

Labour Force Statistics ♦ December 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

- B.C.'s seasonally adjusted level of employment grew by 8,400 or 0.4 per cent in December from November.** December's employment gain was paced by gains in full-time work, and a jump in jobs by youth aged 15 to 24.
- The labour force participation rate in December rose due to both additional employment and more persons actively looking for work (unemployed).** The unemployment rate bumped up 7.1 per cent in December from 7.0 per cent in November.
- On an annual average basis for 2000 compared to 1999, full-time employment in B.C. expanded by 3.5 per cent (up 53,000).** This more than offset a 2.3 per cent decrease (down 9,500) in part-time employment.
- In terms of overall employment growth in 2000, B.C.'s increase of 2.2 per cent trailed Ontario's 3.2 per cent growth.** However, B.C.'s job growth was similar to the 2.4 per cent growth in Quebec and the 2.3 per cent rise in Alberta.

Selected Statistics (SA)*	Dec 2000	Nov 2000	Dec 1999
B.C. Unemployment Rate	7.1%	7.0%	7.8%
Canada Unemployment Rate	6.8%	6.9%	6.8%
B.C. Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	153.0	154.0	142.0
B.C. Employment - Monthly Change	0.4%	0.2%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Monthly Change	0.5%	-0.5%	-
B.C. Participation Rate	65.2%	64.9%	65.1%

* 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 Youth and Labour Market Services (250) 952-6776.

The B.C. Labour Market in 2000

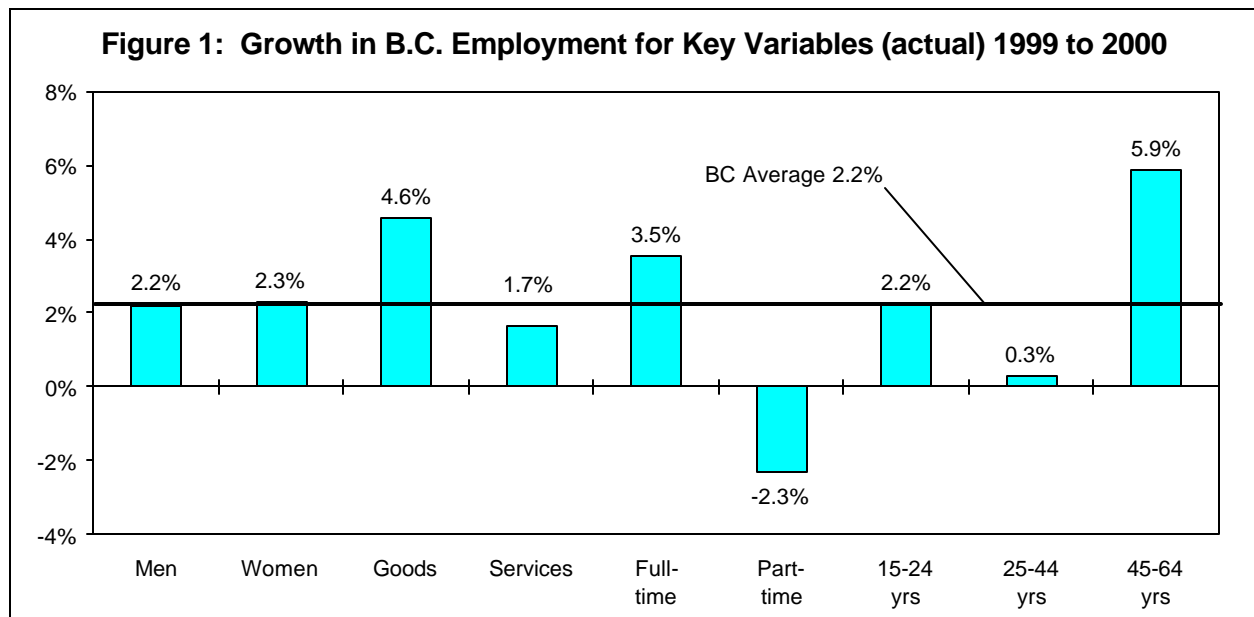
Employment Gains . . . The B.C. goods sector saw faster employment growth than services, contributing to about 40 per cent of the net employment gains seen in 2000. Goods sector employment was led by growth in other primary goods (logging, mining and oil & gas), due mainly to the weakness in this sector in the first half of 1999. Manufacturing was also up strongly in 2000, while construction employment was down slightly compared to 1999's level. In services, most subsectors saw little change, with most of the growth coming from management, administration and business support services, education services, and accommodation and food services.

