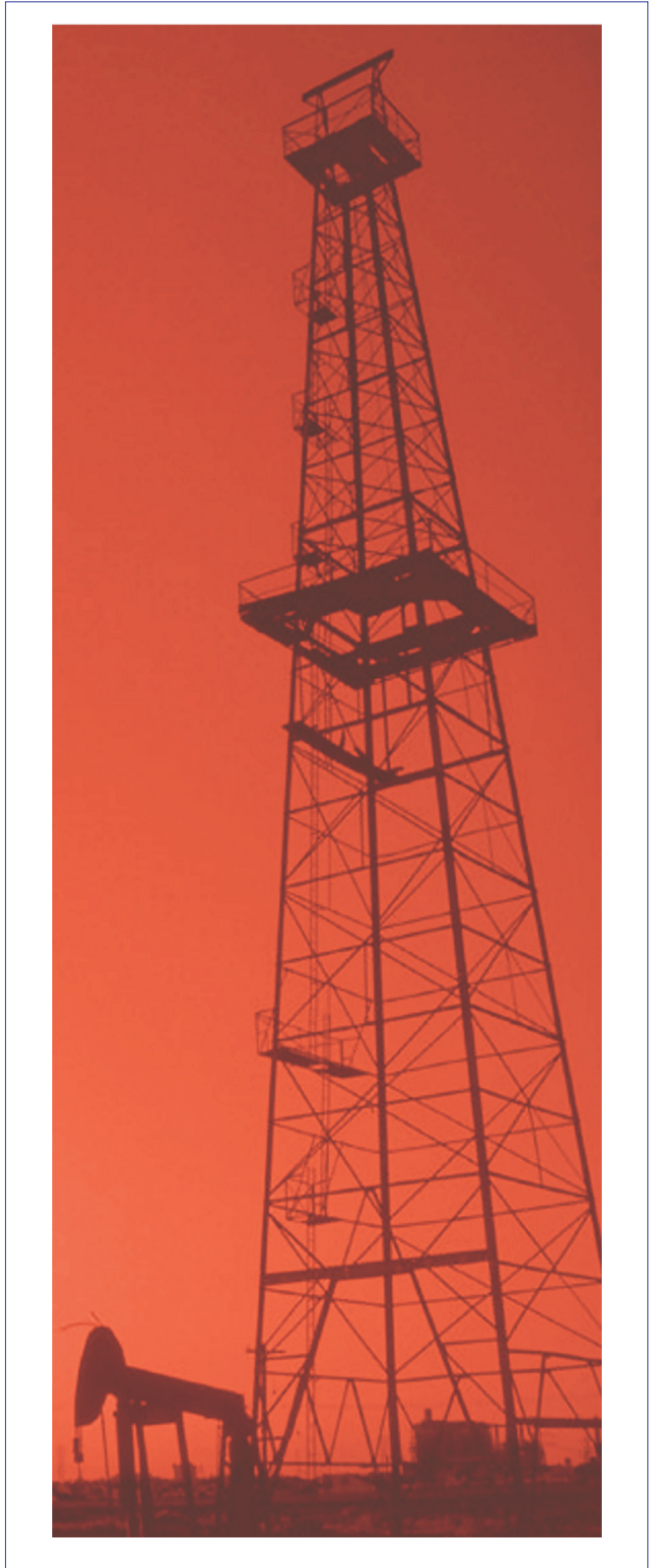
Global demand for oil and gas is high and is expected to remain so. Ongoing economic and political instability has the world looking to Canada for a secure supply of energy, and industrial growth in countries like China and India is adding to the demand. The Canadian petroleum industry is operating in the tightest labour market in its history. Individual companies are struggling to attract and keep skilled workers. The most recognized reasons behind the current and future worker supply shortage in the petroleum industry are an aging workforce, competition from other industries and a lingering perception of an unstable and volatile industry.

What Are the Opportunities?

The oil field service sector can be a rewarding but demanding career. Long hours and time away from home are common place in any of the oil field service jobs. Above average pay, beautiful outdoor scenery and challenging work with the newest high tech equipment makes up for the down side and for the right individual can provide a very rewarding career. The opportunities are many and varied and include: Drilling Crews (outlined in detail over the page as those are the most sought after jobs locally); Rig Services including Field Engineers, Rig Truck Operators, Mechanics, Millwrights, and Safety Officers; Seismic Crews including Surveyors and Chainsaw Operators; Professionals including Engineers, Chemists/Biologists and GIS/CAD Technicians. As well there is a need for Heavy Duty Equipment Operators, Accountants, Administrative Assistants, Programmers, Buyers, Sales Representatives and Desk Clerks.

