

LABOUR MARKET Snapshot



Ministry of
Advanced Education
and Labour Market
Development

JULY 2010

B.C. EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

+0.7%
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

-0.3%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

+0.1%
PARTICIPATION RATE

LABOUR FORCE

- B.C.'s unemployment rate decreased (-0.3 percentage points) between June and July, falling to 7.5%. The unemployment rate one year ago was 7.8%. B.C. now sits half a percentage point below the national rate of 8.0%, which rose 0.1 percentage points in July.
 - Total employment in B.C. grew by 16,300 jobs over the last month, bringing employment to over 2.31 million employed. Significant growth in part-time employment (+25,800) was slightly offset by losses in full-time work (-9,500). Since July 2009, employment has grown by 3.0% (+67,100 jobs), one of the fastest growth rates of all provinces.
 - Corresponding with the increase in employment, total unemployment decreased by 6,400, or 3.3%, lowering the number of unemployed workers to 187,900 in July. Compared to one year ago, the number of unemployed workers in B.C. has decreased by 1.4% (2,600 less unemployed workers).
 - The number of unemployed youth (aged 15 to 24) decreased (-9,400) for the second consecutive month to 45,400. The youth unemployment rate also decreased over the last month, falling 2.4 percentage points to 12.3%: the lowest rate since May 2009.
 - In July, the 12-month average unemployment rate for very recent immigrants (five years or less) was 11.5% for B.C. Since peaking at 12.0% in April the rate has steadily declined but it remains 4.0 percentage points higher when compared to Canadian-born British Columbians.
 - Over the last month, unemployment rates increased in four of the seven B.C. Development Regions: Cariboo (+1.5%), Kootenay (+1.5%), North Coast & Nechako (+0.4%), and Vancouver Island/Coast (+0.4%). The Thompson-Okanagan (-0.2%) and Northeast (-0.2%) regions were the only areas to experience a decreased in unemployment rates, while the Mainland/Southwest remained unchanged for the third consecutive month. The North Coast & Nechako region continues to have the highest unemployment rate in B.C. (11.8%¹) for the last five consecutive months.
 - B.C. maintained the fourth lowest unemployment rate (7.5%) position among the provinces, behind Saskatchewan (5.1%), Manitoba (5.6%), and Alberta (6.3%).

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS²

**RETAIL AND
WHOLESALE TRADE**
+1.7% (+6,200)

**-5.5% (-15,300)
HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES**

CONSTRUCTION
+0.8% (+1,500)

**PROFESSIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNICAL SERVICES**
+5.6% (+9,900)

**ACCOMMODATION,
FOOD AND BEVERAGE**
+2.4% (+4,000)

MANUFACTURING
+5.4% (+8,700)

**FORESTRY, FISHING
AND MINING³**
+6.7% (+2,900)

- Goods producing industries experienced overall job gains in July (+2.6% or 11,300 jobs). The Utilities industry was the only sector to experience job losses (-21.6% or 3,700 jobs) while all other goods industries experienced positive job gains. Leading the group was Manufacturing, posting gains of 8,700 new jobs, followed by Other primary industries (+2,900), Agriculture (+2,200) and Construction (+1,500).
- In the service sector, employment increased by 0.3% or 4,900 jobs over the last month. After two months of healthy job gains, the Health and Social Services sector experienced significant job losses decreasing by 15,300 jobs in July. Finance and Related industries also experienced job losses in July, decreasing by 7.4% or 11,200 jobs over the last month. On the other hand, Transportation and Warehousing (+8,100), Other Service (+7,400) and Retail and Wholesale Trade (+6,200) all experienced job gains in July.

MONTHLY FEATURE⁴

- The student summer labour market is starting to heat up for 2010. The number of students (15-24 years)⁵ in the labour force and looking for work this July has increased (+1,700) when compared to the same month last year.
- Compared with July 2009, the total number of students employed was 1,300 less, at 147,300, this July. However, a higher number of students were working in full-time positions (+4,300) when compared to the same month last year.
- Slightly softer employment has pushed the student unemployment rate up 1.4 percentage points to 19.9% (compared to 18.5% in July 2009). As the summer rolls to an end, data for August will provide further insight into the temperature of the B.C. summer student job market.

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 The published estimates are unadjusted; therefore, comparisons can only be made on a year-over-year basis.

5 Students are persons aged 15-24 years who attended school full-time in March and are planning to return to school in the fall.

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:	8.4% (↓) ¹
Dawson Creek:	4.5% ² (↓)
Kamloops:	7.9% (↓)
Kelowna:	7.2% (↑)
Nanaimo:	9.2% (↑)
Prince George:	9.3% (↑)
Vancouver:	7.7% (↑)
Vernon:	6.3% (↓)
Victoria:	5.4% (↔)

¹ Compared to previous month
² Denotes derived number