

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ October 2002

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Seasonally-adjusted employment in B.C. edged down slightly by 2,900 in October (down 0.1 per cent).** While this more than offset last month's gains, employment so far this year is up 86,600 (4.5 per cent).
- **B.C.'s goods producing sector grew in October dominated by strong growth in construction employment.** Exceptions were the utilities and manufacturing sectors which lost jobs. Service-sector employment was down slightly, with significant losses in the professional scientific and technical services and the education sectors. Exceptions were the finance and the health and social services sectors, which gained jobs from the previous month.
- **There were employment gains in B.C. in part-time jobs (+15,400).** However, these gains were more than offset by losses in full-time jobs (-18,300). Men and women shared in both the part-time job gains and the full-time job losses.
- **The unemployment rate increased slightly to 8.3 per cent.** This was in contrast to the national rate, which declined to 7.6 per cent as a result of employment growth.
- **Canadian employment grew by 32,800 in October, led by a net gains in Ontario and Quebec.** B.C. and the four Atlantic provinces experienced employment declines in October. In the past ten months, Canadian employment is up by 459,300 jobs of which 18.9 per cent were in B.C.

<b>Selected Statistics (SA)*</b>	<b>Oct. 2002</b>	<b>Sep. 2002</b>	<b>Oct. 2001</b>
B.C. Unemployment Rate	8.3%	8.1%	8.4%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.6%	7.7%	7.4%
B.C. Help Wanted Index - (1996=100)	90.3	93.8	104.4
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	-0.1%	0.1%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.0%	0.4%	-
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	65.3%	65.4%	63.6%

\* 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.*

## The B.C. Labour Market by Cities and Regions

**Introduction . . .** Data from the monthly labour force survey is available by a variety of geographic levels within each province such as large cities (census metropolitan areas or CMAs), selected medium-sized cities and regions.

B.C. has two CMAs, Vancouver and Victoria, which includes the greater Vancouver and greater Victoria areas. There are six medium-sized cities in B.C. for which labour force data is available: Chilliwack, Kelowna, Kamloops, Matsqui/Mission City, Nanaimo and Prince George. Because of the small size of these cities, monthly data is considered “unpublished” by Stats Canada but is still available and annual data for these cities is published.

Economic Regions and Employment Insurance (EI) Regions are generally composed of several census divisions within a province. B.C. has eight economic regions: Vancouver Island and Coast, Lower Mainland-Southwest, Thompson-Okanagan, Kootenay, Cariboo, North Coast, Nechako and Northeast. The regions of North Coast and Nechako are combined for labour force reporting.

There are also six EI Regions used for determining benefits and eligibility for Employment Insurance claimants. The

Economic Regions and the city data provides a finer level of detail than the EI Regions.