Rob Succeeded, So Can You!

The oil industry is booming; the demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers is huge. Rob points out that there are a lot of opportunities in the industry for those who are willing to work hard. "In this business you have to either go hard or go home. You're away from home and family for 14 days, and you have to put up with the elements, but the financial rewards are worth it. It's possible to make from \$75,000 to over \$100,000 a year.

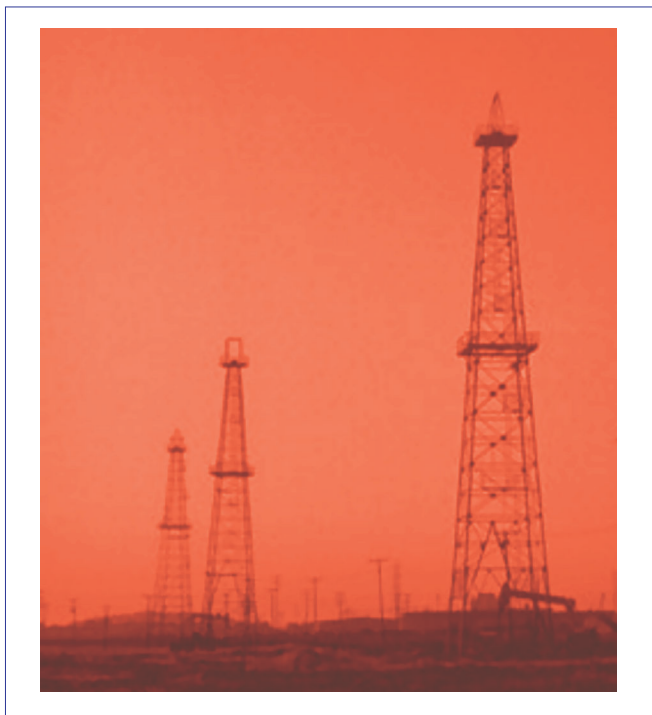


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General Working Conditions, Wages and Requirements For Working On a Rig.

The basic entry requirements for working on a rig are H2S Alive, Occupational First Aid, High School Education, 18 years or older, Class 5 or Class 3 “clean” drivers' licence and physically fit. Work on the rigs is physically demanding. Typically, a rig runs 24 hours a day until the job is complete. Work schedules vary from contractor to contractor and rig to rig. The most common work schedules are twelve- or eight-hour shifts. Days off vary widely among contractors and individual rigs. For example, with twelve-hour shifts, a typical schedule is fourteen days “on” and seven days “off”. Crews are generally assigned on a permanent basis to a particular rig. When a rig moves to a new location, its crew moves with it. Crew members are expected to work in all types of weather. The busiest period for drilling occurs through the winter. Opportunities for advancement are made available by contractors through safety seminars, on-the-job training programs and certification courses. A conscientious, hard working individual who has good leadership skills can move from a Leasehand to that of Rig Manager in eight to ten years.



Rig Manager		\$60,000 - \$80,000	
Crew 1	Crew 2	Crew 3	
Driller	Driller	Driller	\$36.00 per hour
Derrickhand	Derrickhand	Derrickhand	\$30.00 per hour
Motorhand	Motorhand	Motorhand	\$25.50 per hour
Floorhand	Floorhand	Floorhand	\$23.50 per hour
Leasehand	Leasehand	Leasehand	\$20.00 per hour

As well most contractors provide group benefits, paid travel time, safety award programs and paid training tickets. Rate of pay and other benefits vary from contractor to contractor and from location to location.

Useful Websites:

North Island Employment: www.niefs.net/mine.php

A good start to researching work in the oil & gas industry

www.niefs.net/school.php

Links to Colleges and Universities Across Canada

Job Search Online: www.jobsearchonline.bc.ca

List of oil & gas jobs in Northern BC; job duty descriptions, links to job postings

Oil Field Directory: www.oilfielddirectory.com

Connects job seekers with recruiters

Grande Prairie www.careerad.com

Fort St. John www.fsjnow.com

Virtual Career Fair www.careersinoilandgas.com

Northeastern BC www.jobsearchonline

Forum on Work in the Oil & Gas Industry
June 15, 9:00 - noon - call 286-3441 to register

Canada The Government of Canada has contributed funding to this initiative prioritized for youth, unemployed resource workers and people living in rural communities