BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

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Issue: **00-21** **6** Pages
May 26, 2000

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Tourism

- **Restaurants, caterers and taverns in BC reported first quarter receipts of $1.1 billion, 2.8% higher than the first quarter 1999.** Full-service restaurant receipts, which accounted for half of the total, increased 7.5% while limited service restaurants such as cafeterias and take-outs, with a third of the market, showed only a 0.4% increase. Receipts in drinking places at $79.6 million were down 17.8%. Monthly receipts for drinking places have been falling since early 1999. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **The March occupancy rates for BC hotels continued to fall below levels of last year, while the average daily room rates were above last year's prices.** The occupancy rate in March was 62.3%, down from 64.6% while room rates rose to $113.34, up from $108.71. The largest declines in occupancy were felt in Greater Victoria at 63.2% down from 71.0%, Kamloops at 44.1% down from 56.4%, Smithers at 43.5% down from 54.6% and Prince George at 59.4% down from 69.6%. Communities faring better were Campbell River with an occupancy rate of 59.7% up from 46.0% and Abbotsford/Chilliwack at 62.7% up from 54.1%.
Source: Pannell Kerr Forster

Agriculture

- **Farmers in the province fared better than in most other parts of the country in the first quarter of the year.** Farm cash receipts were up 7.5% as compared to the first quarter of last year. Only Ontario (+11.8%) had stronger growth than British Columbia. For the country as a whole farm cash receipts only increased by 1.4%, as strong growth in livestock sales (+10.7) was offset by weak crop sales (-10.4%). In British Columbia both crops (+7.4%) and livestock (+6.6%) contributed to the increase, as well as other payments.

  Farm sales of potatoes in BC had the best first quarter ever at $13.5 million, 58.2% above the 1999 level. Floriculture and nursery products also made a strong showing in the first quarter. With sales at $83.5 million, a record first quarter was also set by this crop group. Receipts for chickens and hens rose to $57.3 million up 17.2%, to reach a sales quarter record. Ginseng sales also reached the highest ever quarterly level at $16.2 million. The majority of the ginseng crop is sold in the first quarter. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **BC egg producers sold 53,600 dozen eggs for consumption in 1999, down marginally from 1998. Total farm value for egg production was $58.8 million.** Canada's largest egg producing province is Ontario which produced 180,000 dozen, followed by Quebec at 76,600 dozen. BC poultry producers sold 133,900 tonnes of chickens and stewing hens and 17,000 tonnes of turkey meat for a combined farm value of $242.5 million. Egg consumption across Canada has averaged about 15 dozen per person per year over the last four years, up from 14.5 dozen in the first half of the 1990s. Poultry consumption has been rising throughout the 1990s with per capita consumption in Canada reaching 32.5 kg in 1998.
Source: SC, Cat. 23-202-XIB
- **The number of wildlife pelts sold in BC in the 1998-99 season was 34,242, down 25% from the previous year, while the value was off 30%.** This was the lowest number of pelts taken this decade. Marten was the species taken in largest number – 12,243 pelts, followed by squirrel (6,699), beaver (4,803) and muskrat (3,419). *Source: SC, Cat. 23-603-UPE*

Report **BC Labour Market Update for Youth Aged 15 to 24**

Did you know...
Hens are more productive in Ontario. The average BC hen laid 263 eggs in 1999, while her Ontario counterpart laid 286 eggs.

