

Overview of Opportunity BC 2020 Project

September 11, 2008
City of Vancouver and
Vancouver Economic Development Commission
Vancouver, BC



Business Council *of*
British Columbia

Opportunity BC 2020 Project Overview

- Focus on BC's economic prospects to 2020
- Initial think piece, followed by 20-25 individual topic papers
- Drafts of each of the papers will be developed and reviewed by selected stakeholders before being finalized in 2009
- Major June 2009 conference on BC's economic future
- Synthesis report
- All topic papers and final report available at no charge via website

Opportunity BC 2020 Project – Core Questions

1. What are the key trends that will define the economic environment for BC in the next decade?
2. How can BC, as a small, open economy, continue to prosper in a more competitive and increasingly knowledge-based global economy?
3. What steps can be taken to improve upon current policies, institutions, attitudes, and practices to strengthen the foundations for prosperity in BC?

Opportunity BC 2020: Context

The economic landscape for BC businesses and workers in the coming decade will be affected by several important trends:

External Trends

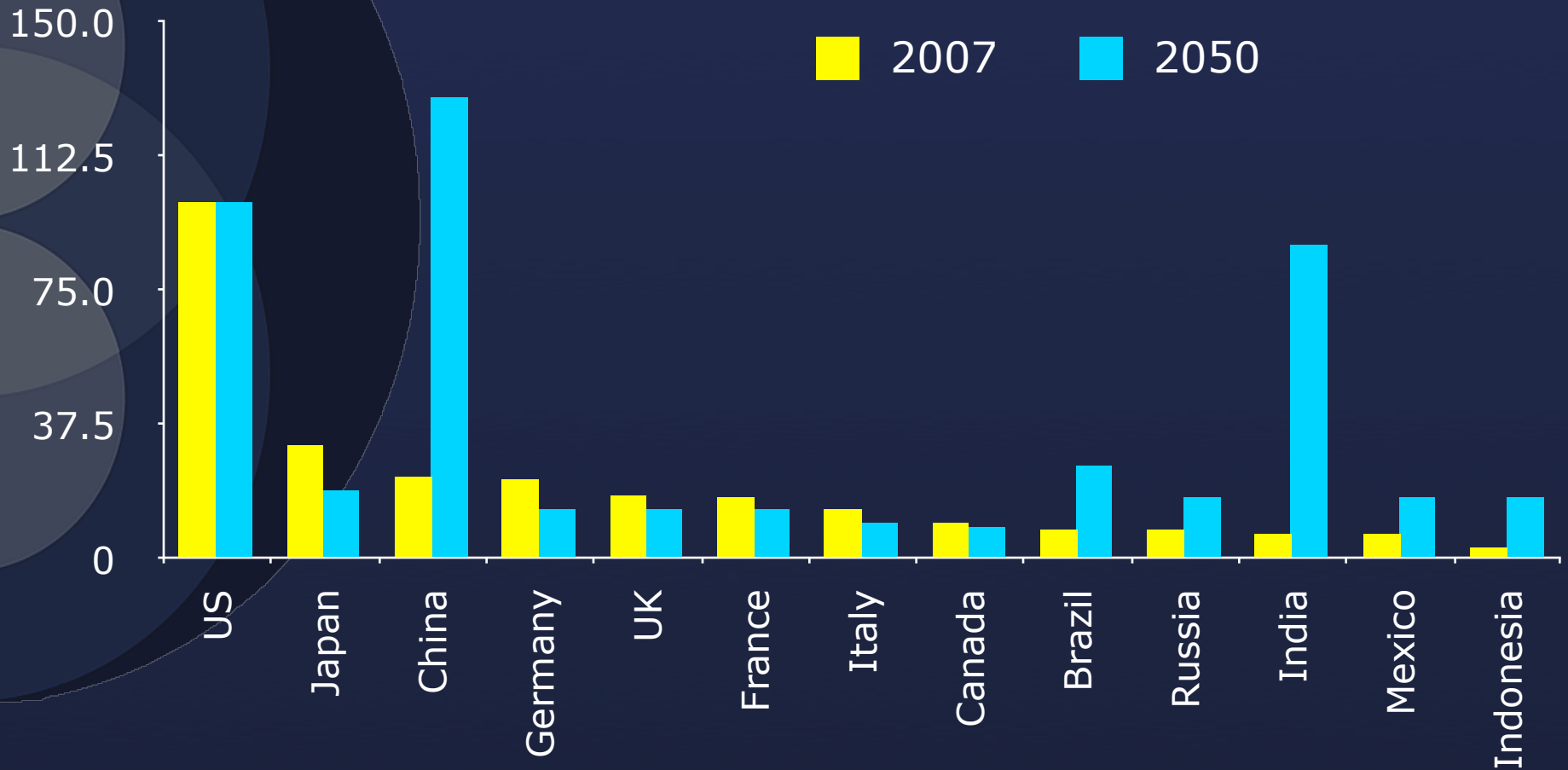
- Rise of Asia in the global economy
 - » 35% of world GDP today, climbing to 43-45% by 2020 and over half by 2040
- World trade and investment flows continue to grow faster than global economic output
- Expanding US population that is increasingly concentrated in the west and south
- Growing importance of 'city-regions' in the global economy
- Human capital, innovation and technology become increasingly critical in driving economic success
- Ongoing pressure to shift to a lower-carbon economy
- Higher NA and global energy costs – but by how much?

