

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ April 2004

### HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **Employment in B.C. in April decreased by 3,200 (down 0.2 per cent) from March, following a rise of 5,100 between February and March.** A decrease in full-time employment of 8,800 more than offset an increase of 5,600 in part-time employment in April.
- **A decrease in the labour force participation rate resulted in a decrease of 5,900 (down 0.3 per cent) in the labour force.** With the size of the labour force decreasing faster than employment, the B.C. unemployment rate fell to 7.7 per cent in April from 7.9 per cent in March. The labour force participation rate for B.C. youth aged 15-24, fell from 62.1 per cent in March to 61.5 per cent in April.
- **The goods sector in BC in April saw an overall employment gain of 8,900, led by gains in construction (up 4,100). This follows a gain of 4,900 jobs in construction in March.** Service sector employment fell by 12,100 in April, with retail trade and education services seeing the largest declines.
- **Employment for Canada overall in April rose by 50,000 (up 0.3 per cent).** Employment growth in April was strongest in Saskatchewan (up 1.2 per cent), Quebec (up 0.8 per cent), and Nova Scotia (up 0.6 per cent). The national unemployment rate fell to 7.3 per cent in April, its lowest level since September 2001.

Selected Statistics	Apr. 2004	Mar. 2004	Apr. 2003
B.C. Unemployment Rate	7.7%	7.9%	8.2%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.3%	7.5%	7.6%
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	-0.2%	0.3%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	-0.3%	0.2%	-
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	64.9%	65.1%	65.3%

*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.*