Forestry

- **BC mills produced 401,000 cubic metres of plywood in the first three months of the year.** First quarter production was 7.8% above last year's level, while shipments were up 8.8%. Inventories at the end of March were down 92.3%. BC accounted for 79.0% of Canadian construction-type plywood production.
  Source: SC, Cat. 35-001-XIB

Labour

- **Union wages settlements made in BC in the 6 months ending April 2000, gave workers an increase of 1.17% in total compensation and 1.20% in wages for the 2000 contract year.** Private sector employees received an average 1.18% increase in wages while public sector employees received 1.25%.
  Source: Labour Relations Board

Our Past

- **Statistics Canada has released an electronic version of the introduction to the *Censuses of Canada, 1665 to 1871*, first published in 1876 and out-of-print for more than a century.** Of note, *Governor Douglas' Dispatch* of 1861 reports the population of Vancouver Island, through immigration, at 3,024, of whom 2,350 are in Victoria and its vicinity. In 1870, the population of British Columbia was reported as 10,586 immigrants and their descendants. *Source: SC, Cat. 98-187-XIE*

The Nation

- **Growth in Canada's composite leading indicator slowed from 1.2% in March to 0.9% in April.** Four of the 10 components fell: the housing index; sales of durable goods other than furniture and appliances; and two of the manufacturing sector indicators. This is the largest number of components to decrease in any month since September 1998. Although the financial market indicators continued to increase, they were weaker than in the last six months, contributing to the slower growth in the overall index. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The latest data on the brain drain from Canada suggests that for every university-educated Canadian who left for the United States, four university graduates immigrated to Canada from abroad during the 1990s.** There were as many graduates with masters and doctoral degrees immigrating as there were graduates at all levels leaving.

  However, persons moving to the US were better educated than both the Canadian-born and recent immigrant population, according to the 1996 Census. Persons with higher incomes (in excess of $150,000) were seven times more likely to emigrate than the average Canadian taxpayer. Canada's trade balance between 1990 and 1997 with the USA for selective professional occupations has been a loss of 18 to one for physicians, 15 to one for nurses, 7 to one for engineers and 4 to one for elementary-secondary teachers.
  Source: SC, Cat. 81-003-XPB

- **A special study carried out in 1999 of Canadian post-secondary graduates from the class of 1995 who had moved to the United States, found that half of graduates had been working during the 6 months prior to moving.** Another 36% were going to school. College graduates were those most likely to have been working, while PhDs reported studying as their main activity. Two-thirds of grads who moved to the US did so within a year of graduating. The top destination in the US was Texas, followed by California, New York and Florida. Texas and Florida attracted disproportionate numbers of those with health-related credentials. New York received the largest share of those who graduated from commerce, management and business administration programs.

  The main reasons for moving to the US were work (57%), further education (23%) and marriage or relationship (17%). Work attracted men and women equally, while 84% of those who went for further education were men and 86% of those who went for marriage or relationship were women. Of those who moved for work, better job availability in their field was the most cited reason (44%), while better compensation was mentioned second (39%). *Source: SC, Cat. 81-003-XPB*

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Infoline Report:

BC labour market update for youth aged 15 to 24

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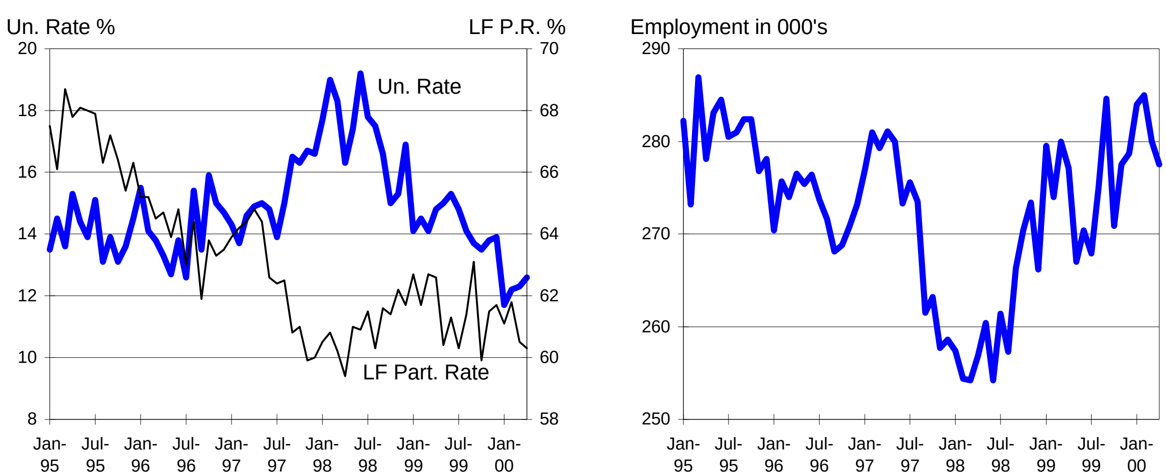
Originally published in the April 2000 issue, *Labour Force Statistics.* Annual subscription: $60 + GST

