

LABOUR MARKET Snapshot



Ministry of
Advanced Education
and Labour Market
Development

JUNE 2010

B.C. EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

+0.3%
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

+0.3%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

+0.2%
PARTICIPATION RATE

LABOUR FORCE

- B.C.'s unemployment rate increased (+0.3 percentage points) between May and June, rising to 7.8%. The unemployment rate one year ago was 8.1%. B.C. now sits slightly below the national rate of 7.9%, which fell 0.2 percentage points in June.
 - Total employment in B.C. grew by 6,400 jobs over the last month, bringing employment to over 2.29 million employed. Total employment in June was 2.0% (+46,100 jobs) higher than one year ago. Significant growth in full-time employment (+13,200) was offset by losses in part-time work (-6,800).
 - Despite the increase in employment, between May and June, total unemployment increased by 7,700, or 4.1%, bringing the total number of unemployed workers up to 194,300. Compared to one year ago, the number of unemployed workers in B.C. has decreased by 2.7% (5,400 less unemployed workers).
 - Although the number of unemployed increased, the size of the labour force grew in June (+14,100): indicating an improved view of the economy as more people started to look for work.
 - The number of unemployed youth (aged 15 to 24) decreased (-1,500) for the first time in three months to 54,800. The youth unemployment rate also decreased over the last month, falling 0.4 percentage points to 14.7%.
 - Over the last month, unemployment rates decreased in five of the seven B.C. Development Regions: North Coast & Nechako (-1.0%), Thompson-Okanagan (-0.7%), Kootenay (-0.7%), Cariboo (-0.4%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (-0.3%). The Northeast region was the only region to experience an increase in unemployment rates (+0.6%) while the Mainland/Southwest remained unchanged over the last month. The North Coast & Nechako region continues to have the highest unemployment rate in B.C. (11.4%)¹ for the last four consecutive months.
 - An increase in the June unemployment rate kept B.C. in the fourth lowest (7.8%) position among the provinces, tied with Quebec (7.8%), and behind Manitoba (5.3%), Saskatchewan (5.5%) and Alberta (6.7%). Ontario saw the largest decrease in unemployment rates (-0.6%) as their employment grew by 0.9% or 60,300 jobs in June. There was little change in Alberta's unemployment rate in June (+0.1%), with employment growth sitting at +0.3%, or 5,700 additional jobs since May.

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS²

-1.2% (-4,500)
RETAIL AND
WHOLESALE TRADE

+4.5% (+12,100)
HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES

-2.7% (-5,400)
CONSTRUCTION

+1.1% (+1,900)
PROFESSIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNICAL SERVICES

+0.7% (+1,200)
ACCOMMODATION,
FOOD AND BEVERAGE

-1.9% (-3,100)
MANUFACTURING

+2.9% (+1,200)
FORESTRY, FISHING
AND MINING³

- Goods producing industries experienced overall job losses in June (-1.5% or -6,800 jobs). The largest decline was in Construction (-2.7% or -5,400) followed by Manufacturing (-1.9% or -3,100) and Agriculture (-2.3% or -700). Other primary industries (Forestry & Logging; Fishing, Hunting & Trapping; and Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction) did see job gain in June, increasing by 2.9% or 1,200 jobs since May.
- In the service sector, employment increased by 0.7% or 13,200 jobs over the last month. For the second consecutive month, Health and Social Services continued to see employment growth, with an increase of 12,100 jobs in June. Finance and Related industries also experienced growth in June, increasing by 7.8% or 11,000 jobs over the last month. On the other hand, Transportation and Warehousing (-5,400), Other Service (-5,000) and Retail and Wholesale Trade (-4,500) all faced job losses in June.

MONTHLY FEATURE

- Employment has been on an upward trend since July 2009, increasing by 50,800 jobs (+2.2%) to over 2.29 million in June 2010.
- In June, employment increases were solely driven by gains in full-time employment (+13,200), as B.C. experienced growth in full-time employment for the first time since February of this year. On average, during the first half of 2010 (January to June), the provincial economy continued to generate solid gains in full-time employment (averaged at 1.78 million), 1.5% higher than the first half of 2009, when full-time employment averaged 1.76 million.
- At the same time, B.C. also saw growth in its employment rate⁴, up 0.1 percentage points to 60.9%. Currently, B.C. sits in fifth place among the provinces, and 1.2 percentage points behind the national employment rate (62.1%).

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 Employment rate is calculated as employment as a percent of the working age population.

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:	8.6% (↑) ¹
Dawson Creek:	5.6% ² (↓)
Kamloops:	8.9% (↓)
Kelowna:	6.9% (↓)
Nanaimo:	8.0% (↓)
Prince George:	7.3% (↑)
Vancouver:	7.6% (↔)
Vernon:	7.1% (↓)
Victoria:	5.4% (↓)

¹ Compared to previous month

² Denotes derived number