

The Expanding Tech Sector in the Metro Vancouver region

A remarkable expansion within the technology sector, encompassing Digital Media & Entertainment, High-tech Services, High-tech Goods, and Life Sciences industries, is driving economic development in the Metro Vancouver region.¹ Employment in multiple technology industries is outpacing the broader economy, and the region's technology firms are attracting investment for innovations applicable to wide swaths of the economy. However, to sustain the sector's momentum, it is critical to adapt to pressing challenges and opportunities.

The tech sector is a key driver of employment growth in the region (2021*)

- The tech sector employed almost 125,000 people, accounting for nearly one in every ten jobs in the region.
- Since 2009, the employment growth rates in Digital Media & Entertainment, Life Sciences, and High-tech Services have been at least twice as high as those of the broader regional economy.
- The region is the heart of BC's tech sector, hosting 77% of the sector's employment in the province.

Regional tech firms are attracting billions in investment

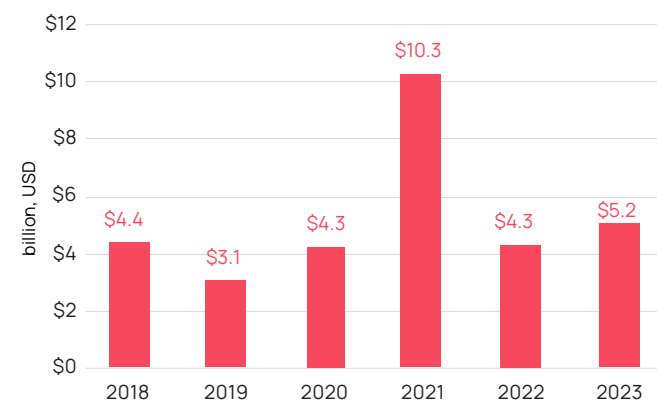
- A diverse mix of high technology sector firms headquartered in the Metro Vancouver region was involved in deals worth more than \$31 billion from 2018 to 2023.
- Investment activity peaked in 2021, but the \$5.2 billion in 2023 significantly exceeded the annual totals in the two years preceding the pandemic.
- These figures understate the total investment because they exclude foreign multinational enterprises, which have significantly invested in the region, including companies like Fortinet, Disney, Intel, EA Games, and Microsoft.

Employment in the Metro Vancouver region

Industries	2021 Q4	% Change 2009-2021
Digital Media & Entertainment	20,509	104%
Life Sciences	15,519	95%
High-tech Services	79,908	74%
High-tech Goods	8,685	17%
Total - Technology Sector	124,621	75%
Total regional employment	1,293,948	33%

SOURCE: INVEST VANCOUVER STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES ANALYTICS (SIA) PROJECT, 2022 *THE SIA DATASET ENDS IN 2021.

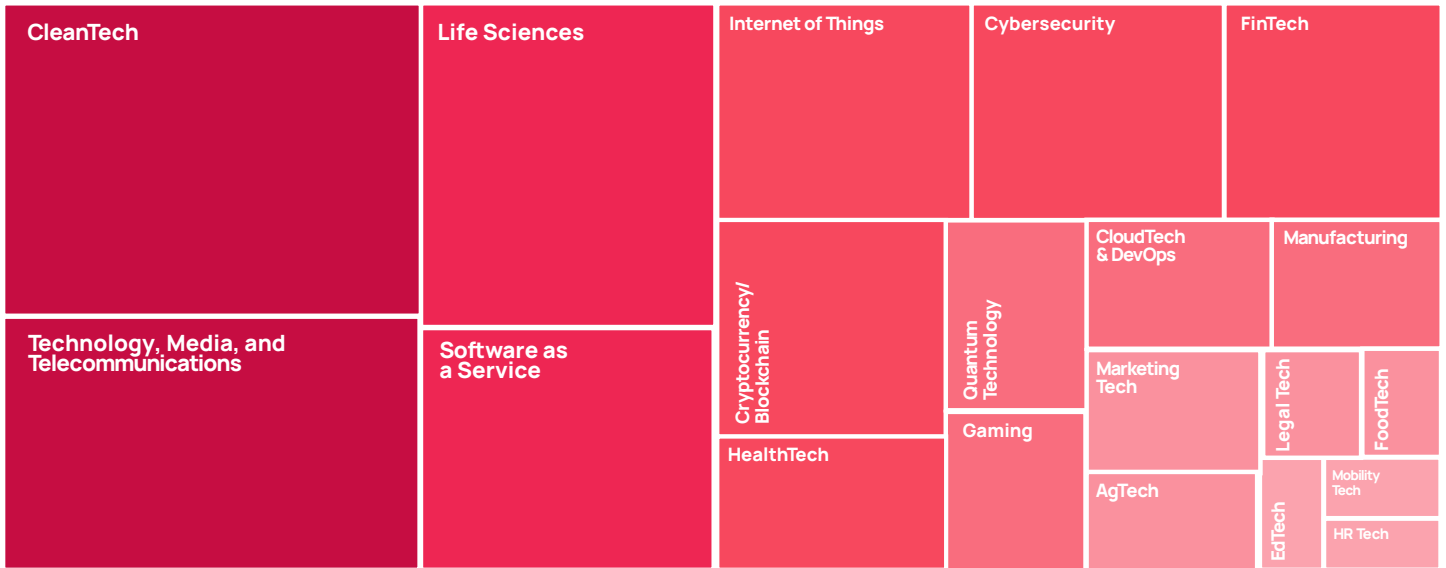
Investments in high-tech firms headquartered in the Metro Vancouver region (USD billions)