All of B.C.'s employment growth in 2000 was seen in full-time workers which expanded by 3.5 per cent (up 53,000), and this more than offset the 2.3 per cent decrease (down 9,500) in part-time employment. Within full-time employment

gains, men saw growth of 4.1 per cent, compared to 2.6 per cent growth for women.

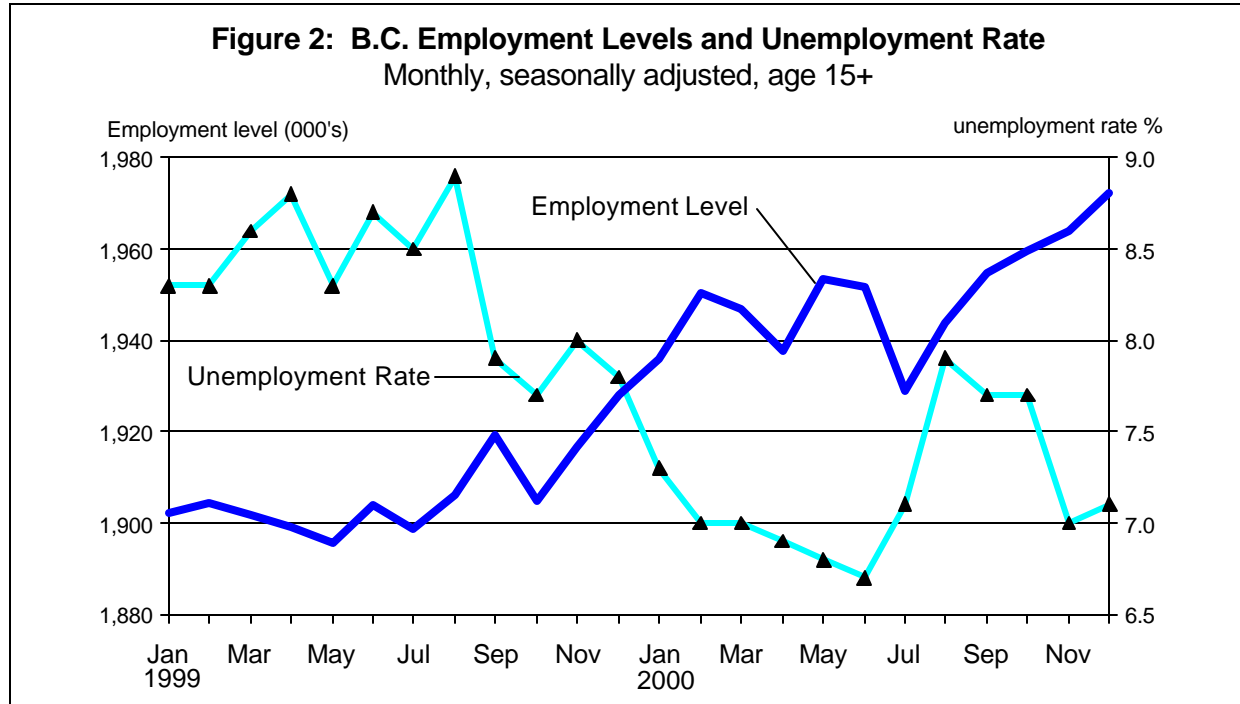
The fastest employment growth by class of worker in 2000 was seen by private sector employees (up 4.8 per cent) which, when combined with more modest growth in public sector employment, more than offset a 6.6 per cent decrease in self-employment.

Employment growth of 5.9 per cent for persons aged 45 to 64 was bolstered in part by demographics, as the numbers of baby boomers entering this cohort strongly exceeds pre-baby boomers leaving the cohort, plus the fact those entering the cohort have a higher employment rate than those exiting. The 25 to 44 age group saw much more modest employment growth, while youth aged 15 to 24 saw employment growth matching the overall provincial average of 2.2%



Employment and Unemployment Rates During 2000 . . . As noted in Figure 2, employment levels have generally been increasing and unemployment rates have been falling over the past two years. Following a pause in employment levels in the first seven

months of 2000, employment in B.C. has been growing steadily since July 2000. The B.C. unemployment rate, which saw some increase in August though September as labour force participation rose, has fallen back to near the 7 per cent level in November and December.



Unemployment Changes in 2000 . . . The provincial annual average unemployment rate for 2000 fell to 7.2 per cent, down from 8.3 per cent in 1999. The estimated number of unemployed persons fell by 22,100 to stand at 150,600 in 2000. The decrease in numbers of unemployed persons was seen in all three core working age groups for both women and men.