Opportunity BC 2020: Context

Internal Trends

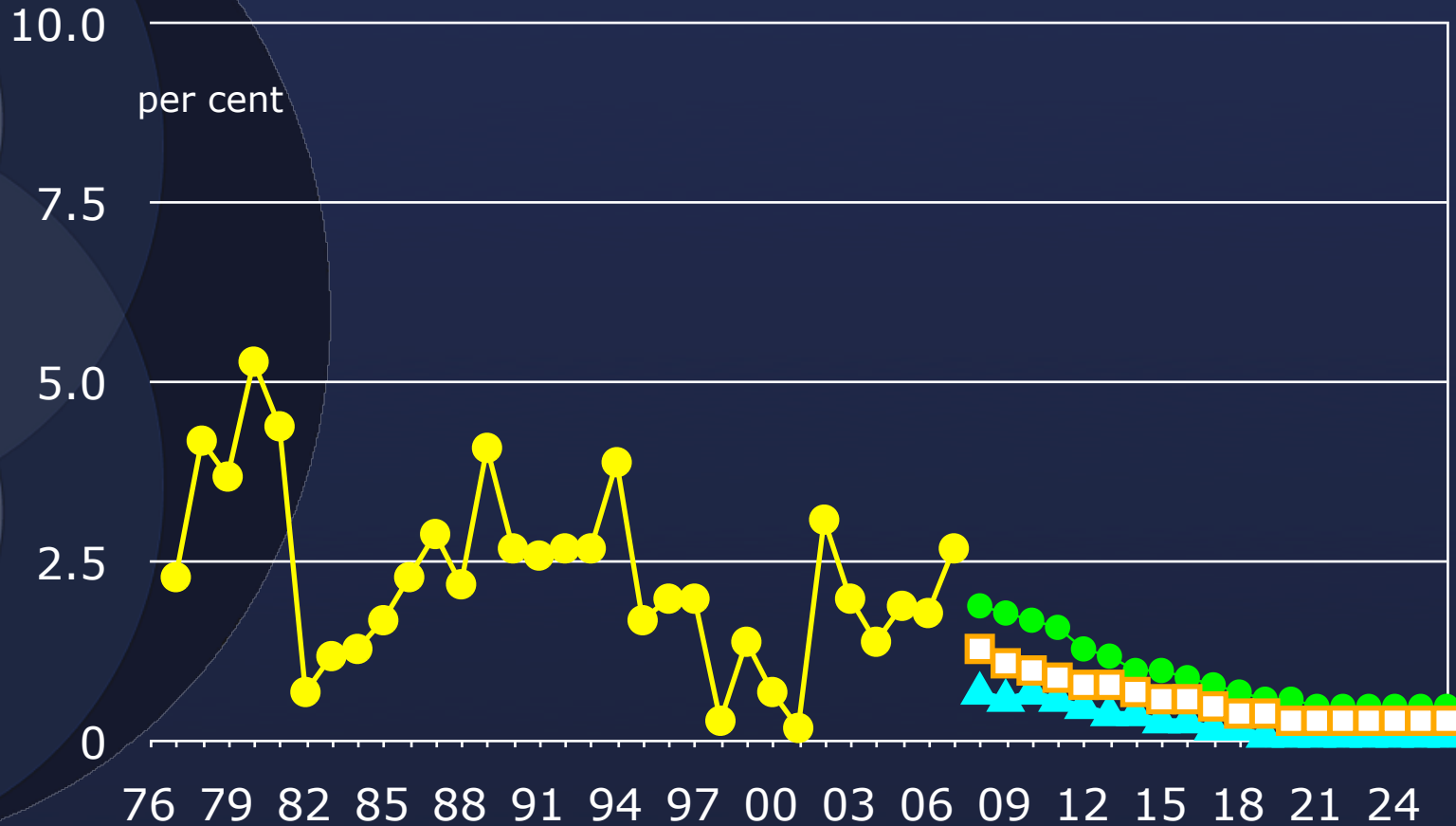
- BC Stats projects modest population growth (circa 1% p.a)
 - » Aboriginal population increases at faster pace
- Aging population/work force; labour shortages
- Immigration looms larger in demographic/economic terms
 - » 2006 census: 39% of GVRD population foreign-born
- Fallout from the pine beetle infestation
- Robust demand (globally and in NA) for key BC resource products
 - » Energy (natural gas, electricity), minerals/metals, lumber (US housing)
- Greater cooperation between BC and neighbouring jurisdictions (e.g., TILMA, Pacific Northwest Economic Region, Western Climate Initiative, Pacific Coast Collaborative)

