

Labour Force Statistics ♦ July 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

All statistics in the Highlights are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated.

- **B.C. employment grew by 9,800 in July following growth of 2,100 in June.** However, the labour force grew even more - it increased by 18,500 - and this pushed the unemployment rate up to 8.6 per cent in July from 8.3 per cent in June.
- **B.C.'s employment growth was concentrated in the Lower Mainland/Southwest, with an increase of 9,100, and the Thompson-Okanagan, with an increase of 8,300.** Net job loss occurred in the Kootenays, the North Coast & Nechako, and the Central/Northern Vancouver Island. *(Regional data is 3 month moving average, and not seasonally adjusted)*
- **Part-time employment grew by 20,600 and more than offset the net loss of 10,800 full-time jobs.** Among women full-time employment actually increased by 5,900 while among men it declined by 16,700.
- **B.C.'s youth employment grew by 3,600 in July although the number of unemployed and looking for work grew even more, increasing by 14,100.** This seasonally adjusted increase in the number of youth looking for work pushed their unemployment rate to 16.8 per cent, its highest in five years.
- **Canadian employment declined by 13,300 in July with only four provinces going against the national trend and posting employment gains.** B.C. had the largest employment increase in July with 9,800 net new jobs, followed by Alberta with 2,500. Both Manitoba and New Brunswick had employment increases of 1,600. Since the end of 2002, employment growth in B.C. has accounted for almost one third of the overall national employment growth.

Selected Statistics	July 2003	June 2003	July 2002
B.C. Unemployment Rate	8.6%	8.3%	8.2%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.8%	7.7%	7.6%
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.5%	0.1%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.8%	-0.3%	-
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	65.5%	65.0%	65.0%

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, reflecting 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.

B.C. Educational Attainment and Labour Market Outcomes of Persons Aged 25-54

Introduction . . . The Labour Force Survey (LFS) includes questions on the educational attainment of respondents. This allows examination of labour force characteristics of British Columbians by level of education.

Educational attainment categories reported in the LFS include the following:

- 0 to 8 years
- Some high school education
- Graduated from high school
- Some post-secondary
- Post-secondary certificate or diploma (includes trades certificate)
- University degree

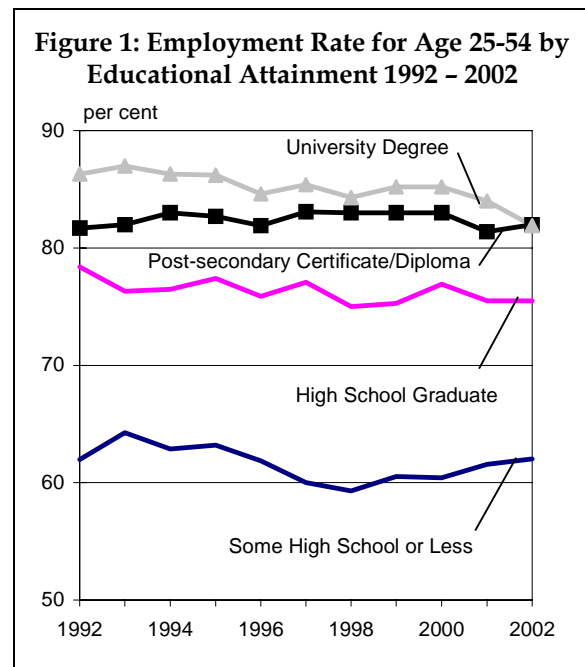
This article focuses upon a core age group of adults, aged 25 to 54. While some individuals in this group may still be in school or have returned to education or training, the majority have completed their schooling and make up the core of the B.C. labour force.

Employment Rate by Educational Attainment . . . Figure 1 shows the employment rate (employment/population ratio) of individuals in B.C. aged 25 to 54 by highest level of schooling from 1992 to 2002. Over this period the average employment rate for the province moved up and down but ended the period at almost the same rate as it started. Through this period, the likelihood that an individual was employed rose with educational attainment.

Over this period those with university degrees had the highest employment rate, averaging over 85 per cent between 1992 and 2002. However, the rate for university graduates has been trending down slightly in the past ten years. As a result the difference between the employment rate for university graduates and the rate for post-secondary diploma/certificate graduates narrowed. In 2002 this gap effectively closed with both rates at close to 82.0 per cent.

High school graduates had a lower employment rate than those with post secondary education. In 2002, their rate was 75.5 per cent,

down by 2.9 percentage points from 1992. The most marked decrease in employment rate during the early 1990s was for those with some high school education or less, falling to 59.3 per cent in 1998. Since then, their rate has recovered to 62.0 per cent in 2002.