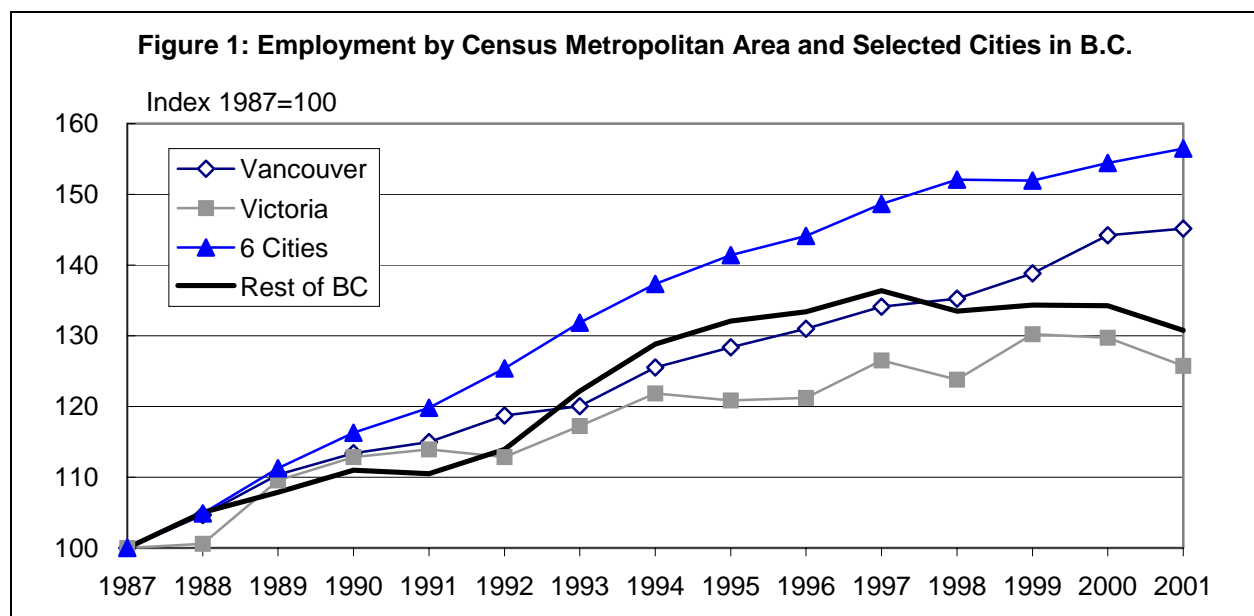
**Employment by CMAs and Selected Cities. . .** Figure 1 depicts employment gains from 1987 to 2001 (indexed to 1987=100) for the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs, the six mid-sized cities combined and the remainder of B.C.

Employment grew fastest over this period in the six-cities group, which had combined gains of 56.5 per cent since 1987. This compared to 45.1 per cent growth in Vancouver CMA and 41.3 per cent for B.C. overall.

Victoria CMA grew 25.4 per cent, much lower than the 30.8 per cent for the “rest of B.C.” group in Figure 1. While Victoria CMA employment kept pace with Vancouver CMA to 1991, employment growth in Victoria slowed during the 1990s resulting in just 10.1 per cent employment growth over the last 10 years.

It should be noted that the six-cities group is a heterogeneous group, and not every city in the group grew faster than Victoria CMA. The differences are detailed in the next section.

Employment in the rural “Rest of B.C.” grew rapidly for the first half of the 1990s but dropped by 4.1 per cent from 1997 to 2001 with total growth over the period of 30.8 per cent.

