

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ January 2004

### HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **Employment in B.C. in January 2004 rose by 1,000 from December. This follows a gain of 19,900 gain in November.**
- **Despite little change in employment in December, the B.C. labour force expanded by 13,100 (0.6 per cent).** This resulted in the unemployment rate rising to 7.3 per cent in January, up from 6.8 per cent in December.
- **Employment for Canada overall rose by 0.1 per cent in January, as did the labour force, so the national unemployment rate remained at 7.4 per cent.** Employment growth in January from a month earlier was strongest in Newfoundland (2.1 per cent) and Ontario (0.3 per cent), while employment fell in Prince Edward Island (-1.3 per cent), Alberta (-0.5 per cent), Nova Scotia (-0.3 per cent) and Saskatchewan (-0.2 per cent).

Selected Statistics	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2003
B.C. Unemployment Rate	7.3%	6.8%	8.3%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.4%	7.4%	7.5%
B.C. Employment – Change from prev. mo.	0.0%	1.0%	–
B.C. Labour Force – Change from prev. mo.	0.6%	0.2%	–
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	65.9%	65.6%	64.9%

*Labour Force Statistics is a joint compilation and review by BC STATS of the Ministry of Management Services and the Planning and Data Management 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 Planning and Data Management Branch (250) 952-6111.*

## Revisions to Monthly Seasonally Adjusted Data in the Labour Force Survey

**Note to Readers:** Seasonally adjusted monthly data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) have been revised going back three years (beginning with January 2001). Statistics Canada's updated seasonal adjustment factors reflect the latest seasonal output, and this has *slightly* revised the published monthly seasonally adjusted data on labour force characteristics for B.C. and all provinces, going back to January 2001.

All LFS seasonally adjusted monthly data has been revised in Statistics Canada's CANSIM database. B.C. Stats has updated its historical databases with the revised LFS data made available by Statistics Canada. Please note that the data tables accompanying this *Labour Force Statistics* publication reflect the revised historical data. This revised data replaces all prior published data reported in the December 2003 issue of "Labour Force Statistics" (issue 2004-1 released on January 9, 2004) and previous issues.

Figure 1 shows monthly employment levels in B.C. from January 2003 to December 2003, for both the revised and unrevised seasonally adjusted, monthly data. The revision to the employment series shows very

minor change in monthly level estimates. Figure 1 also shows the revised and unrevised estimates of the B.C. unemployment rate. Again, the revision has resulted in some very minor changes in estimates.

**Figure 1: Comparison of Unrevised and Revised B.C Employment and Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted monthly data**

	Employment (in Thousands)		Unemployment Rate ( Per cent)	
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised
Dec-02	1,994.6	1,988.0	8.4%	8.4%
Jan-03	1,990.3	1,991.5	8.2%	8.3%
Feb-03	2,002.0	2,000.4	8.2%	8.2%
Mar-03	2,019.7	2,015.7	7.7%	7.8%
Apr-03	2,012.3	2,011.3	8.1%	8.2%
May-03	2,004.5	2,004.4	8.6%	8.6%
Jun-03	2,006.6	2,010.0	8.3%	8.2%
Jul-03	2,016.4	2,021.0	8.6%	8.5%
Aug-03	2,023.3	2,027.5	8.7%	8.6%
Sep-03	2,018.0	2,025.2	9.1%	8.9%
Oct-03	2,048.1	2,050.2	7.8%	7.8%
Nov-03	2,047.9	2,051.5	7.6%	7.5%
Dec-03	2,071.5	2,071.4	6.8%	6.8%
Net Change Dec02-Dec 03	76.9	83.4		