

Labour Force Statistics ♦ May 2002

HIGHLIGHTS

- **B.C. employment fell by 11,000 in May, partially offsetting the net gains of 23,900 seen over the two previous months.** Lower employment in May was accompanied by an increase of 16,800 in the number of people looking for work (unemployed). This pushed up the B.C. unemployment rate by 0.8 percentage points to 9.5 per cent.
- **Almost all of the B.C. employment losses in May were for men, with declines in both full and part-time jobs.** For women, a decrease in part-time employment was offset by gains in full-time jobs. Employment by youth (persons aged 15 to 24) fell by 10,500 in May.
- **B.C. employment fell in both the goods sector (down 0.7 per cent) and the services sector (down 0.5 per cent) in May.** Employment decreases were concentrated in manufacturing (down 6,200), education services (down 7,300), and accommodation and food services (down 6,000).
- **Employment for Canada rose by 30,500 in May adding to the net job gains of 124,700 over the previous two months.** Canada's unemployment rate inched up by 0.1 percentage points to 7.7 per cent in May, as labour force growth (up 0.3 per cent) outpaced employment growth (0.2 per cent).

Selected Statistics (SA)*	May 2002	Apr. 2002	May 2001
B.C. Unemployment Rate	9.5%	8.7%	6.9%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.7%	7.6%	7.0%
B.C. Help Wanted Index - (1996=100)	94.6	94.7	124.2
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	-0.6%	0.7%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.3%	0.4%	-
B.C. Participation Rate	64.6%	64.5%	64.6%

* 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 Management Services and the Accountability Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education of the results of the monthly Labour Force Survey conducted by Statistics Canada. For more information, call BC STATS (250) 387-0327 or the Accountability Branch (250) 952-6776.

Educational and Labour Market Pathways of B.C. Youth, Aged 18 to 20

Introduction . . . The first results from the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS), a new longitudinal survey from Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada, were released in January 2002 in the report “*At a Crossroads – First Results for the 18 to 20-Year-Old Cohort of the Youth in Transition Survey.*” The report provides some initial provincial estimates of educational participation and attainment and information on transitions from high school to post-secondary education and work. The report focuses primarily on national trends, though some provincial results are available. Since the age 18 to 20 cohort is examined, it needs to be recognized that the high school “dropout” (or non-completion rates) and post-secondary participation rates for this cohort will continue to change as the group moves into their early twenties.

Youth aged 18 to 20 are in transition . . . Some are in the final stages of completing high school, many are engaged in post secondary programs, while others have left the education system altogether. Figure 1 shows the post-high school status of 18 to 20 year-olds by province. They are divided into five categories: high school dropouts with no post-secondary education (PSE), high

school graduates with no PSE, post-secondary continuers, post-secondary graduates, and post-secondary leavers who began a post-secondary program but left before graduating. Almost 98 per cent of the latter three “post-secondary” groups are those with high school completion.

In Canada, as of December 1999, over 62 per cent of 18 to 20 year-olds who were no longer in high school had gone on to pursue some post-secondary education or training after high school. Quebec and the Atlantic provinces had above-average post-secondary participation while Ontario and the Western provinces (which had stronger labour market conditions) had participation rates below the national average. The PSE system in Quebec is significantly different from the rest of the provinces in Canada. A number of secondary students in Quebec graduate following grade 11 and enroll in CEGEPs (Collège d’enseignement général et professionnel, Quebec’s version of general and vocational colleges) for one or two years prior to entering either university or the labour force. This has the effect of elevating the PSE participation rate for Quebec relative to other provinces when looking at youth aged 18 to 20.

**Figure 1: Education Status of 18 to 20 Year-Olds
Who Were No Longer in High School as of Dec 1999, by Province**

	<i>High School Dropouts, no PSE (%)</i>	<i>High school Graduates, no PSE (%)</i>	<i>Post- Secondary Continuers (%)</i>	<i>Post- Secondary Graduates (%)</i>	<i>Post- Secondary Leavers (%)</i>	<i>Total PSE (%)</i>
Canada	11.8	26.0	52.2	4.3	5.7	62.2
British Columbia	11.2	30.6	50.5	3.5	4.2	58.2
Alberta	14.9	34.6	42.1	3.5	4.9	50.5
Saskatchewan	8.0	34.5	46.4	4.7	6.4	57.5
Manitoba	15.3	29.4	44.4	4.9	6.0	55.3
Ontario	10.1	35.0	48.7	2.0	4.2	54.9
Quebec	14.3	7.6	62.3	7.6	8.2	78.1
Nova Scotia	11.0	18.6	57.8	5.0	7.6	70.4
New Brunswick	8.8	28.6	50.1	7.4	5.1	62.6
Prince Edward Island	11.7	26.0	51.2	7.0	4.1	62.3
Newfoundland	9.7	23.6	54.3	4.0	8.4	66.7

