

LABOUR MARKET Snapshot



Ministry of
Advanced Education
and Labour Market
Development

APRIL 2010

B.C. EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

+0.6%
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

-0.6%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

-0.2%
PARTICIPATION RATE

LABOUR FORCE

- B.C.'s unemployment rate dropped 0.6 percentage points to 7.3% over the last month. The unemployment rate one year ago was 0.3 percentage points higher at 7.6%. B.C.'s rate remains below the national rate (8.1%), which decreased slightly in April.
 - Total employment in B.C. increased by 12,700 jobs between March and April, bringing employment to 2.3 million employed – the highest level since 2008. This is 2.2%, or 49,000 more jobs, than one year ago. Job losses occurred in full-time employment (-2,800), but were largely offset by gains in part-time employment (+15,500).
 - Over the last month, total unemployment declined by 14,700, or 7.5%, bringing the total number of unemployed workers down to 180,700. Compared to one year ago, the number of unemployed workers in B.C. has fallen by 2.5% (-4,600).
 - Despite declines in total unemployment in April, the number of unemployed youth (aged 15 to 24) rose an additional 1.2% (+600) to 51,400. Correspondingly, the youth unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 13.8%.
 - In April, the 12-month average unemployment rate for very recent immigrants (five years or less) remained at 11.8% in the province. This is 4.6 percentage points higher than the established immigrants (10 years more) and 4.1 percentage points higher than their Canadian-born counterparts.
 - Over the last month, unemployment rates decreased all B.C. Development Regions except for the North Coast & Nechako (+0.3%) and the Northeast (+0.9%). Largest drops were in the Cariboo (-2.1%) and Kootenay regions (-1.6%). Between April 2009 and February 2010, Cariboo consistently had the highest unemployment rate. However, declines in unemployment over the last two months have brought the unemployment rate back down to near February 2009 levels. The North Coast & Nechako region has had the highest unemployment rate in B.C. (11.8%.¹) for the second month consecutive month.
 - Drops in the April unemployment rate edged B.C. into the third lowest rate (7.3%) in Canada, only behind Manitoba (4.9%) and Saskatchewan (5.2%). Over the last month almost three-quarters of the provinces experienced decreased unemployment rates: Prince Edward Island (-1.3%), B.C. (-0.6%), Newfoundland (-0.5%), Manitoba (-0.3%), New Brunswick (-0.2%), Alberta (-0.1%) and Quebec (-0.1%). Saskatchewan (+0.1%) and Nova Scotia (+0.1%) were the only two provinces that saw rises. The unemployment rate for Ontario remained unchanged.

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS²

RETAIL AND
WHOLESALE TRADE
NO CHANGE

-0.3% (-800)
HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES

-0.8% (-1,600)
CONSTRUCTION

-0.6% (-1,000)
ACCOMMODATION,
FOOD AND BEVERAGE

+3.9% (+6,100)
MANUFACTURING

-5.6% (-9,600)
PROFESSIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNICAL SERVICES

+2.9% (+1,300)
FORESTRY, FISHING
AND MINING³

- In April, both the service sector (+5,300) and goods sector (+7,500) experienced job gains. In the service sector, largest gains were in the Other Service (+9,500 or +3.0%) and Transport and Warehousing (+7,400 or +6.7%) industries, but these gains were partially offset by significant losses in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-9,600 or -5.6%) and Education (-3,300 or -1.9%). Gains in Transport and Warehousing are the most significant increases seen in this industry in over a year. Job gains in the Other Service industries are the highest in the last five months.
- Employment gains over the last month occurred across all goods producing industries except for Construction (-1,600 or -0.8%). Recovering from relatively minor losses in March (-0.6%), the Manufacturing industry experienced moderate job gains (+6,100 or 3.9%) in April.

MONTHLY FEATURE⁴

- Very recent landed immigrants were more likely to be working in sales and service occupations (34.0%) in 2009 than Canadian-born workers (30.0%). Business, finance and administrative occupations and trade, transport and equipment operators and related occupations were also common among immigrants in 2009, regardless of time since landing.
- The unemployment rate among women who had been in Canada for five years or less was 14.0% in 2009, higher than 11.4% among men in the same group. In contrast, the unemployment rate for Canadian men was 7.2% and for women, just 5.5%.

¹ 3 Month Moving Average, Actual.

² Industry groups are ordered by employment totals (largest to smallest).

³ 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).

⁴ Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, 2009 annual data

Note: All labour force statistics are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. Data is seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated. As of January 2010, all seasonally adjusted estimates have been revised historically using a new seasonal adjustment method

Regional Highlights

(Unemployment Rates, 3 Month Moving Average, Actual)



City Centres¹

Abbotsford:	7.3% (↑)
Dawson Creek:	4.6% ² (↑)
Kamloops:	9.8% (↑)
Kelowna:	7.3% (↓)
Nanaimo:	7.7% (↓)
Prince George:	6.9% (↓)
Vancouver:	7.5% (↓)
Vernon:	4.0% (↔)
Victoria:	6.6% (↑)

¹ Compared to previous month

² Denotes derived number