The World in 2050: Projected Size of National Economies (US = 100)



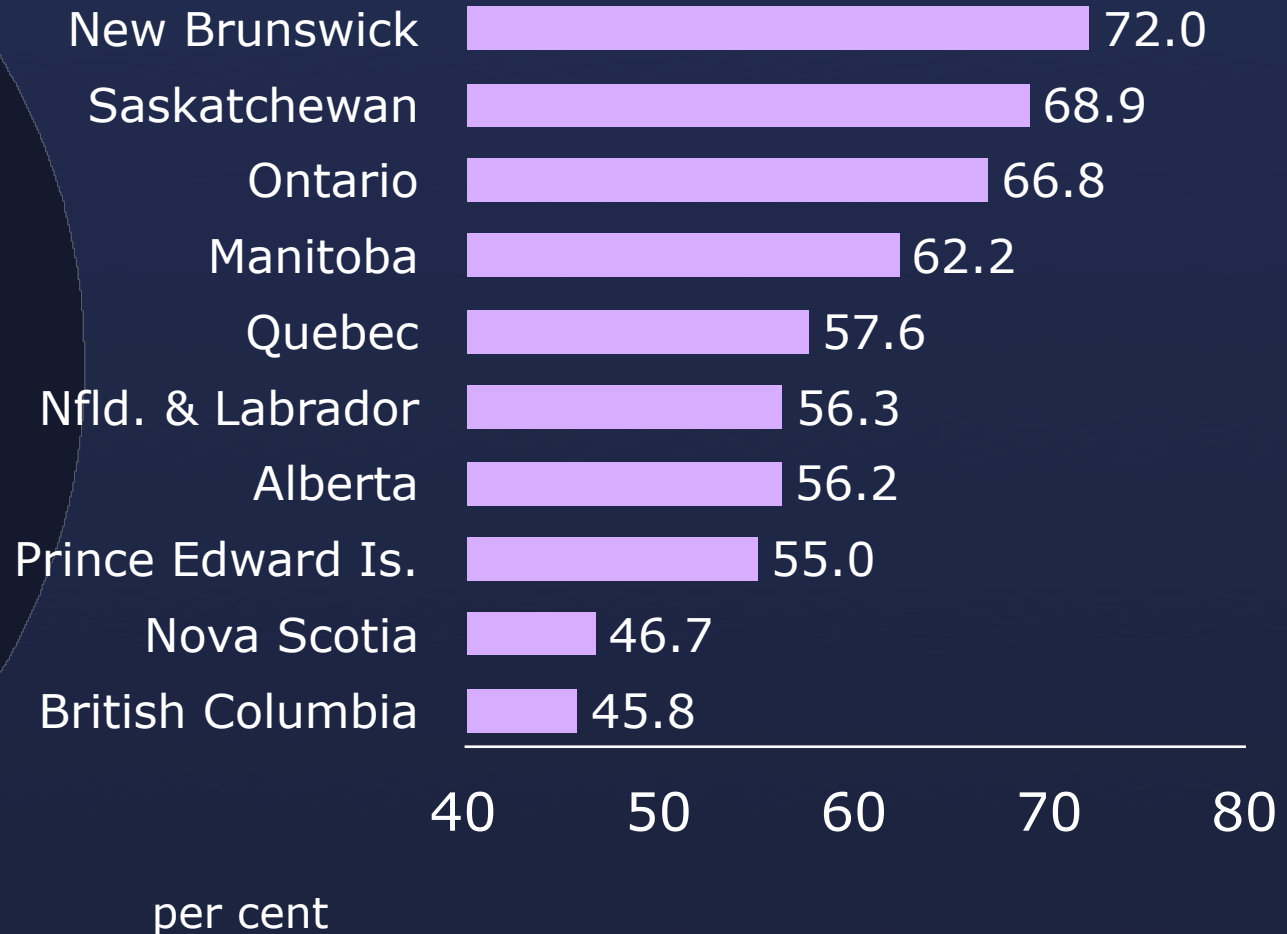
Much Slower Labour Force Growth in Store Post-2010

