

Labour Force Statistics ♦ October 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **BC employment rose by 11,800 in October, following an increase of 12,900 in September, and is now at an all-time record level.** Full-time employment in October increased by 31,400, more than offsetting a drop in part-time employment. The average employment for the period January to October 2004 is 2.4 per cent higher than the same period in 2003.
- **October's unemployment rate eased to 6.9 per cent, down from 7.1 per cent in September.** The youth unemployment rate declined to 13.2 per cent from 14.1 per cent the previous month. Men's unemployment rate fell in October while women's unemployment rate edged up slightly.
- **The labour force participation rate increased to 65.5 per cent in October, up slightly from September.** The rate increased for youth and women in October, but it remained unchanged for men.
- **Employment grew in both the goods and services sectors in October.** Most service sector industries grew, led by professional and financial services. Results were more mixed in the goods sector but there were notable employment gains in both agriculture and construction in October. The average construction employment for the period January to October 2004 is 22.9 per cent higher than the same period in 2003.
- **Employment grew by 34,300 for Canada overall in October, with the strongest growth rates in BC, Ontario and PEI.** Alberta, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia bucked the national trend with net job loss. The national unemployment rate was unchanged in October while the rate declined in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Newfoundland.

Selected Statistics	Oct. 2004	Sept. 2004	Oct. 2003
BC Unemployment Rate	6.9%	7.1%	7.8%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.1%	7.1%	7.6%
BC Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.6%	0.6%	-
BC Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.4%	-0.1%	-
BC Labour Force Participation Rate	65.5%	65.3%	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) 387-3620.