

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ November 2004

### HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **BC's unemployment rate eased to 6.4 per cent in November, its lowest since July 1981.** It declined from 6.9 percent in October primarily because of a decline in the labour force rather than strong employment growth.
- **Employment grew for the third month in a row in November.** This month's net increase was comparatively small, up 1,200. There were significant gains in part-time work, up 23,800, and this more than offset a loss of 22,600 in full-time work. The average full-time employment for the period January to November 2004 remains 4.1 per cent higher than the same period in 2003.
- **The youth unemployment rate declined to 11.4 per cent in November, its lowest since August 1990.** Youth employment grew by 5,300 in November from October, more than offsetting employment losses among those 25 years and older.
- **Labour force participation dropped to 65.1 per cent in November.** This rate declined for men, women and youth.
- **Industry employment results were mixed in November.** The service sector overall was flat, but there was strong employment growth in professional services, and in accommodation, food and beverage services. Employment in the goods sector grew slightly overall, with strong growth in manufacturing and other goods industries experiencing little change or job loss.
- **The number of people employed across Canada was unchanged in November.** The national unemployment rate increased to 7.3 per cent because of more people entering the labour force looking for work. BC, Alberta, New Brunswick, and PEI all bucked the national trend and posted declines in their unemployment rates in November. BC's unemployment rate remains below the national average.

Selected Statistics	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2003
BC Unemployment Rate	6.4%	6.9%	7.5%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.3%	7.1%	7.5%
BC Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.1%	0.6%	-
BC Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	-0.5%	0.4%	-
BC Labour Force Participation Rate	65.1%	65.5%	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) 387-3620.*