

Labour Force Statistics ♦ August 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **B.C. employment grew by 6,900 in August following growth of 9,800 in July.** However, the labour force grew even more (up 10,200) and this pushed the unemployment rate up to 8.7 per cent in August from 8.6 per cent in July.
- **B.C.'s employment growth was concentrated in the Lower Mainland/Southwest, with an increase of 16,000.** Net job loss occurred in the Kootenays, and the Central/Northern Vancouver Island. *(Regional data is 3 month moving average, and not seasonally adjusted)*
- **Part-time employment grew by 15,700 while full-time employment declined by 8,800.** Among women part-time employment increased by 21,700 while among men it declined by 6,000.
- **B.C.'s youth employment grew by 1,800 in August.** The unemployment rate for this group aged 15-24 dropped to 16.6 per cent from 16.8 per cent in July but was up 2.6 percentage points from August 2002.
- **Canadian employment declined by 19,000 in August with six provinces experiencing declines.** B.C. had the largest absolute increase in employment, while Newfoundland had the largest percentage increase. Since the end of 2002, B.C.'s employment growth (28,700) represents over half of the Canadian employment growth (51,900).

Selected Statistics	Aug. 2003	July 2003	Aug. 2002
B.C. Unemployment Rate	8.7%	8.6%	7.7%
Canada Unemployment Rate	8.0%	7.8%	7.5%
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.3%	0.5%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.5%	0.8%	-
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	65.8%	65.5%	65.1%

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.