
Labour Force Statistics ♦ August 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strong growth in B.C.'s seasonally adjusted labour force in August (up 33,600) was only partly absorbed by the 14,900 gain in employment.** This pushed up the unemployment rate from 7.1 per cent in July to 7.9 per cent in August.
- **B.C. youth aged 15 to 24 saw a decrease in employment (down 2,000) in August.** Combined with a rise of 9,900 in the estimated number of unemployed youth, the youth unemployment rate rose from 13.3 per cent in July to 16.0 per cent in August.
- **The employment rate for students aged 15 to 24 who intend to return to school in the fall was up slightly in August to 47.8 per cent from 47.5 per cent in August 1999.** The unemployment rate of returning students was 15.6 per cent in August, up from 13.0 per cent in August 1999.
- **Large numbers of people entering the labour force in August combined with modest employment gains, pushed the unemployment rate up in all provinces except Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland.** B.C. accounted for over half of the total employment gains in Canada for August.

Selected Statistics (SA)*	Aug. 2000	Jul. 2000	Aug. 1999
B.C. Unemployment Rate	7.9%	7.1%	8.9%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.1%	6.8%	7.7%
B.C. Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	143.0	144.0	133.0
B.C. Employment - Monthly Change	0.8%	-1.2%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Monthly Change	1.6%	-0.8%	-
B.C. Participation Rate	65.1%	64.1%	65.4%

* Unless otherwise indicated, all labour force variables are seasonally adjusted.

Labour Force Statistics is a joint compilation and review by BC STATS of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations and the Youth and Labour Market Services Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology of the results of the monthly Labour Force Survey conducted by Statistics Canada. For more information, call BC STATS (250) 387-0327 or YLMS (250) 952-6776.

B.C. Employment by Industry - A Ten Year Perspective

Employment by Industry . . . Figure 1 provides a table of industry employment changes between 1989 and 1999 by the main **North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS)** sectors.

Of the two major industrial aggregates, the Services-Producing Sector is the largest. Services represented 79 per cent of total employment in 1999, up from 74 per cent in 1989. Services employment expanded by 35 per cent compared to 2 per cent for Goods between 1989 and 1999.

Within the Goods-Producing Sector, employment decreased in *Agriculture* and in *Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas* between 1989 and 1999. Although there was some growth in both *Construction* and *Manufacturing*, these industries grew at a much slower pace than all sectors within Services.

All industries in the Services Sector grew between 1989 and 1999. *Professional,*

Scientific and Technical Services grew by 63 per cent, led by growth in the computer systems design, and scientific & technical services components. The smaller *Management, Administrative and Other Support* industry saw the fastest growth (79 per cent). This industry includes establishments engaged in managing companies and those supportive of day-to-day operations of other organizations.

B.C.'s strong population growth through most of the 1990s contributed to the employment growth in *Health Care* (41 per cent) and *Education* (48 per cent). Employment in *Retail and Wholesale Trade* did not grow as fast as the all-industry average but with the net addition of almost 58,000 workers, it continues to be the largest industry in B.C. Of all the sectors within Services, only *Public Administration* saw employment growth well below the all-industry average, and by 1999 this industry represented less than 5 per cent of all employment in B.C.

Figure 1: B.C. Employment by Industry - Changes from 1989 to 1999

	Employment Level 1999 (‘000’s)	Net Change ‘89-‘99 (‘000’s)	% Change ‘89-‘99	Distribution 1989	Distribution 1999
All Industries	1,906.4	397.5	26.3%	100.0%	100.0%
Goods-Producing Sector	396.5	9.2	2.4%	25.7%	20.8%
Agriculture	28.6	-4.4	-13.3%	2.2%	1.5%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	49.0	-5.5	-10.1%	3.6%	2.6%
Utilities	11.5	0.2	1.8%	0.7%	0.6%
Construction	115.3	4.8	4.3%	7.3%	6.0%
Manufacturing	192.1	14.1	7.9%	11.8%	10.1%
Services-Producing Sector	1,509.8	388.2	34.6%	74.3%	79.2%
Retail and Wholesale Trade	308.5	57.6	23.0%	16.6%	16.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	117.9	27.0	29.7%	6.0%	6.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	119.9	23.4	24.2%	6.4%	6.3%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	136.7	52.7	62.7%	5.6%	7.2%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	64.1	28.3	79.1%	2.4%	3.4%
Educational Services	127.5	41.1	47.6%	5.7%	6.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	195.3	56.6	40.8%	9.2%	10.2%
Information, Culture and Recreation	91.6	23.2	33.9%	4.5%	4.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	152.7	41.5	37.3%	7.4%	8.0%
Other Services	105.2	28.9	37.9%	5.1%	5.5%
Public Administration	90.4	7.8	9.4%	5.5%	4.7%

Employment by region . . . Figure 2 shows employment changes for the combined census metropolitan areas of Victoria and Vancouver, and compares this to the rest of B.C. from 1989 to 1999. The third column notes the non-metro share of total B.C. employment by industry. Employment grew slightly faster in non-metro B.C. (up 29 per cent) than metro B.C. (25 per cent). Goods sector employment growth was flat in both metro and non-metro areas. All provincial construction employment growth was seen outside the two large metro areas.

