

Labour Force Statistics ♦ July 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **B.C. employment in July saw a slight rise of 1,200, following the strong gain of 27,200 seen in June.** Full-time employment fell by 10,100, but was more than offset by an increase of 11,300 in part-time employment in July.
- **The labour force participation rate fell to 65.6 per cent in July, down from 65.9 per cent in June.** While employment grew slightly (up 0.1 per cent), the size of the labour force fell (down 0.2 per cent) which pushed down the B.C. unemployment rate to 7.3 per cent. The unemployment rate for men fell to 7.4 per cent in July from 7.7 per cent in June, and for women it fell to 7.1 per cent from 7.4 per cent.
- **Both the goods and service sectors saw modest overall employment growth in July.** Service-sector growth was seen in professional, scientific and technical services and transportation services, offset by decreases in finance and related services. Goods-sector employment saw strong growth in manufacturing in July (up 4,800), offset by a decrease in other primary goods and a pause in construction employment.
- **Employment for Canada overall in July was little changed, with gains in Newfoundland and Labrador, PEI and Quebec being offset by decreases in the three Prairie provinces.** Employment was little changed in all other provinces.

Selected Statistics	July 2004	June 2004	July 2003
B.C. Unemployment Rate	7.3%	7.5%	8.5%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.2%	7.3%	7.7%
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.1%	1.3%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	-0.2%	1.0%	-
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	65.6%	65.9%	65.6%

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.

Employment Growth and Unemployment Rates by Province, July 2003 to July 2004

Figure 1 shows employment levels and unemployment rates by province comparing July 2003 to July 2004. This year-over-year comparison shows employment growth has been the strongest in Newfoundland and Labrador (up 4.1%), Nova Scotia (up 3.6%) and British Columbia (up 3.0%). Ontario and New Brunswick also saw employment growth stronger than the national average of 2.0%. On a year-to-date basis, comparing the average employment level for the first seven months of 2003 to the same period in 2004, BC leads the country in employment growth at 2.5%, followed by Alberta (up

2.3%) and Nova Scotia (up 2.1%), compared to growth of 1.8% for Canada overall.

Comparing July 2003 to July 2004, the unemployment rate fell in eight provinces, with only Prince Edward Island and Manitoba seeing a rise in unemployment rate. BC saw the largest drop in unemployment rate, falling 1.2 percentage points to 7.3% in July 2004. The narrowing differential between the BC unemployment rate to both Alberta's and Ontario's unemployment rates, points to positive overall net inter-provincial population migration for BC in 2004.

**Figure 1: Employment Growth and Unemployment Rates by Province,
July 2003 to July 2004, seasonally adjusted data**

	Employment Level in 000's			Unemployment Rate	
	July 2003	July 2004	% Change	July 2003	July 2004
BC	2,021.0	2,081.5	3.0%	8.5%	7.3%
Alta	1,728.1	1,744.2	0.9%	4.8%	4.7%
Sask	486.7	486.8	0.0%	5.5%	5.2%
Man	570.4	570.8	0.1%	5.1%	5.6%
Ont	6,215.3	6,355.2	2.3%	7.2%	6.8%
Que	3,636.9	3,702.5	1.8%	9.3%	8.2%
NB	344.7	354.1	2.7%	10.4%	10.0%
NS	433.6	449.2	3.6%	9.2%	8.4%
PEI	69.5	69.5	0.0%	10.4%	11.2%
Nfld	217.6	226.5	4.1%	15.9%	15.0%
CAN	15,723.7	16,040.2	2.0%	7.7%	7.2%

Source: Labour Force Survey, seasonally adjusted