

Labour Force Statistics ♦ January 2005

HIGHLIGHTS

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates have undergone extensive revisions to reflect 2001 Census population counts. Historical comparisons now use the revised data. For more information about the data revisions and their effect, please see the note on the following page. All labour force statistics in this Highlights article are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated*

- **Total employment in BC grew slightly in January from December (0.1 per cent).** The 2,200 net increase reflected full-time employment growth (16,800) which more than offset part-time losses (-14,700). The ratio of full-time to part-time workers has not been this high since October 1996.
- **Labour force growth in January (up 8,700) exceeded population growth.** As a result, the labour force participation rate increased slightly to 65.4 per cent from 65.3 per cent.
- **The unemployment rate increased to 6.5 per cent in January from 6.2 per cent in December, with 6,500 more people looking for work.** However, there were 19,900 fewer people unemployed in January 2005 than in January 2004.
- **The youth unemployment rate increased to 12.4 per cent in January, up from 11.2 per cent in December.** For those 25 years and older, the rate increased slightly to 5.4 per cent from 5.3 per cent.
- **The construction industry continued its strong pace of growth.** It grew by 6.0 per cent and added 9,400 jobs. This resulted in a record number of workers (166,200) in the industry.
- **Canada's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.0 per cent in January and there was no net employment growth at the national level.** BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, and Nova Scotia had employment gains which were completely offset by employment losses in most of the other provinces.

Selected Statistics	Jan. 2005	Dec. 2004	Jan. 2004
BC Unemployment Rate	6.5%	6.2%	7.4%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.0%	7.0%	7.3%
BC Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.1%	0.6%	-
BC Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.4%	0.3%	-
BC Labour Force Participation Rate	65.4%	65.3%	66.0%

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.

Changes to Labour Force Survey Historical Data

Improvements in 2005 to the Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates have undergone extensive revisions by Statistics Canada.

- Estimates have been adjusted to reflect 2001 Census population counts; they were previously based on the 1996 Census estimates.
- Industry estimates have been reclassified from the 1997 to the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
- Occupation estimates have been classified from the 1991 Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) to the National Occupational Classification: Statistics 2001 (NOC-S).
- Geography boundaries have changed from the 1996 Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) to the 2001 SGC, which mainly affects boundaries of census metropolitan areas.

As a result of these changes, LFS estimates have been revised back to January 1976. Historical comparisons of estimates produced by the LFS are now made with the revised historical data. Note that the changes to the LFS do not involve modifications to the questionnaire or the content of the survey.

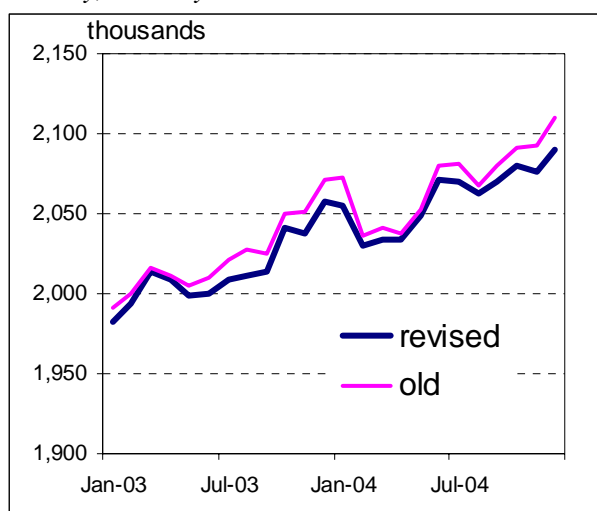
The Statistics Canada article *Improvements in 2005 to the LFS* ([71F0031XIE2005002](http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/downpub/listpub.cgi?catno=71F0031XIE2005002), free) provides an overview of the effect of the changes on the LFS estimates. It can be found at: <http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/downpub/listpub.cgi?catno=71F0031XIE2005002>

Changes in a BC Context

The following tables compare the revised and old data for the BC employment levels and the BC unemployment rate. The new estimates of employment and unemployment are slightly lower overall due to slightly lower population estimates. However there is little difference in the trends of the series. More variation between revised and old series can be expected in less aggregated variables.

BC Employment

Monthly, January 2003 to December 2004



BC Unemployment Rate

Monthly, January 2003 to December 2004