Employment by gender . . . Employment for women has continued to rise in B.C. over the past ten years though at a slower pace than took place in the 1970s and 1980s. Women accounted for 47 per cent of all employment in B.C. in 1999, up from 43 per cent in 1989.

While employment growth in the Goods sector was small, all of it was by women, primarily in *manufacturing* and *construction*. Despite this, women continue to be under-represented in the Goods sector, accounting for only 20 per cent of the workers compared to 18 per cent ten years ago.

Over half of all employment in Services is held by women, and the rate of growth in this sector has been faster for women than for men. Men saw the fastest growth in the *Professional, Scientific and Technical Services* (which contains the fast growing computer system design services component). Women saw the fastest employment growth in *Health Care and Social Assistance*. Men saw a decrease in *Public Administration* employment, the only sector in Services where their employment fell.

Figure 2: B.C. Industry Employment Changes by Metro and Non-Metro Regions and by Gender, 1989 to 1999

	% Change Metro	% Change Non- Metro	Non-Metro Share of Total Employment 1999	% Change Men	% Change Women	Women's Share of Total Employment 1999
Total	25%	29%	39%	19%	36%	47%
Goods-Producing Sector	4%	1%	52%	0%	15%	20%
Agriculture	26%	-21%	76%	-14%	-12%	43%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	-52%	2%	88%	-10%	-10%	11%
Utilities	33%	-22%	43%	-19%	87%	37%
Construction	-4%	17%	44%	1%	38%	12%
Manufacturing	15%	1%	45%	5%	20%	23%
Services-Producing Sector	30%	44%	36%	30%	39%	53%
Trade	15%	38%	38%	20%	26%	48%
Transportation and Warehousing	32%	25%	34%	32%	21%	21%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	17%	47%	28%	33%	19%	60%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	52%	109%	24%	97%	33%	44%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	72%	93%	37%	67%	94%	47%
Educational Services	45%	52%	39%	18%	72%	64%
Health Care and Social Assistance	38%	45%	38%	32%	43%	81%
Information, Culture and Recreation	37%	26%	28%	31%	38%	48%
Accommodation and Food Services	30%	48%	42%	37%	37%	57%
Other Services	38%	38%	42%	18%	59%	56%
Public Administration	4%	21%	38%	-3%	29%	47%

Employment by industry subsectors . . .

Figure 3 notes selected subsectors which saw some of the fastest employment growth over the last ten years. Many of these subsectors are within some of the fastest growing aggregate sectors noted in Figure 1, and most are extremely high in terms of skilled professional and technical employment requiring post-secondary education. Overall, the selected 15 subsectors in Table 6 accounted for one-third of the total net gains in employment in B.C. in the

last ten years, despite making up only 15 per cent of overall employment by 1999.

Employment in these sectors more than doubled, compared to growth of under 20 per cent in all other sectors between 1989 and 1999. These data provide some strong evidence that emergence of the “new economy” has been occurring. Since these 15 subsectors are nearly all in services, their phenomenal growth is not reflected in established economic indicators which most often focus on goods.

Figure 3: B.C. Employment Change in Selected Subsectors, 1989-1999

Selected Subsector	<i>Employment Level 1999</i>	<i>% Change 1989-1999</i>	<i>Net Change 1989-1999</i>
Computer System Design Services	27,700	280%	20,400
Management, Scientific and Technical Services	22,700	137%	13,100
Electronics, Computer and Appliance Stores	11,000	72%	4,600
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	7,800	48%	2,500
Architectural, Engineering and Design Services	30,800	23%	5,800
Travelling Services	8,100	179%	5,200
Scenic & Sightseeing Transp. & Support Activities	18,500	73%	7,800
Air Transportation	19,900	58%	7,300
Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries	10,800	184%	7,000
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports & Related	19,500	108%	10,100
Building Services	30,600	91%	14,600
Business Support & Manag. of Enterprises Serv.	10,300	51%	3,500
Securities & Invest. Advice and Portfolio Manag.	15,500	121%	8,500
Accounting and Tax Services	21,600	55%	7,700
Other Schools and Educational Support	17,700	190%	11,600
Above subsectors as proportion of all employment	14%		33%

The subsectors in Figure 3 reflect some key structural economic and societal trends seen in the last decade. The 15 subsectors have been grouped into 5 related segments and these reflect the explosion in knowledge-based professional information technology (IT) and high-tech services, expansion of travel, tourism and air transportation, increases in the North American entertainment and leisure market with motion picture, performing arts and recreation employment gains in B.C., business services

expansion, and the ongoing expansion in commercial training institutions and professional development services.

- The computer system design, management, science & technology, and architectural, engineering & design subsectors, reflect the rise in knowledge-intensive services and information technology.
- The travel, sightseeing and air transportation employment growth is

directly reflecting the importance of tourism as a source of exports and has been driven in large part by U.S. and other international visitors to B.C. in the past two years.

- The motion picture and performing arts and spectator sports subsectors reflect employment gains due to growth and expansion in leisure and entertainment by consumers. In the case of the motion picture sector, much of the work involves export services for the province with US productions shot in B.C.
- Business services and support services (the latter which include desktop publishing, telephone call centres, and office support

services) are areas which have grown quickly both in providing financial expertise and in serving larger organizations which have tended to focus on their core businesses and contract out ancillary operations.

- Other schools and educational support (includes commercial computer and business and professional development training and educational counselling) has grown over three times as fast as overall *Education Services*.

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