Education Status By Gender . . . As noted in Figure 2, about 29 per cent of men and 23 per cent of women aged 18 to 20 in Canada were high school graduates who had not gone on to post-secondary education as of December 1999. Just over half of men and two-thirds of women were enrolled or had participated in post-secondary

education. This trend holds true for all provinces with women much less likely to drop out of high school, and more likely to pursue post-secondary education or training. The gap in post-secondary participation between men and women is particularly wide in Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Figure 2: Education Status of 18 to 20 Year Olds Who Were No Longer in High School as of December 1999, by Gender

	High School Dropouts		High School Graduates, no PSE		Post-secondary Continuers, Graduates, Leavers	
	Men (%)	Women (%)	Men (%)	Women (%)	Men (%)	Women (%)
Canada	14.7	9.1	28.6	23.4	56.7	67.5
British Columbia	14.5	8.0	33.2	28.1	52.3	63.9
Alberta	17.5	12.3	35.5	33.7	47.0	54.0
Saskatchewan	10.5	5.4	37.5	31.6	52.0	63.0
Manitoba	16.4	14.2	33.2	25.9	50.4	59.7
Ontario	11.5	8.8	38.3	31.8	50.2	59.4
Quebec	18.7	9.8	9.6	5.6	71.5	84.6
Nova Scotia	15.9	6.1	23.3	14.0	60.8	79.9
New Brunswick	11.4	6.3	35.8	21.6	52.8	71.3
Prince Edward Island	15.2	8.1	27.0	25.0	57.8	66.9
Newfoundland	14.0	5.2	23.7	23.5	62.3	71.3

Comparison of High School Dropout Rates 1991 and 1999 . . . Comparing the Youth in Transition Survey to the 1991 School Leavers Survey, Figure 3 shows that the high school dropout rate for 20 year-old youth had declined by one-third during the 1990s, from 18 per cent in 1991 to 12 per cent in 1999. Almost every province experienced substantial declines. The Atlantic provinces (except P.E.I.) saw the largest declines in high school dropout rates, going from among the highest provincial rates in 1991 to among the lowest rates in 1999.

the dropout rate for men and women is significant in most provinces except Manitoba.

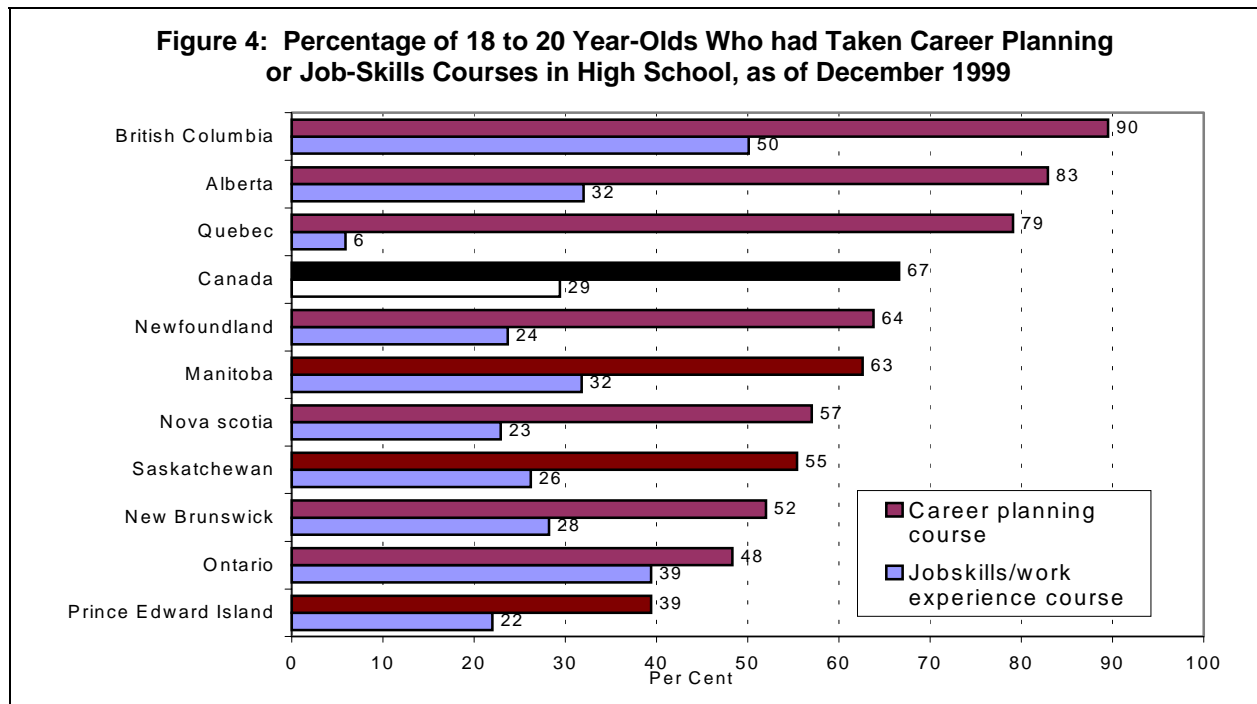
In 1999, the high school dropout rate among 20 year-old men was much higher than for young women (14.7 per cent compared to 9.2 per cent). Figure 3 shows the dropout rate of men and women by province. Overall dropout rates were highest in P.E.I., Quebec and Manitoba, about average in Alberta, B.C., Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, and well below the national average in New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan. The spread between

