

Labour Force Statistics ♦ April 2005

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **In April, BC's unemployment rate fell to 6.1 percent.** This was the lowest provincial rate since June 1981.
- **Canada's unemployment rate declined slightly from 6.9 percent to 6.8 percent over the month.**
- **BC's youth unemployment rate was down from 12.1 percent in March to 11.4 percent in April.** The unemployment rate for those 25 years and older declined from 5.5 percent in March to 5.1 percent last month.
- **The number of unemployed declined by 10,400 workers due to a growth in employment opportunities.**
- **In April, the Province saw a gain of 13,300 jobs,** which accounted for 45 percent of last month's total job growth across the country.
- **The labour force participation rate remained unchanged over the month at 65.6 percent.**
- **There was a growth of 5,900 jobs in the Goods producing industries** in April. The largest gain was experienced in construction (+4,800), which recorded an employment total of 173,000.
- **Among Service producing industries, there was a net gain of 7,300 jobs.** Employment growth was strongest in Accommodation, Food and Beverage (11,200).
- When comparing the number of employed with the size of the working age population, **B.C.'s employment rate increased slightly over the month from 61.3 percent to 61.6 percent.** This was the highest rate since January 1981.

Selected Statistics	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2005	Apr. 2004
BC Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.5%	7.5%
Canada Unemployment Rate	6.8%	6.9%	7.2%
BC Employment - Change from prev. mo.	0.6%	0.1%	4.0%
BC Labour Force - Change from prev. mo.	0.1%	- 0.4%	2.4%
BC Labour Force Participation Rate	65.6%	65.6%	65.1%

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.