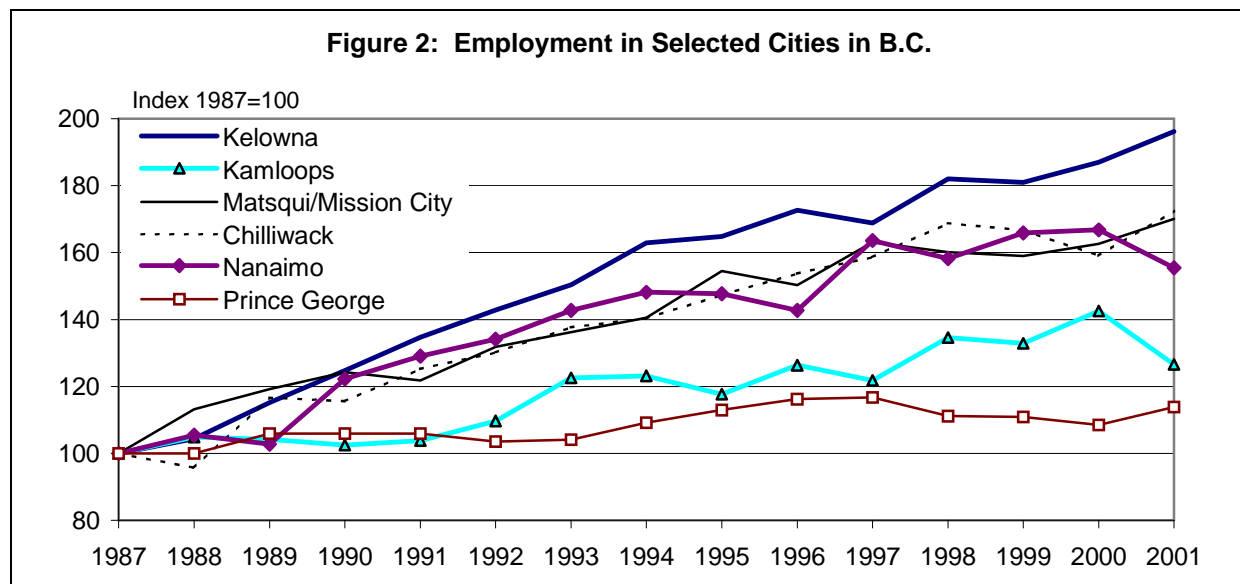


**Employment in Selected Cities . . .** A closer look at employment in the six medium-sized cities in B.C. shows considerable differences between them in rates of growth over the fourteen-year period from 1987 to 2001 (Figure 2). The City of Kelowna saw the highest growth with 96.2 per cent employment gains compared to 41.3 per cent for B.C. overall.

The three cities of Chilliwack, Matsqui/Mission City, and Nanaimo, generally kept pace with each other over this period. Employment grew 72.6, 70.0 and 55.5 per cent respectively from 1987 to 2001. Nanaimo employment dropped in 2001 resulting in a lower growth rate for the period.

The central interior cities of Kamloops and Prince George did not experience as much growth. Kamloops grew relatively slowly over most of this time period, and then experienced job loss in 2001. This resulted in 26.6 per cent employment growth for the period, well below the B.C. average.

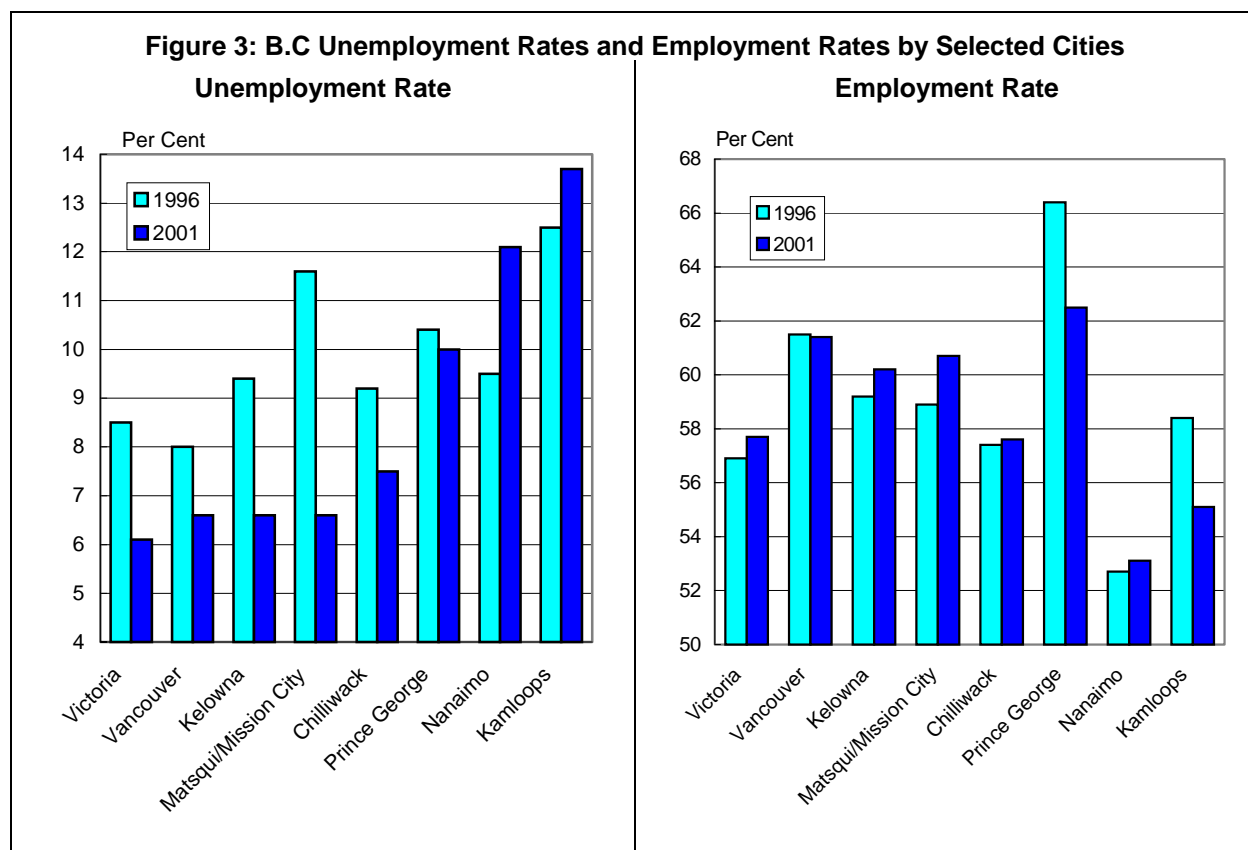
Prince George had almost no employment growth from 1987 to 1993, experienced some growth from 1993 to 1997, and then saw employment decline from 1997 to 2001. Overall, employment in Prince George grew 13.8 per cent from 1987 to 1991, the lowest of the six cities.



