

Labour Force Statistics ♦ February 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **Employment in B.C. in February 2004 fell by 36,400 from January, with the decrease being shared equally between full and part-time employment.**
- **Despite the sharp decrease in employment in February, the estimated number of unemployed persons increased by only 11,100.** This combined to produce a fall in the size of the labour force, and a decline in the labour force participation rate. The unemployment rate rose to 7.9 per cent in February from 7.3 per cent in January.
- **The largest employment declines in BC in February were seen in retail and wholesale trade (down 20,700) and construction (down 6,000).** By contrast, employment increases were seen in professional, scientific and technical services (up 3,400) and accommodation, food and beverage services (5,800).
- **Employment for Canada overall was little changed for the second straight month, and the national unemployment rate remained at 7.4 per cent.**

Selected Statistics	Feb. 2004	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2003
B.C. Unemployment Rate	7.9%	7.3%	8.2%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.4%	7.4%	7.5%
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	-1.8%	0.0%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	-1.1%	0.6%	-
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	65.1%	65.9%	65.1%

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.