Figure 3: Comparison of High School Dropout Rates Among 20 Year Olds, 1991 and 1999

	School Leavers Survey 1991 (%)			Youth in Transition Survey 1999 (%)		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Canada	18	22	14	12.0	14.7	9.2
B.C.	16	17	14	12.9	16.7	8.9
Alberta	14	16	12	12.5	13.8	11.1
Sask.	16	16	16	7.3	9.9	4.5
Manitoba	19	20	18	14.8	15.7	13.9
Ontario	17	22	10	9.5	11.2	7.8
Quebec	22	26	18	16.0	19.9	12.0
N.S.	22	29	13	10.1	14.5	5.0
N.B.	20	23	16	7.6	11.7	3.7
PEI	25	33	17	16.4	22.3	9.2
Nfld	24	29	19	10.5	15.2	5.7

Second-Chance Education In 1999, 8.9 per cent of 20 year-old high school dropouts were enrolled in or had completed some type of post-secondary education. It is important to account for this additional education because new skills, knowledge and credentials obtained by dropouts would have a positive impact on their employment opportunities. Also, the high school dropout rate is fluid, decreasing over time as individuals pursue second-chance high school completion opportunities in the education system. Often these “mature” students will finish off their high school completion and then embark upon post-secondary education or training. Future results from the Youth in Transition Survey will be able to examine these less traditional routes to post-secondary education and training by individuals in their twenties.

Career Planning . . . Opportunities to learn about the world of work and the range of career possibilities in further education and training varies greatly between provinces. Overall for Canada, about two-thirds of 18 to 20 year-olds who were no longer in high school as of December 1999 had taken a course in career planning while in high school. Those least likely to have done so were high school dropouts. Participation in such courses was highest in British Columbia (89.5 per cent), Alberta (82.9 per cent) and Quebec (79.1 per cent). British Columbia also ranked first in the percentage of youth aged 18 to 20 who had taken a job-skills course in high school. These differences are illustrated in Figure 4 below.



Labour Market Participation . . . Labour market participation status varies based on education status and attainment (see Figure 5). As would be expected, those continuing in high school or PSE had the highest rates of part-time employment and the highest proportion of individuals not working. Rates for full-time

employment were highest for 18 to 20 year-olds who had completed a post-secondary program. Among those not engaged in any schooling, the proportion of those not working (those unemployed and those not in the labour force) was highest for high school dropouts with no PSE (22.5 per cent).

Figure 5: Labour Market Status of 18 to 20 Year-Olds, Canada, as of December 1999

	High School			Post-Secondary Education		
	<i>High School Continuers (%)</i>	<i>High School Dropouts, no PSE (%)</i>	<i>High school Graduates, no PSE (%)</i>	<i>Post- Secondary Graduates (%)</i>	<i>Post- Secondary Leavers (%)</i>	<i>Post- Secondary Continuers (%)</i>
Employed Full-time	10.0	59.3	51.1	63.1	58.2	11.4
Employed Part-time	53.2	18.2	34.3	22.2	22.8	53.8
Not Working	36.7	22.5	14.6	14.6	19.0	34.3

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