Introduction . . . Youth labour market conditions between mid-1998 and present have shown considerable improvement. Employment has been rising and the unemployment rate has been falling. Yet this recent improvement followed a period between early-1995 and mid-1998 where the B.C. youth labour market saw considerable challenges. Examination of labour market changes and conditions between younger youth and older youth by student status highlights some notable differences, and provides better understanding into the aggregate youth labour market data.

Recent Youth Labour Market Conditions . . . Figure 1 displays monthly levels for the seasonally adjusted B.C. youth unemployment rate, labour force participation rate and employment since 1995. From January 1995 to mid-1998, B.C. youth labour market conditions saw considerable deterioration as their employment level fell by some 20,000 and their unemployment rate rose from just under 14 per cent to a peak of 19.2 per cent in July 1998. This rise in the youth unemployment rate was particularly concerning since it occurred in an environment where the proportion of youth participating in the active labour force was falling. Between mid-1998 and April 2000, youth labour market conditions in B.C. have seen considerable improvement. Employment levels have climbed back to about 280,000, while the unemployment rate has dropped from 19.2 per cent in July 1998 to 12.6 per cent in April 2000. The youth labour force participation rate stabilized and has shown some modest growth in the past two years, but remains well below levels seen in the mid-1990's. Part of the decline in the overall youth labour force participation rate since the mid-1990s has occurred due to structural and compositional changes in the youth population. Structurally, the proportion of B.C. youth who are engaged in schooling (either secondary or post-secondary) has risen. Students, especially full-time students, are less likely to be in the labour force than non-students. Compositionally, the proportion of the overall youth population aged 15 to 24 who are younger youth aged 15 to 19 is higher today than in 1995 due the demographic impact of the baby echo generation who are now entering their mid-teens. To help separate out these structural and compositional changes, below we examine youth labour market variables separately for non-students versus students for both younger youth aged 15 and 19 and older youth aged 20 and 24.

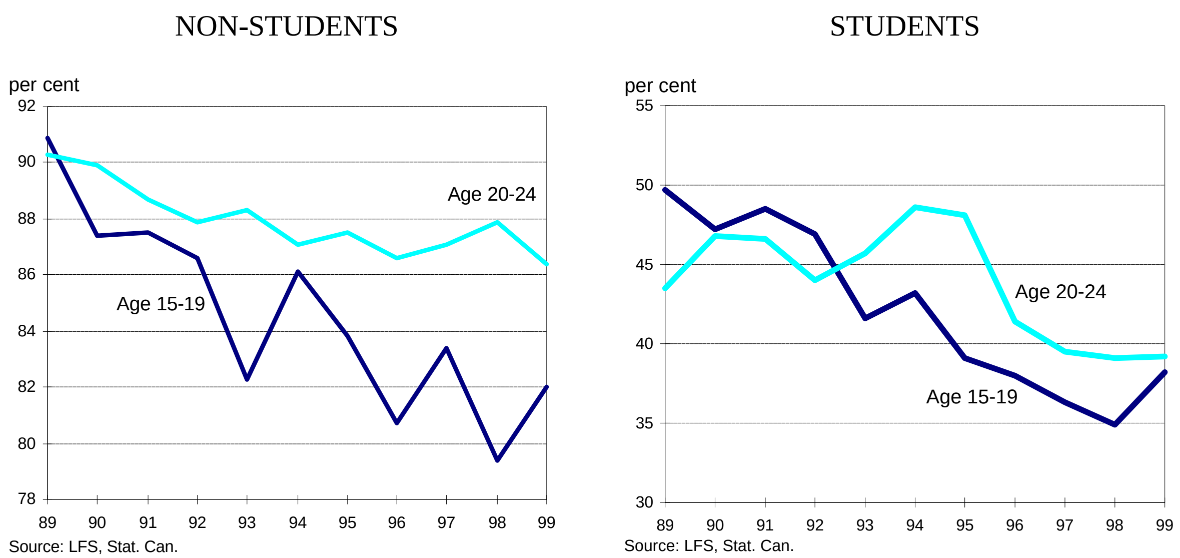
Figure 1: B.C. Youth Unemployment Rate, Labour Force Participation Rate and Employment, Jan. 1995 to Apr. 2000 (seasonally adjusted)