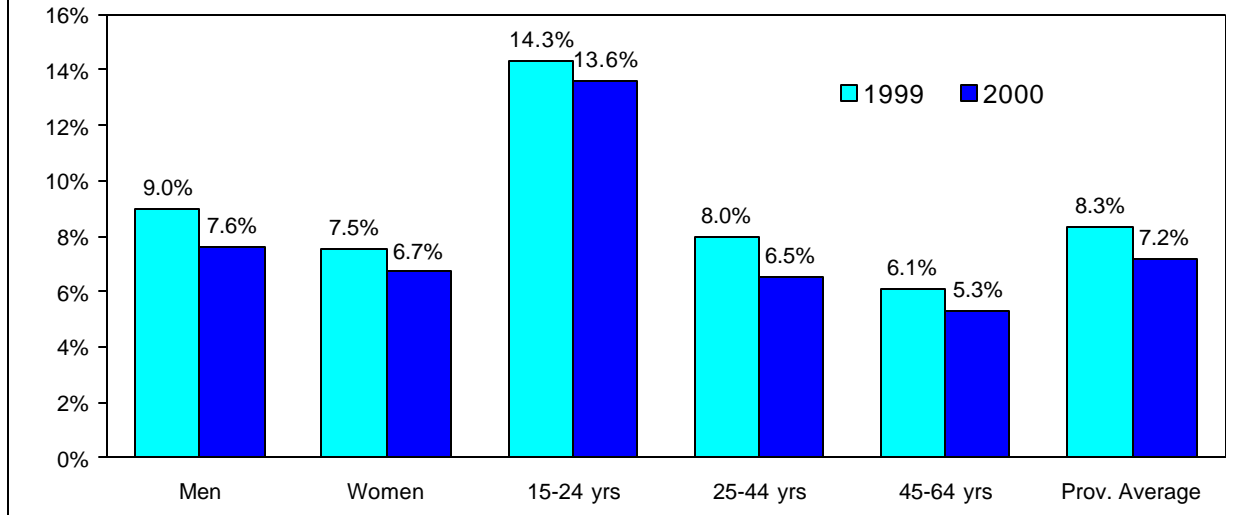
Unemployment rates fell for both men and women overall, and all three core working age groups noted below in Figure 3. The unemployment rate for men declined by 1.4 percentage points to stand at 7.6 per cent, down from 9.0 per cent in 1999. B.C. youth saw a fall in the unemployment rate to 13.6 per cent from

14.3 per cent in 1999, continuing the decrease from 17.3 per cent in 1998.

The strongest decrease in unemployment rates was seen among persons aged 25 to 44, dropping to 6.5 per cent in 2000, from 8.0 per cent in 1999. This is well below the lowest annual average unemployment rate seen by persons aged 25 to 44 for any year during the 1990's (the next lowest being 7.7 per cent in 1997).

Workers aged 45 to 64 continued to enjoy the lowest unemployment rate of the three core working age groups, which fell to 5.3 per cent in 2000 from 6.1 per cent in 1999.

Figure 3: B.C. Unemployment Rates, 1999 vs. 2000



Employment by Industry. . . As noted in Figure 4, the B.C. goods-producing sector saw faster employment growth than services, contributing to about 40 per cent of the net employment gains seen in 2000. This is the first year since 1994 in B.C. where goods sector employment growth outpaced services employment growth.

Two major components of the goods sector (*Forestry, Fishing, Mining and Oil & Gas and Manufacturing*) accounted for the bulk of the net employment increases within goods in 2000. Construction continued to see some decreases, and is well below levels seen a decade ago in 1990.

In services, most of the growth in employment in 2000 came from *management, administration & business support services; education services; information, culture & recreation; and accommodation & food services*. Most other service sectors were little changed, though there were some notable changes for subsectors within the larger aggregates. For example, while the larger *professional, scientific and technical services* sector saw little change in employment overall in 2000, its **computer system design services** subsector saw a net rise of 4,600 in employment from 1999. This

adds to the net gain of 9,100 this subsector saw in 1999 from 1998.

In terms of aggregate service sectors which were down slightly in 2000, both *other services* (which includes repair, maintenance, personal and laundry services) and *transportation & warehousing* saw some declines. Most of the decrease in the latter sector was seen in air transportation.

