

Labour Force Statistics ♦ September 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

All labour force statistics in this Highlights article are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated

- **Employment in B.C. dropped by 5,300 in September more than wiping out the gain of 6,900 jobs posted in August.** Despite this month over month decline of 0.3 per cent, total average employment during the period January to September 2003 is 2.3 per cent higher than during the same period of 2002.
- **The B.C. unemployment rate increased to 9.1 per cent in September, compared to a rate of 8.7 per cent in August.** This increase reflects a 7,800 increase in the number of unemployed persons and a 2,500 increase in the labour force. However, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 65.8 per cent.
- **B.C. employment for men increased in September (0.8 per cent), offset by employment losses among women (-1.4 per cent).** The employment growth for men was in both full-time and part-time employment. In both these categories men's employment gains were offset by job losses among women. Overall there was little change in the proportion of part-time employment in September.
- **An employment increase of 2,400 in the B.C. services industries in September was more than offset by a decline of 7,700 in the goods producing industries.** Among the services industries, only three of the nine sectors experienced a net loss in jobs: transportation and warehousing; education; and, health and social services. Among the goods producing industries, four of the five sectors experienced a loss in jobs in September, with only other primary industries experiencing a gain.
- **Canadian employment increased by 0.3 per cent in September (46,300), and most of this was in full-time employment (37,100).** Regionally the increase was concentrated in Ontario (38,500), Alberta (10,200) and Quebec (7,200). However the largest monthly percentage increase occurred in New Brunswick (1.2 per cent) and Nova Scotia (0.8 per cent).

Selected Statistics	Sep. 2003	Aug. 2003	Sept. 2002
B.C. Unemployment Rate	9.1%	8.7%	8.2%
Canada Unemployment Rate	8.0%	8.0%	7.7%
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	-0.3%	0.3%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.1%	0.5%	-
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	65.8%	65.8%	65.3%

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.