Labour Force Participation by Student Status for Younger and Older Youth . . . Figure 2 shows labour force participation rates for youth sub-groups taken during the main school year (January-April and September-December). By 1999, student and non-student youth, both those aged 15-19 and 20-24, had considerably lower labour force participation than at the start of the decade, and slightly lower than seen in the mid-1990's. Thus the decline in the overall youth labour force participation rate noted earlier in Figure 1, was driven by more than just the structural impact due to increased schooling participation and the age compositional change. For non-student youth, the decline in their participation in the labour force suggests they continue to face labour market challenges.

The slight rise between 1998 and 1999 in labour force participation by younger youth students and non-students, still left these two groups considerably below levels seen in the early 1990's but again close to 1995 levels. For non-student youth aged 15 to 19, almost one in five in 1999 was neither employed or actively looking for work, compared to less than 1 in 10 in 1989. For older non-student youth, their participation rate in the labour force has fallen more slightly, from over 90 per cent in 1989 to 86 per cent in 1999.

Figure 2: B.C. Youth Labour Force Participation Rates
Jan.-Apr. and Sep.-Dec. average, 1989-1999

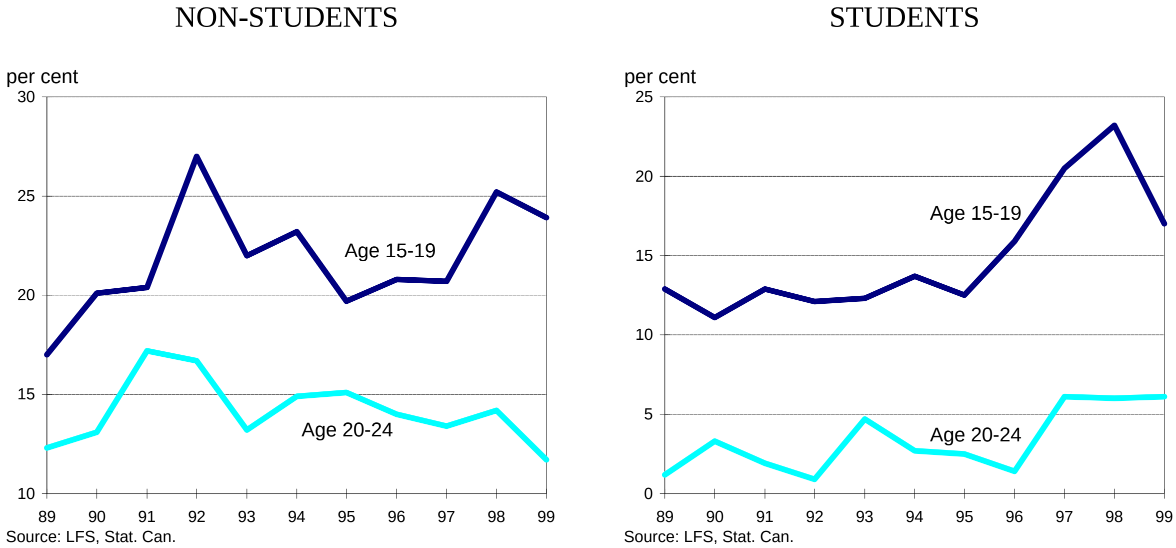


Unemployment Rates by Student Status for Younger and Older Youth. . . Figure 3 shows unemployment rates for youth sub-groups taken during the main school year (January-April and September-December). Unemployment rates for younger and older youth, both students and non-students, were generally lower in 1999 from 1998. Yet with the exception of non-students aged 20 to 24, unemployment rates for the other three groups in 1999 continued to remain higher than in 1995, and much higher compared to conditions at the start of the 1990's. When also considered in light of how labour force participation rates have decayed since 1989, it appears all groups of youth except older non-students are continuing to experience more difficult labour market conditions than at the start of the 1990's.

The largest two groups of youth -- students aged 15 to 19 and non-students aged 20 to 24 -- saw the biggest unemployment rate decreases between 1998 and 1999. Yet the younger student group still has a significantly higher unemployment rate than seen in the first half of the 1990's. For non-students aged 20 to 24 their unemployment rate "improvement" between 1998 and 1999 marks the lowest level seen since 1989.

Aggregate B.C. Youth Labour Market Showing Improvement . . . Overall youth labour market conditions continue to see slower improvement than for B.C. adults aged 25+ in the past six months. In part this lagged improvement is tied to fact youth often have less job experience than adult job seekers. However, it is encouraging that the youth labour force participation rate has stabilized and shown some modest growth in the last six months (recall Figure 1). Ongoing youth employment gains and the fall in the youth unemployment rate over the last two years likely will provide a growing "pull" to those youth currently outside the labour force towards active job search.