Employment Rate of Men and Women . . . Figure 2 compares the employment rate of men and women by highest level of schooling for the years 1992 and 2002.

In the past ten years employment rates for men have gone down for all categories of educational attainment except post-secondary certificate/diploma. The decline in the employment rate was most dramatic for men with high school completion. It dropped by 6.3 percentage points, from 87.7 per cent in 1992 to 81.4 per cent in 2002. In part this reflects a relative decline during the 1990's in the number of net job openings requiring lesser skilled workers.

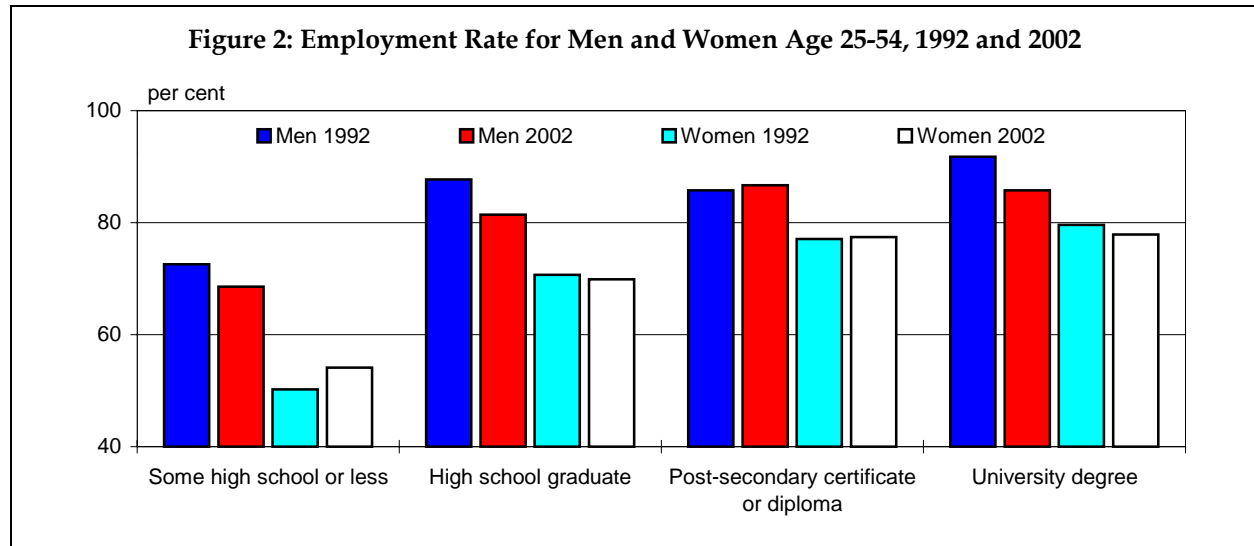
Women's employment rates increased over this ten year period for those with some high school or less, and with a post-secondary certificate or diploma. However,

the rate fell slightly for high school graduates and those with university degrees.

The rate for women with some high school or less increased from 50.2 per cent in 1992 to 54.1 per cent in 2002. This remains very low with many in this group outside the paid labour force. They may be caring for children or engaged in other unpaid activities. Women with post-secondary education continue to have significantly higher employment rates than women

without post-secondary education. In 2002 the rate for women with a university degree was 77.9 per cent.

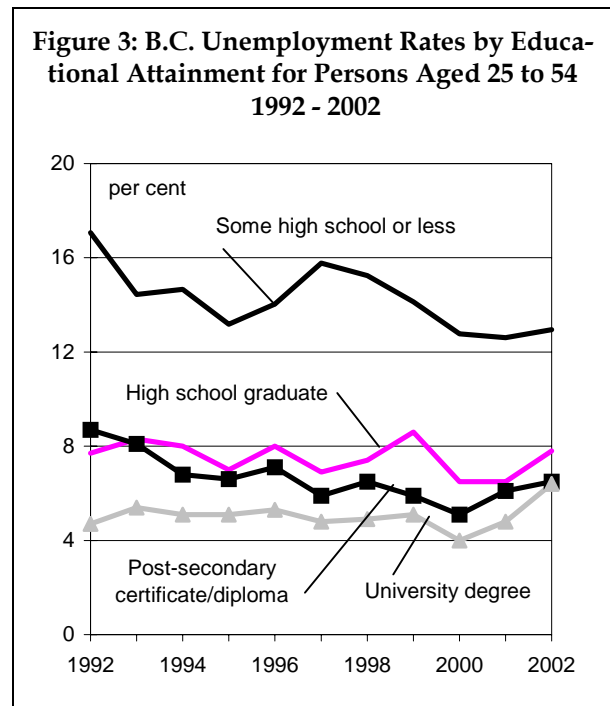
The gap in the employment rate between men and women is less among those with higher education. In 2002, the gap between men and women was 14.5 percentage points for those with some high school or less. It was just 7.9 percentage points between men and women with a university degree.



Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment. . . Figure 3 shows unemployment rates between 1992 and 2002. Those with the lowest level of schooling had the highest unemployment rates, averaging 14.3 per cent over the period. This contrasts with an average 5.1 per cent for those with a university degree.

Those with a post-secondary diploma or certificate had only slightly higher unemployment rates than university graduates. It is clear that the gap between unemployment rates for these groups has narrowed over the past ten years.

High school graduates have seen little change in their unemployment rates in the past ten years. This reflects their relatively unchanged employment rates over the same time period.



Unemployment Rates of Men and Women

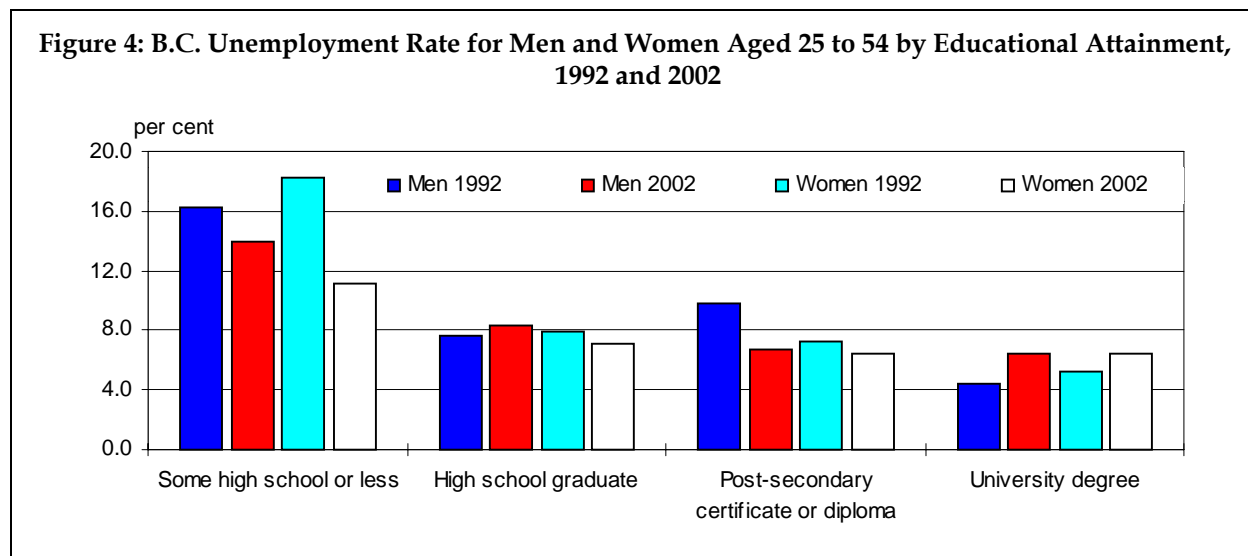
... Figure 4 shows the unemployment rate of men and women by educational attainment, comparing 1992 to 2002. The provincial unemployment rate has moved down over this period and there have been many changes when comparing the educational attainment of men and women.

Generally the unemployment rates for men and women with some high school or less are considerably higher than for those with more education. However those with some high school or less had the biggest improvement in unemployment between 1992 and 2002. For men, the unemployment rate fell 2.2 percentage points to 14.0 per cent in 2002. For women the rate dropped 7.2 percentage points to 11.1 per cent in 2002.

The least change in the unemployment rates was among high school graduates. The rate increased slightly to 8.3 per cent for men and decreased slightly to 7.1 per cent for women in 2002.

The unemployment rate dropped significantly for men with a post-secondary certificate/diploma, down 3.1 percentage points to 6.7 per cent in 2002. The rate for women also declined, but only by 0.9 percentage points leaving the women's rate at 6.4 per cent.

Individuals with a university degree had the lowest overall unemployment rates. However, these rates increased slightly between 1992 and 2002 for both men and women.



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