

# LABOUR MARKET Snapshot



Ministry of  
Advanced Education  
and Labour Market  
Development

NOVEMBER 2009

## B.C. EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

+0.4%  
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

+0.2%  
PARTICIPATION RATE

## LABOUR FORCE

- At 8.3%, B.C.'s unemployment rate remained unchanged between October and November. The unemployment rate one year ago was 3.3 percentage points lower at 5.0%. B.C.'s rate remains below the national rate (8.5%), which decreased slightly over the last month.
  - Total employment in B.C. increased by 9,900 jobs to 2.26 million in November. This is 1.7%, or 40,300 less jobs, than one year ago. Employment gains were in part-time employment (+21,600), slightly offset by losses in full-time employment (-11,700). Despite employment gains, the unemployment rate remained unchanged as more people moved into the job market in November (+0.5%).
  - In November, total unemployment in B.C. increased by 1,400, or 0.7%, bringing the number of unemployed up to 204,900 people. Compared to November 2008, the total number of unemployed workers in B.C. has increased by 69.9% or 84,300 workers.
  - B.C.'s unemployment rate slipped to the fifth lowest in Canada, behind Saskatchewan (5.2%), Manitoba (5.3%), Alberta (7.4%) and Quebec (8.1%). Most provinces either saw no change or decreases in unemployment rates; New Brunswick (+0.3) and Nova Scotia (+0.2) were the only provinces that saw increases.
  - In November, the 12-month average unemployment rate for very recent immigrants (five years or less) was 11.3%<sup>1</sup> in the province, 4.1 percentage points higher than their Canadian-born counterparts.
  - Youth (aged 15 to 24) employment saw gains (+4,300) for the first month since May 2009. However, despite these gains, the youth unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points, to 16.0%. This is the highest monthly unemployment rate experienced by this group since September 2003.
  - Monthly unemployment rates decreased in all B.C. Development Regions, except for Vancouver Island/Coast (+0.3%), Kootenay (+0.4) and Cariboo (+0.5). At 5.5%, the Northeast region had the lowest rate for November. Cariboo continued to have the highest unemployment rate in B.C. at 12.0%.<sup>2</sup> This region has had the highest unemployment rate for the last eight consecutive months.

## INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS<sup>3</sup>

-1.9% (-7,300)  
RETAIL AND  
WHOLESALE TRADE

-0.2% (-600)  
HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES

-1.8% (-3,500)  
CONSTRUCTION

ACCOMMODATION,  
FOOD AND BEVERAGE  
+0.4% (+700)

PROFESSIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND  
TECHNICAL SERVICES  
+4.3% (+6,600)

-3.7% (-5,800)  
MANUFACTURING

-2.3% (-900)  
FORESTRY, FISHING  
AND MINING<sup>4</sup>

- Over the last month, employment gains were seen in the service producing sector (+23,100) and losses were experienced in the goods producing sector (-13,100). In the service sector, largest job gains were in the Other Service (+13,600) and Education (+8,100) industries. Job losses were only in Transport and warehousing (-2,500), Health and Social Services (-600) and Retail and wholesale trade (-7,300).
- In the goods sector, Utilities (+400) was the only industry to experience an increase in employment. Largest losses were in Manufacturing (-5,800), Construction (-3,500) and Agriculture (-3,300).

## IMMIGRATION<sup>5</sup>

- South Korea was the top source country of International Students arriving in B.C. in the first half of 2009 (2,669) followed by Saudi Arabia (1,447), Mainland China (1,274), Japan (912), and Taiwan (291). The number of International Students from Saudi Arabia more than tripled compared to the same period in 2008.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING<sup>6</sup>

- The unemployment rate of former construction trade students that enrolled in a diploma, associate degree, or certificate program at a B.C. public post-secondary institution increased from 6.6% in 2008 to 17.6% in 2009.

<sup>1</sup> 3 Month Moving Average, Actual.

<sup>2</sup> 3 Month Moving Average, Actual.

<sup>3</sup> Industry groups are ordered by employment totals (largest to smallest).

<sup>4</sup> These groups are part of the Other Primary category in the Labour Force Survey (categories are: Forestry & Logging; Fishing, Hunting & Trapping; and Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction).

<sup>5</sup> Landed Immigrants Database, Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

<sup>6</sup> Source: BC Stats Student Outcomes Reporting System.

NOTE: All labour force statistics are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. Data is seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated.

## Regional Highlights

(Unemployment Rates, 3 Month Moving Average, Actual)



### City Centres

Abbotsford:	7.4% <sup>1</sup> (↓)
Dawson Creek:	7.1% <sup>2</sup> (↓)
Kamloops:	6.7% (↓)
Kelowna:	5.6% (↓)
Nanaimo:	8.3% (↑)
Prince George:	12.3% (↑)
Vancouver:	7.2% (↓)
Vernon:	3.1% <sup>3</sup> (↓)
Victoria:	7.1% (↑)

<sup>1</sup> Compared to previous month

<sup>2</sup> Denotes derived number

<sup>3</sup> Denotes derived number