SOURCE: PITCHBOOK

1 Invest Vancouver uses BC Stats' definition of the high tech sector. Invest Vancouver grouped the associated NAICS national industries into four industries. See the report for details.

Investment Activity by Vertical in Metro Vancouver (by value, total of 2018-2023)



SOURCE: INVEST VANCOUVER COMPILATION OF PITCHBOOK DATA. Box size corresponds to the approximate value of the deals in the vertical.

Investors are pursuing deals in multiple regional tech specializations

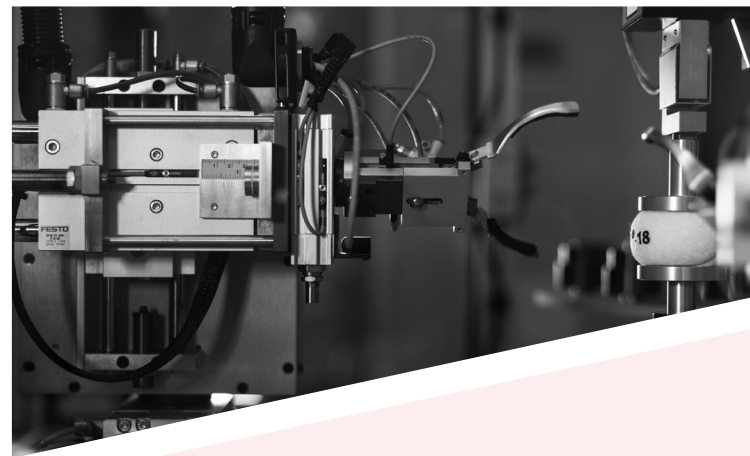
The region's tech sector is diverse, with many areas of specialization receiving investment (see above). Investment verticals show how investors look at the technology sector, which is important when attracting new investment.

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results

Although many of the factors that contributed to the technology sector's success are still in place, continued growth is not a given. In particular, the region needs to ensure there is a sufficient number of workers with the appropriate skills to match industry needs. Additionally:

- The rising cost of living, particularly for housing, could impact talent retention and attraction;
- Insufficient scaling of regional firms could dampen R&D investment, productivity, and export potential;
- Low productivity growth could weaken competitiveness against higher productivity regions;
- Scarce industrial land availability and high costs limit the region's ability to attract tech manufacturers;
- AI's unpredictable impact could disrupt the existing tech sector and offer new growth opportunities.

To support the sector's continued success, coordinated efforts are needed to address these risks and opportunities.



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Learn more about Invest Vancouver and its new Tech Sector Report

This report spotlight is part of Invest Vancouver's comprehensive report, "[The Metro Vancouver Region's High-tech Engine: Boosting the Economic Landscape](#)." Invest Vancouver is the economic development leadership service for the Metro Vancouver region.

Interested in learning more or investing in the region? Contact info@investvancouver.ca