

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ October 2003

### HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **Employment in B.C. jumped by 30,100 in October.** This follows a slight decline in September and slower growth earlier in the year. So far this year, employment has grown by 53,500 or 2.7%.
- **The unemployment rate decreased 1.3 percentage points to 7.8%.** This reflects a 27,500 decrease in the number of unemployed persons and a 30,100 increase in the number of employed. The labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 65.8%.
- **Employment for men increased by 18,600 (1.7%) mostly in part-time work.** Employment for women increased by 11,500 (1.2%), with the increase in full-time employment more than offsetting the decrease in part-time employment.
- **Half the overall employment gains were for youth age 15-24.** These gains resulted in the youth unemployment rate dropping to 13.6% from 16.4%.
- **Almost all industry sectors had gains in employment.** Employment increased by 11,600 in the goods industries and 18,500 in services industries. In goods, employment grew most in construction, reflecting strength in both residential and non-residential construction. In the services sector, transportation & warehousing, finance & related, and public administration had the greatest employment gains.
- **Canadian employment increased by 0.4% (65,400).** Almost all of this was in full-time employment. Regionally the increase was concentrated in B.C. (30,100) and Quebec (25,500). The only provinces experiencing declines in employment in October were Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

Selected Statistics	Oct. 2003	Sept. 2003	Oct. 2002
B.C. Unemployment Rate	7.8%	9.1%	8.3%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.6%	8.0%	7.6%
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	1.5%	-0.3%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.1%	0.1%	-
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.*