**Unemployment Rates by City . . .** Figure 3 (left chart) shows the unemployment rate in the two CMAs and six medium-sized cities in 2001 compared to 1996. Unemployment rates have come down in most cities in B.C. in the past five years. The exceptions are the City of Kamloops, where unemployment rates rose from a low in 1998, and Nanaimo, where unemployment rates jumped from 6.2 per cent in 1999 to 12.1 per cent in 2001.

The three cities with the highest unemployment rates (over 10 per cent) are situated in the B.C. interior and central Vancouver Island and have employment in the primary products industries of forestry, fishing and mining.

**Employment Rates by City . . .** The right-hand chart in Figure 3 shows a comparison of employment rates (employment to population ratio) in 1996 and 2001 for B.C. cities. Employment rates increased in all cities except Vancouver CMA, Kamloops and Prince George over these five years. While Prince George still enjoys the highest employment rate, its rate dropped almost four percentage points in the last five years. Kamloops lost three percentage points over this period. Nanaimo had the lowest employment rate in B.C. with 53.1 per cent in 2001.



**Regional Employment . . .** Figure 4 shows how employment grew in selected cities compared to the larger economic development regions in which they reside.

In the Vancouver Island and Coast Region, employment gains were primarily centred in the largest cities on Vancouver Island. Rural areas sustained substantial employment losses.

The Lower Mainland-Southwest Region had the highest regional growth in B.C. Within this region Chilliwack and Matsqui/Mission City had the highest employment growth.

The Thompson-Okanagan Region showed perhaps the most variation of any region. Kelowna dominated with 13.7 per cent growth, the highest employment gains of any city or region in the past five years. Kamloops on the other hand saw little increase.

The Cariboo Region sustained job loss over the five-year period, as did the North Coast & Nechako. In contrast Northeast BC gained jobs.

**Figure 4 Employment by Region and City**

	% Change 1996-2001
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
<b>Vancouver Island and Coast</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
Victoria CMA	3.8%
Nanaimo	8.9%
Rest of Vancouver Island/Coast	-9.4%
<b>Lower Mainland - Southwest</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
Vancouver CMA	10.8%
Chilliwack	12.2%
Matsqui/Mission City	13.1%
Rest of Lower Mainland - Southwest	0.9%
<b>Thompson - Okanagan</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
Kamloops	0.3%
Kelowna	13.7%
Rest of Thompson-Okanagan	3.8%
<b>Kootenay</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
<b>Cariboo</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>
Prince George	-2.0%
Rest of Cariboo	-6.3%
<b>North Coast &amp; Nechako</b>	<b>-8.7%</b>
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

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