

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ December 2004

### HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **BC's unemployment rate eased to 6.1 per cent in December, down from 6.4 per cent in November.** December's rate was lower than any other month this year and contributed to a 2004 average rate of 7.3 per cent, down from the average 8.1 in 2003.
- **Employment grew for the fourth month in a row in December.** Full-time employment grew by 23,300 in December, and this more than offset a loss of 5,900 in part-time employment for a net gain of 17,300 or 0.8 per cent. December's increase resulted in the average total employment for 2004 being 2.3 per cent higher than 2003.
- **The youth unemployment rate eased to 11.3 per cent in December, down from 11.4 per cent in November.** Despite this improvement, December's youth unemployment rate remains much higher than the 5.1 per cent rate for those 25 years and older.
- **Industry employment results were mixed in December.** In the goods sector, agriculture grew the fastest, while in the services sector personal and other services grew the fastest. When comparing 2004 average growth with 2003, construction was clearly the fastest growing industry in either of the two sectors, with an annual employment increase of 24.8 per cent. In the services sector, accommodation and food services posted the best growth rate, up 7.7 per cent from 2003.
- **Canada's unemployment rate declined to 7.0 per cent in December.** BC, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland each had a decline in their monthly unemployment rate, while the other provinces saw either no change or an increase. Employment in Canada grew by 0.2 per cent in December, up 33,500, with BC's employment growth accounting for more than half of this.

Selected Statistics	Dec. 2004	Nov. 2004	Dec. 2003
BC Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.4%	6.8%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.0%	7.3%	7.4%
BC Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.8%	0.1%	-
BC Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.4%	-0.5%	-
BC Labour Force Participation Rate	65.3%	65.1%	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.*