

Labour Force Statistics ♦ March 2005

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **In March, BC had a small net gain of 1,200 jobs over February.** The increase in part-time positions (4,400) was offset by losses in full-time employment (-3,300).
- **In March, the estimated number of people in the labour market decreased by 9,900 to 2,248,200.** As a result, the labour force participation rate declined over the month from 66.0 per cent to 65.6 per cent.
- As there were fewer people looking for work in March, **the unemployment rate declined by half a percentage point to 6.5 per cent.**
- **The youth unemployment rate was 12.1 percent,** down slightly from 12.5 percent in February. The unemployment rate for those 25 years and older declined from 5.9 percent in February to 5.5 per cent in March.
- **There was a net loss of 9,100 jobs in the Goods-producing sector** in March. The largest net loss was experienced in manufacturing (-7,100).
- **Among Service-producing industries, there was a net gain of 10,200 jobs.** Employment growth was strongest in Retail and Wholesale Trade (5,200) and Finance and Related (6,700).
- **Canada's unemployment rate declined slightly from 7.0 per cent to 6.9 per cent over the month.**
- When comparing the number of employed with the size of the working age population, **B.C.'s employment rate remained unchanged over the month at 61.3 per cent.** Meanwhile, Alberta continued to have the highest rate of employment among the provinces at 70.2 per cent.

Selected Statistics	Mar. 2005	Feb. 2005	Mar. 2004
BC Unemployment Rate	6.5%	7.0%	7.7%
Canada Unemployment Rate	6.9%	7.0%	7.3%
BC Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.1%	0.4%	-
BC Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	-0.4%	0.9%	-
BC Labour Force Participation Rate	65.6%	66.0%	65.3%

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) 387-0713.