Figure 3: B.C. Youth Unemployment Rates
Jan.-Apr. and Sep.-Dec. average, 1989-1999



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Infoline

May 26, 2000

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/00	% change on one year ago
BC	4,043.7	0.9
Canada	30,606.7	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	1998	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	110,948	-0.2
GDP *($ 1992 millions)*	99,708	0.2
GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)*	24,908	-0.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)*	15,969	-1.6
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Mar	3,472	15.6
Merchandise Exports (raw) Mar	2,619	9.3
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Mar	2,915	5.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on
(all items - 1992=100)	Apr '00	one year ago
BC	112.4	1.3
Canada	112.4	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr '00	one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,081	-0.1
Employed - BC	1,938	2.0
Unemployed - BC	143	-21.9
		Apr '99
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.9	8.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.8	8.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 24/00	May 26/99
Prime Business Rate	7.50	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	8.30	6.30
- 5 year	8.75	7.30
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 24/00	May 26/99
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.5081	1.4724
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6619	0.6806
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr '00	one year ago
BC	635.93	3.4
Canada	612.24	3.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

Electoral District Profiles

BC STATS has published a detailed review of the Provincial Electoral Districts (PED) that will be contested for the first time in the next general election. The new PEDs are the result of a rebalancing of the districts, proposed by the *Electoral Boundaries Commission* in June of 1999, and subsequently adopted by the Legislature. Four new ridings were added to bring the total to 79.

Provincial Electoral District Profiles, March 2000, organises the results of the 1996 Census within the new provincial ridings. A graphic profile page for each PED compares various census characteristics between the riding and the province. Sixty-two data tables reveal how groups of characteristics compare across all the ridings. Notes, maps, a glossary and an index help to make the information accessible. The spiral-bound and tab divided printed edition is a handy reference document that may be slipped into a briefcase.

The entire publication, including additional tables not published in the book, may be found on our Internet site. See the first item under **Popular Topics** on the left side of our home page. Users require Acrobat to view and print the charts. The tabular data is available in **CSV format** for downloading.

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