The final column in Figure 3 provides a longer term perspective on industry employment changes by noting annual average percentage change between 1990 and 2000. This highlights the much stronger growth of services versus goods employment in the past decade. Within goods, only manufacturing has managed to average above 1 per cent annual employment growth since 1990. Within services, employment growth since 1990 is noted in a number of “new economy” and business service sectors such as *professional, scientific and technical services; management, administrative and other support; and information, culture and recreation*. By contrast, the large *retail and wholesale trade* sector has grown at only half the pace of services overall, and *public administration* employment in 2000 was virtually no different than in 1990.

Figure 4: Industry Employment Levels and Growth in B.C., Annual Averages

	1990	1998	1999	2000	% Change 1999-2000	Average Annual % Change 1990-2000
All Industries	1554.9	1870.2	1906.4	1949.1	2.2%	2.5%
Goods-Producing Sector	390.4	408.9	396.5	414.4	4.5%	0.6%
Agriculture	29.2	33.1	28.6	29.8	4.2%	0.2%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	52.4	50.7	49.0	55.4	13.1%	0.6%
Utilities	13.0	11.4	11.5	11.3	-1.7%	-1.3%
Construction	119.6	117.7	115.3	112.5	-2.4%	-0.6%
Manufacturing	176.2	196.0	192.2	205.4	6.9%	1.7%
Services-Producing Sector	1164.5	1461.2	1509.8	1534.7	1.6%	3.2%
Retail and Wholesale Trade	263.4	294.3	308.5	303.2	-1.7%	1.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	90.8	106.2	117.9	114.4	-3.0%	2.6%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	100.0	122.7	120.0	119.5	-0.4%	2.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	88.1	124.1	136.7	136.4	-0.2%	5.5%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	36.5	66.0	64.1	71.9	12.2%	9.7%
Educational Services	88.8	120.2	127.5	134.9	5.8%	5.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	147.9	194.6	195.3	202.1	3.5%	3.7%
Information, culture and recreation	68.4	94.3	91.7	99.3	8.3%	4.5%
Accommodation and food services	115.6	151.9	152.7	164.0	7.4%	4.2%
Other services	75.9	94.0	105.2	99.3	-5.6%	3.1%
Public administration	89.0	93.1	90.4	89.7	-0.8%	0.1%

Regional Labour Markets . . . Strong labour market conditions were experienced in 2000 for the large and diversified Lower Mainland/Southwest region (up 38,000 or 3.3 per cent). Above-average employment growth was also seen in the Northeast (up 5.3 per cent) and Thompson/Okanagan (up 2.7 per cent) regions. Each of these three regions all exhibit an above-average degree of economic diversification, and all saw a drop in their unemployment rate and a rise in their employment-to-population ratios.

By contrast, employment was down by 1.7 per cent in the Cariboo region and decreased by 1.0 per cent for the Vancouver Island/Coast region. Most of the fall in employment for the latter region was seen outside of the Metro Victoria

area where employment was little changed. The Cariboo region saw a fall in both their employment-to-population ratio and labour force participation rate in 2000, resulting in a decrease in their unemployment rate despite employment being down.

Both the Kootenay and North Coast/Nechako regions, which are more dependent on other primary sectors and resource manufacturing, saw a boost in their employment/population ratios in 2000. Both these regions experienced employment gains in 2000 but these were exceeded by even stronger labour force growth, pushing up their unemployment rates from 1999 levels.

Figure 5: B.C. Regional Labour Market Changes, Annual Average 1999 and 2000

Development Region	Employment (000's)			Unempl. Rate (%)		Employment/Pop Ratio	
	1999	2000	% Chg.	1999	2000	1999	2000
Vancouver Island/Coast	329.1	325.9	-1.0%	8.0%	7.8%	58.7%	57.9%
Lower Mainland/S.W.	1,140.1	1,177.9	3.3%	7.8%	6.2%	60.7%	61.5%
Thompson/Okanagan	207.1	212.7	2.7%	9.7%	9.2%	55.1%	55.9%
Kootenay	69.5	71.2	2.3%	9.0%	10.1%	56.7%	57.8%
Cariboo	82.9	81.5	-1.7%	11.6%	9.9%	62.2%	60.7%
North Coast/Nechako	46.7	47.6	1.8%	8.8%	10.2%	62.2%	63.8%
Northeast	30.8	32.5	5.3%	8.9%	6.1%	64.6%	67.8%
B.C.	1,906.4	1949.1	2.2%	8.3%	7.2%	59.7%	60.2%

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