

Labour Force Statistics ♦ March 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **Employment in B.C. in March rose by 5,100 from February.** An increase in full-time employment of 18,100 was largely offset by a decrease in part-time employment.
- **The largest employment gains in BC in March were seen in construction (up 4,900), finance and related industries (up 8,100) and health and social services (up 11,100).** Construction employment in March stood at 141,000, a significant increase over levels seen in 2003 where the highest monthly level recorded was 128,400 in December 2003.
- **With employment growth being nearly matched by labour force growth, the B.C. unemployment rate remained at 7.9 per cent in March.** The youth unemployment in B.C. for persons aged 15-24 in March was 14.5 per cent, down from the February level of 14.9 per cent. The unemployment rate for adults aged 25 and older, remained unchanged at 6.6 per cent.
- **Employment for Canada overall was down slightly in March following little change in January and February.** The national unemployment rate rose to 7.5 per cent in March from 7.4 per cent in February.

Selected Statistics	Mar. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2003
B.C. Unemployment Rate	7.9%	7.9%	7.8%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.5%	7.4%	7.4%
B.C. Employment – Change from prev. mo.	0.3%	-1.8%	–
B.C. Labour Force – Change from prev. mo.	0.2%	-1.1%	–
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	65.1%	65.1%	65.2%

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.