

## Earnings and Employment Trends

### ◆ September 2000

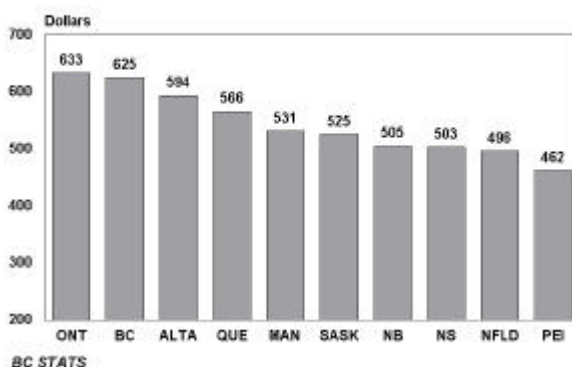
Average Weekly Wage Rates in this article are from Statistics Canada's monthly Labour Force Survey. Information is collected on the usual wages or salary of employees in their main job. Respondents are asked to report their wage/salary before taxes and other deductions, and include tips, commissions and bonuses. Weekly wages/salary are calculated in conjunction with usual paid work hours per week and include full and part-time workers.

### *Average Weekly Wage Rates*

#### **Provincial Comparisons**

The Average Weekly Wage Rate in Canada reached \$595.62 in 1999, a 2.7 per cent increase over 1998. British Columbia's average wage, at \$625.21 in 1999, was the second highest in Canada and a 1.1 per cent increase over 1998. Ontario at \$633.05 had the highest wages of all the provinces and tied with Alberta for the highest one-year increase at 3.6 percent. Only two provinces, Prince Edward Island at \$461.99 and Newfoundland at \$495.87, had average wages below five hundred dollars.

**Average Weekly Wage Rate  
by Province - 1999**



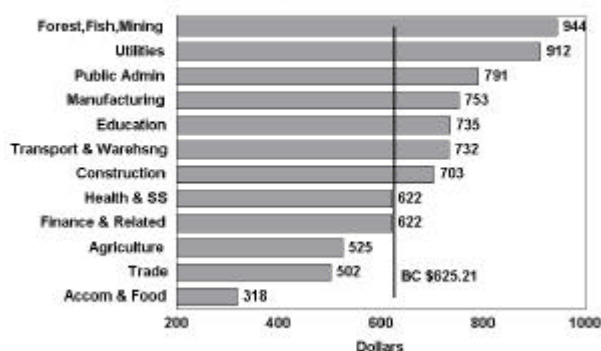
#### **British Columbia Industries**

Historically, weekly wages in goods producing industries are much higher than those in the service industries. In 1999, service industry wages were \$590.53, or 77.6 percent of goods industry wages at \$760.87.

Forestry, Fishing & Mining had the highest weekly wage rate in 1999 at \$944.29, a 4.8 percent increase over 1998. The utilities industries, at \$912.00, had the second highest wage rate but experienced a 5.7 percent decrease from 1998. Agriculture, traditionally with the lowest weekly wages of the goods producing industries, experienced a 17.1 per cent increase in 1999, reaching an average wage of \$524.54.

In the Service Producing Industries, public administration had the highest weekly wage rate at \$790.71. Retail and Wholesale Trade experienced the largest increase over 1998 at 4.3 percent.

**Average Weekly Wage Rate  
by Industry in BC - 1999**

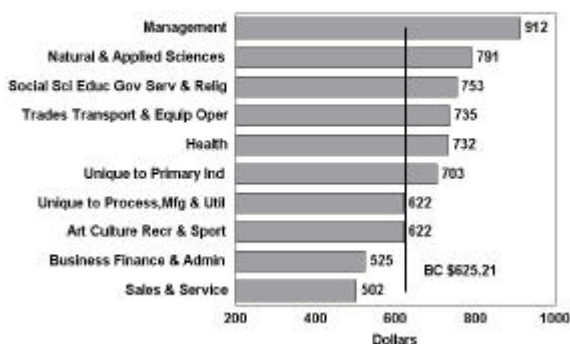


BC STATS

### British Columbia Occupations

Management occupations had the highest average weekly wage rate in 1999 at \$920.38, a 2.7 percent increase over 1998. Sales and service occupations have the lowest weekly wage of all major groups at \$391.75. Occupations unique to the Primary industry experienced the largest percent increase over 1998 at 12.9 percent.

**Average Weekly Wage Rate  
by Occupation in BC - 1999**



BC STATS

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