

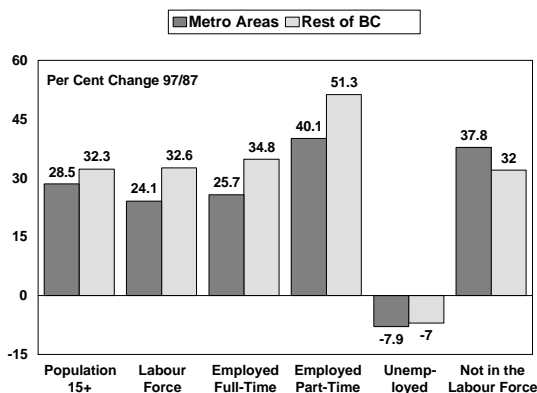
Earnings and Employment Trends ♦ August 1998

Labour Market Comparisons between the Metropolitan Areas and the Rest of the Province

The census metropolitan (metro) areas¹ of Vancouver and Victoria contain almost sixty per cent of the working aged population in British Columbia.

Over the past ten years, labour force participation in the metro areas has declined by 2.3 percentage points while the rest of the province has remained stable. This is due solely to a sharp decline in the number of 15-24 year olds that participate in the labour force. Since 1987, the actual size of the labour force of this age group has declined by 13 per cent within the metro areas while the rest of BC's youth labour force has grown by 6.3 per cent.

Labour Force Characteristics



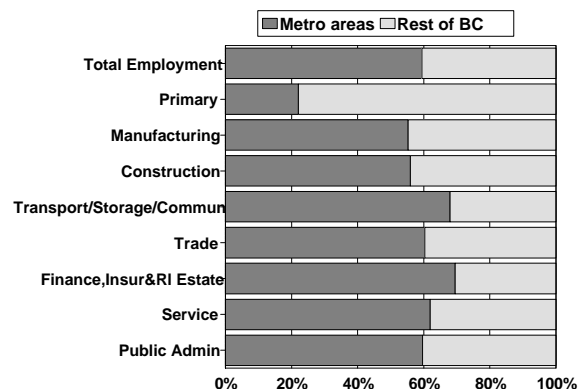
Employment growth over the past ten years has been much more pronounced outside the

metro areas, with growth of 38.4 per cent, compared to the metro areas at 28.2 per cent.

The construction industry experienced the highest employment growth of all major industry groups between 1987 and 1997 at 66.8 per cent, with growth in the metro areas of 50.7 per cent and the rest of BC at 92.9 per cent.

Services to business (includes computer, accounting, architects, lawyers, and management services) continue to experience rapid growth. Employment in the metro areas has increased 66.7 per cent over the last ten years and 139.7 per cent in the rest of BC.

Employment Distribution by Industry



¹ A census metropolitan area is a very large urban area, together with adjacent urban and rural areas which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that urban area. It has a population of at least 100,000 persons. Vancouver and Victoria are the only metropolitan areas in British Columbia.

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