BC Labour Force Growth History & Projections



BC Has Low Export Intensity

Total Exports* as a share of GDP, 2006



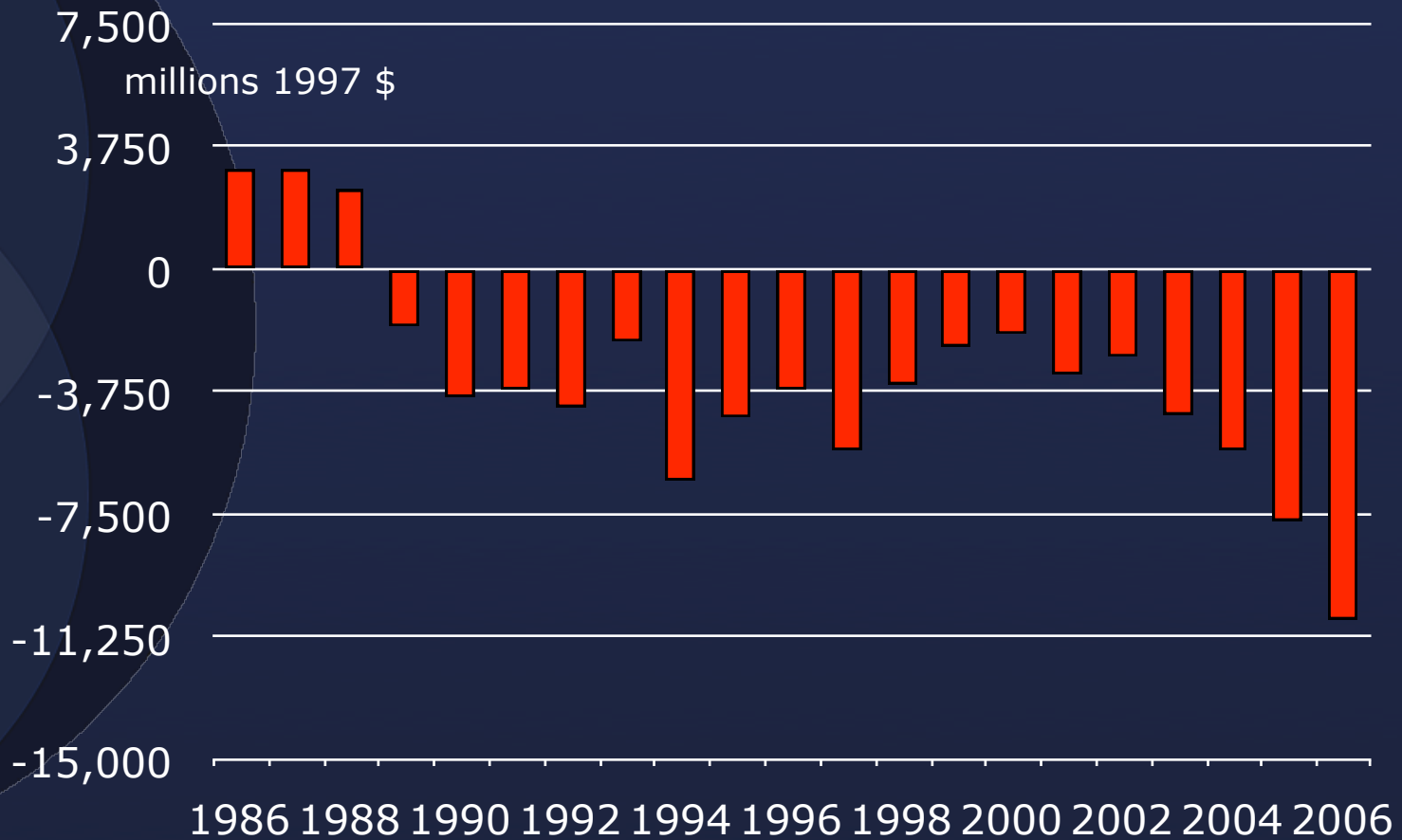
per cent

* Includes international and interprovincial exports of goods and services.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Provincial Economic Accounts.

BC's Widening Trade Deficit

BC Trade Deficit



Opportunity BC 2020 Papers

Initial Think Piece

1. British Columbia to 2020: Setting the Stage

The Changing External Environment

2. Situating British Columbia in the Global Economy
3. The Rise of Asia: Opportunities and Challenges for British Columbia

The Commercial and Industrial Foundations of Prosperity

4. The Future of Forestry in British Columbia
5. Energy Issues and Development Opportunities
6. Prospects for Mining in BC
7. Profile and Outlook for the BC Agri-Food Industry
8. BC's Advanced Technology Sector: Reaching for the Next Level
9. Manufacturing 2020: A Vision for BC
10. Building the Economic Base: Tradable Services (scientific/technical services, professional services, communications, financial services, education, etc.)
11. Tourism in British Columbia: Leveraging 2010
12. Creative Industries and Economic Development

Opportunity BC 2020 Papers

Human Capital, Innovation and Infrastructure

13. BC's Labour Force to 2030: Projections and Implications
14. Immigration and BC's Economic Future
15. Developing a Skilled Work Force
16. Universities in the Knowledge Economy
17. Innovation and Commercialization: Rising to the Challenge
18. Infrastructure Priorities

A Sustainable Society

19. Population Aging: Economic and Fiscal Implications
20. Children: Providing a Good Start
21. First Nations Economic Development: Opportunities and Lessons
22. Climate Change: Adaptation and the Road to a Low Carbon Future

Regional Dimensions

23. Metro Vancouver as a Global City-Region
24. Northern British Columbia: A Vision for Prosperity