

Labour Force Statistics ♦ February 2005

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **In February, BC had a net gain of 8,100 jobs over January.** The net increase reflected strong growth in part-time employment (14,500), which offset full-time losses (-6,200).
- **Among women, employment increased by 8,200 while there was little change in the level of employment among men.** However, compared with 12 months ago, employment growth has been stronger for men (4.4%) compared to women (2.4%).
- **Labour force growth in February (up 21,200) exceeded population growth.** As a result, the labour force participation rate increased slightly to 66.0 per cent from 65.4 per cent.
- As there were 12,900 more people looking for work in February, **the unemployment rate increased by half of a percentage point to 7.0 per cent.**
- With increases in labour force participation among those aged 15-24 years, **the youth unemployment rate increased to 12.5 per cent in February**, up slightly from 12.4 per cent in January.
- **The unemployment rate for those 25 years and older increased by half a percentage point to 5.9 per cent over January** due mainly to employment losses.
- **Job growth in the construction industry remained steady.** It grew by 1.6 per cent and added 2,700 jobs. Over the year, employment in this industry grew by 42,500.
- **Canada's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.0 per cent in February for the third consecutive month.** Most provinces, with the exception of Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, experienced job growth over January, led by Ontario (19,100) and BC (8,100).

Selected Statistics	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2005	Feb. 2004
BC Unemployment Rate	7.0%	6.5%	7.8%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.0%	7.0%	7.3%
BC Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.4%	0.1%	-
BC Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.9%	0.4%	-
BC Labour Force Participation Rate	66.0%	65.4%	65.4%

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.