

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ August 2004

### HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **B.C. employment in August fell by 14,500, following a slight rise of 1,200 seen in July.** Most of the decline in employment in August was seen in full-time employment, with little change in the level of part-time employment.
- **The labour force participation rate fell to 65.4 per cent in August, down from 65.6 per cent in July.** With employment contracting greater than the percentage decrease in the size of the labour force, this pushed up the B.C. unemployment rate to 7.7 per cent. By contrast, the unemployment rate for BC youth aged 15 to 24 fell in August to 14.0 per cent from July's level of 14.5 per cent.
- **Both the overall BC goods and services sectors saw employment decreases in August. Most industries in the service sector saw decreases, though employment grew in August in finance and related services.** Goods sector employment saw decreases in most industries, the notable exception being construction, which grew by 4,800 in August, and now stands at an all-time monthly high of 152,900.
- **Employment for Canada overall in August was down by 7,000, with gains in Alberta, Quebec and Manitoba being offset by decreases in Ontario, BC and Newfoundland.**

Selected Statistics	August 2004	July 2004	August 2003
B.C. Unemployment Rate	7.7%	7.3%	8.6%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.2%	7.2%	8.0%
B.C. Employment - Change from prev. mo.	-0.7%	0.1%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	-0.3%	-0.2%	-
B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate	65.4%	65.6%	65.8%

*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.*